



**BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING
MINUTES
APRIL 19, 2012 – 6:45 P.M.
BROOKFIELD TOWN HALL – MEETING ROOM 133**

CALL TO ORDER: Mr. Davidson called the special meeting to order at 6:45 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all present.

PRESENT: William R. Davidson, First Selectman; Howard Lasser, Selectman; George F. Walker, Selectman; Members of the public and press; Virginia Giovanniello, Recording Secretary.

NOTICE OF ANNUAL TOWN MEETING: The Selectmen discussed whether a single amount inclusive of Town Operations and Education should be recommended or separate amounts for the budget referendum. Mr. Walker recommended separate amounts when voting for Town Operations and Education at the Referendum in order to receive better feedback from residents. Mr. Walker also noted that the Board of Finance recommended separate amounts. Mr. Davidson and Mr. Lasser were in favor of a single unified vote on the budget. At conclusion of discussion, **Howard Lasser made motion that the Selectmen approve the Notice of Special Town Meeting with the single budget amount inclusive of Town Operations and Education for the total amount of \$56,769,000, seconded by William Davidson. Motion carried by majority, 2-1, with George Walker opposing.**

POSTCARD NOTIFICATIONS TO VOTERS: At conclusion of brief discussion, **George Walker made motion that the Selectmen move forward with a postcard notification to residents advising them of the date and time of the budget referendum, seconded by Howard Lasser. Motion carried unanimously.**

RECESS: Howard Lasser made motion that the Selectmen recess the special meeting at 7:55 p.m., in order to open the Public Hearing regarding the Charter Revision Commission's Draft Report, seconded by George Walker. Motion carried unanimously.

Howard Lasser made motion to resume the Special Board of Selectmen's Meeting at 7:39 p.m., seconded by George Walker. Motion carried unanimously.

CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION DRAFT REPORT: The Charter Revision Commission submitted their draft report to the Board of Selectmen on March 19, 2012. The Selectmen held a Public Hearing prior to this Special Meeting to receive public comment on the draft report. The Selectmen each gave their recommendations on the draft report.

Selectman George Walker:

- Not in favor of position of appointed Town Manager or as an interim situation or that form of government. Suggests hiring an Operations Manager instead that would not require a charter revision.
- Don't agree with the five verses three Selectmen, however, agree to let voters decide.

- After listening to Chairman of the Planning Commission Jon Van Hise at the Public Hearing, he would be hesitant to make a recommendation to combine Planning and Zoning into a single commission.

Selectman Howard Lasser:

- Regarding the Town Manager position, there is a charter requirement that a town engineer, controller, and other people that bring technical expertise be present on a consistent basis on the management of the town, and can't understand why the Town Manager position could not be put in the charter. Do want to see more specific job delineations between town manager and selectman.
- He has heard no compelling reason and not heard a single rational reason not to have five Selectmen. Why wouldn't we want at least five people involved in critical decisions? Great diversity of opinion leads to better and faster decision making with more people. Five members should be approved, and hopefully, the town will support.
- Surprised the CRC didn't make the recommendation of combining the Planning and Zoning Commissions and maybe they should consider making that decision.
- Had no recommendations with regard to being able to change the budget line items at the Annual Town Meeting, though should consider both raising and lowering line items.
- In favor of having the CRC recommendations go before the voters to decide.

First Selectman William Davidson:

- In favor of Town Manager position as there is a lack of continuity and professional experience that is significant for an extremely complex job. The First Selectman's job has a lot of ceremony in it and you run out of hours. The First Selectman as Chief Executive Officer would be able to attend to political matters, ceremonial work and be able to attend conferences, etc. while the Chief Operations Officers being the Town Manager, could handle the day to day operations and administration of town government and employees. If not specifically defined by the Town Manager, it falls to the First Selectman and Board of Selectmen.
- Agree with the five selectmen recommendation.
- Consider raising the percent of registered voters required to overturn a Board of Selectmen decision or call a referendum from four to six percent.
- Supports a charter change to have Advisory Questions on the ballot for too high, too low, and just right.

There was additional discussion between the Selectmen and members of the Charter Revision Commission regarding the Selectmen's individual recommendations. In discussing how the questions would be presented at a referendum, Mr. Lasser stated he had no problem with the groupings of the questions at the last charter revision.

ADJOURN: Howard Lasser made motion to adjourn at 8:06 p.m., seconded by George Walker. Motion carried unanimously.



William R. Davidson
First Selectman

Howard Lasser
Selectman

George F. Walker
Selectman