

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR WORKGROUP
JANUARY 9, 2023 AT 3:30 P.M.
COUNCIL CHAMBER, NEWTOWN MUNICIPAL CENTER
3 PRIMROSE STREET, NEWTOWN, CT

MINUTES

Present: First Selectman Dan Rosenthal, Pat Llodra, Bill Brimmer, Ned Simpson and Maureen Crick Owen

Also Present: 1 member of the press

The meeting was called to order at 3:30 p.m. by First Selectman Rosenthal.

Voter Comments – None

First Selectman Rosenthal said he tried to have the Legislative Council include as part of the charter change a Town Manager position. He stated that they chose not to. He said a Town Administrator position would not require a charter change. He said Wilton hired Matt Knickerbocker (6-7 year term First Selectman for Bethel) just recently. He spoke to the First Selectman of Wilton on their process. He said he also does not see a long line of people waiting to be First Selectman. The Town Administrator would handle the day-to-day operations while the First Selectman would handle planning, strategy function and the like. He said this might result in more people running for the First Selectman position. He also said that if this model did not work there was no need to change the charter. He said this position is similar to a Chief of Staff.

Mrs. Llodra spoke to the four models and said are there merits behind modifying, should we and what model would the group recommend.

It was then discussed about the work product of the group. First Selectman Rosenthal suggested speaking to CCM, other towns, personnel and whomever he thought would benefit the research. He then suggested sharing the report at a public meeting. First Selectman Rosenthal thought this project might take six months.

Mr. Brimmer said we need to separate the person from what we are looking at and what is best for the town going forward.

Discussion took place about personnel and stability of hires when there is a new first selectman.

Mr. Brimmer made a motion to nominate Mrs. Crick Owen as chair, seconded by Mr. Simpson and unanimously approved.

For the next meeting, First Selectman Rosenthal will provide a suggested charge and each member will prepare a list of tasks that should be taken for this project.

Meetings will take place every other week on Monday at 3:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers. The next meeting will be January 23, 2023 at 3:30 p.m.

Voter Comments – none

The meeting was adjourned at 4:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Maureen Crick Owen, Chairman
Town Administrator Work Group