

**LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
CHARTER REVIEW CHARGE COMMITTEE
AUGUST 18, 2010 – MUNICIPAL CENTER**

PRESENT: Jan Andras, Dan Amaral, Ben Spragg
ABSENT: Kevin Fitzgerald (on vacation)

ALSO PRESENT: Gary Davis, Carey Schierloh, John Voket

The meeting was called to order at 7:15 pm.

A draft of the charge items as discussed at the last meeting was distributed (attached to these minutes). Mr. Amaral was unable to be at that meeting so this meeting is to produce a unanimously recommended charge to the full Council. Mr. Fitzgerald, who is on vacation, has sent an e-mail noting his agreement with the drafted charge (attached to these minutes).

Mr. Spragg noted we are all in agreement that this charge should be narrow in order to give the CRC an abbreviated time line to research and recommend possible changes to the budget voting process that could be implemented at our next budget referendum. The charge requests the final report by December 15, 2010.

Mr. Spragg moved to recommend the Draft Charge to the 2010 Charter Review Commission, dated 8/18/10, for approval by the full Legislative Council. Motion seconded and unanimously carried.

Having no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:20 pm.


Jan Andras, Chairman

Attachments: Draft Charge, dated 8/18/10
Kevin Fitzgerald e-mail dated 8/17/10

A CHARGE TO THE 2010/2011 CHARTER REVIEW COMMITTEE

To those appointed to serve on the 2010/2011 Charter Review Committee, your charge is as follows:

You will hold an organizational meeting as soon as possible after your appointment, the same to be scheduled and chaired by the Chairman of the Legislative Council until you elect your own Chairman, whereupon he/she shall preside over the remainder of the organizational meeting during which a Vice Chairman shall be elected and a Secretary appointed.

Your meetings shall thereafter be called by your Chairman and be conducted as prescribed by, and in accordance with, Roberts Rules of Order. You may adopt such additional committee rules, not inconsistent with Roberts Rules of Order, as you deem appropriate for the efficient conduct of committee business.

No action shall be taken except by recorded motion and recorded vote, with a simple majority of a quorum prevailing.

You will consult with provided counsel with particular concern for, at the very least, proper drafting, possible redundancy, avoidance of inconsistencies and conflict, either within the Charter itself, or within the Charter and our Connecticut General Statutes. You will also seek review of your finished product by counsel before the same is submitted to the Legislative Council.

You will report progress and activity to the Legislative Council at such times and in such manner as requested by the Chairman of the Legislative Council.

It is our request that you complete your review and report and submit final product to the Legislative Council by December 15, 2010 in order to appear on a referendum ballot in time to affect the 2011 budget referendum process.

You will visit and consider the following issues and recommendations:

1. Sec. 6-14 (a) Consider including the requirement for a bifurcated budget, to include separate ballot questions for the Board of Selectmen budget and the Board of Education budget?
2. Sec. 6-14 or 6-15 – Consider including non-binding advisory questions as to whether a negative vote is due to the budget being too high or too low.
3. Sec. 6-14 – Consider a budget ballot requiring each voter to (a) approve the budget, or (b) reject the budget because it is too high, or (c) reject the budget because it is too low. One choice only. Advisory questions not necessary.

You may also consider matters and issues of your own choice.

Should you fail to make a recommendation concerning any of the above, or any self-proposed matter or issue, you will advise the Legislative Council if such lack of action was for want of support, or, in the alternative, for want of consideration.

Respectfully submitted by the Ad Hoc Charter Change Committee of the Legislative Council for consideration by the entire Legislative Council:

Jan Andras
Ben Spragg
Kevin Fitzgerald
Dan Amaral

8/18/10



Re: Charter Charge

Tuesday, August 17, 2010 8:26 AM

From: "Kevin Fitzgerald" <kevinkls@aol.com>

To: janandras@yahoo.com, bspragg9274@charter.net, amaralpoggy@aol.com

Jan you can attach this one...have a good meeting.

Considering the limited time available before the next budget season, I believe it should be the priority of the 2010 CRC to focus on and address only the questions related to the budget questions. Given the serious implications of those, I would prefer we do not charge the 2010 CRC to review any of the other important issues we identified in our analysis. Instead, I would like the Legislative Council to assemble another Charter Review Committee in 2011 and provide it with sufficient time to thoroughly study the other important charter review topics which taxpayers have asked this Council to address.

Kevin Fitzgerald

—Original Message—

From: Jan Andras <janandras@yahoo.com>

To: Ben Spragg <bspragg9274@charter.net>; Dan Amaral <amaralpoggy@aol.com>; Kevin Fitzgerald <kevinkls@aol.com>

Sent: Mon, Aug 16, 2010 10:07 am

Subject: Charter Charge

Ben, Kevin and Dan,

Attached is the draft Charge for the CRC. We will vote to finalize this at 7:00 pm on Wednesday night and turn over to the full Council for the 7:30 meeting.

Kevin, I know you will be on vacation. I will attach your consensus with this draft (your email to me) to the minutes of our meeting, unless you would like to call during the meeting and vote by phone. Let me know. Either way is fine. Have a great vacation.

Jan

PS - Dan and Ben, please confirm you will be there. Thanks.