

**MINUTES PUBLIC HEARING  
PROPOSED TOWN CHARTER CHANGES HEARING #1  
5:30 P.M. Thursday, November 4, 2021  
HARDWICK MEMORIAL BUILDING  
3<sup>RD</sup> FLOOR MEETING ROOM AND VIA ZOOM**

**Select Board**

Eric Remick, Chair  
Ceilidh Galloway-Kane, Vice Chair  
Elizabeth Dow  
Shari Cornish  
Michael Deering

**Others Present**

David Upson, Town Manager  
Casey Rowell, Business Manager  
Alberta Miller, Town Clerk  
Tonia Chase, Assistant Town Clerk  
Gary Michaels  
Rollin Severance

**Others Present**

Doug McClure (Zoom)  
Tom Halperin  
Ellen Halperin  
Orise Ainsworth  
Brenda Bolieu  
Linda Mae Clow  
Ray Bellavance

**5:30 P.M.** Select Board Chair, Eric Remick, called the Proposed Charter Changes Public Hearing to order.

**5:31 P.M.** Elizabeth summarized the changes with the most significant changes which include the following:

- The word “Selectmen” throughout the document will be changed to “Selectboard or Selectperson.”
- The Town Clerk/Treasurer & Assistant Town Clerk would become appointed positions.
- The positions of Listers, Fence Viewers, and Auditors will be removed.

See attachments to the minutes for the proposed changes and the document Elizabeth made to better explain the changes in terms that are easier to understand than the actual charter language.

Orise Ainsworth would like to know why the changes are being made. She is upset by the changes. She was troubled that the process of the changes wasn’t published in multiple media outlets. She did her own research about the process because it wasn’t clear in the ads.

Orise asked the Select Board why they think that the Board should make the decision over the voters. Eric and Shari both provided responses about their opinions. There was discussion about the position being more specialized and that going through an interview process with someone would be more appropriate since someone should have skills and experience to do the job. An example was used if the Town Clerk and Assistant both decided to leave, it would be important to get someone into the role with experience.

Orise disagreed and feels that the voters should not have this right taken away. She was disappointed in the way that the process was advertised to the voters.

Orise asked about the listers being removed. Ceilidh explained that them retiring and having an Assessor is why the changes were looked at to begin with. Since the charter needed to be changed, it was a good time to look at the whole charter since it’s a lengthy process.

Brenda Bolieu wanted to clarify the hiring of a Town Clerk and asked if the Board would interview and hire someone or would the voters be able to select from a pool of candidates after they were narrowed down by the Select Board. That is not the way the language is currently set up. She'd like to see that the Board interview a few candidates and then present them to the voters. Eric indicated that could possibly be an option, but in that case, the candidates would have to be legal voters of the Town to be placed on a ballot.

Orise asked for the Board to explain the process of the change. Eric went over the dates of the Public Hearings and the vote is on December 9. He thanked her for coming to express her opinion as it is an important part of the process. That is why there are two hearings prior to the vote. She reiterated that she wished this had been more heavily communicated with the voters.

Orise asked if the charter vote is separated out by the various changes or voted as a block. She suggested that the Town consider doing the Town Clerk change separately because she is concerned that all the changes may not pass if it is done as a block.

**6:00 P.M.** Eric Remick, Select Board Chair, adjourned the Public Hearing.

Minutes approved by: \_\_\_\_\_  
Eric Remick, Select Board Chair

Minutes taken by: \_\_\_\_\_  
Casey Rowell, Business Manager