



## TOWN OF NEWTOWN

### Charter Revision Commission

### Minutes March 16, 2022 7pm

### **These minutes are subject to approval at the next meeting.**

The March 16, 2022 meeting of the Charter Revision Commission was held in person at 7pm in the Old Courtroom at the Edmond Town Hall, 45 Main St.

Mr Buzzi called the meeting to order at 7:07pm with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present: Andrew Buzzi, Anthony Filiato, James Gaston, Scott Davidow, Elias Petersen, Prerna Rao and Dennis Brestovansky

There was no public comments or communications

Mr Gaston moved to approve the minutes from the meeting dated March 3, 2022. Mr Filiato 2<sup>nd</sup> – Approved by vote of the Commission.

Mr Filiato moved to approve the changes (in red) to 1-25(a)(7) as shown below. Mr Gaston 2<sup>nd</sup> – Approved by vote of the Commission.

#### **1-25(a)(7)**

**Town Department:** The term "Town Department" shall include, for example, the offices of the Tax Collector, Town Clerk, Assessor, Registrar of Voters, Public Works Department, Board of Education, and any other **Town Body** to which funds are appropriated in the **Town Budget** and any other body or group which is designated a **Town Department** by the Legislative Council on or before October 1st in the year prior to the adoption of the **Town Budget**. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Board of Education shall be exempted from the definition of "Town Department" to the extent that it is inconsistent with their statutory authority.

Mr Gaston moved the changes (in red) to 4-05(c )(1) as shown above. Mr Petersen 2<sup>nd</sup> – Approved by vote of the Commission.

**4-05(c)(1)**

Keep all books of account of the **Town** and shall establish and maintain a general cost accounting system for all **Town Departments**, other than for the Board of Education, consistent with all State Laws and subject to the regulations adopted by the Board of Finance and approved by the Legislative Council;

Mr Gaston moved to accept the changes below (in red) to 4-05 (c)(3) Mr Petersen 2<sup>nd</sup> – Approved by vote of the Commission.

**4-05(c)(3)**

Receive and have custody of all funds belonging to or under the control of the **Town** or any **Town Department** or officer, other than the Board of Education, and shall make such deposits or investments as he or she deems in the best interest of the **Town** within the limits imposed on such deposits or investments by the **General Statutes**;

Mr Gaston moved to accept changes to 6-10(a) (in red) as shown below. Mr Petersen 2<sup>nd</sup> – Approved by vote of the Commission.

**6-10(a)**

The Finance Director shall advise all **Town Departments**, other than the Board of Education, participating in the budget process at such times and manner as they may reasonably request.

Mr Gaston moved to accept the changes to 7-05(d) (in red) as shown below. Mr Petersen 2<sup>nd</sup> – Approved by vote of the Commission.

**7-05(d)**

All **Town Departments**, and officers, other than the Board of Education, shall report and remit all receipts to the Finance Director as often as he or she may deem desirable but not more often than daily.

**6-35(e)(3)**

Mr Gaston moved to replace the language of 6-35(e)(3) as shown in red below. Mr Filiato 2<sup>nd</sup> – Approved by vote of the Commission.

Only dollars sourced from property tax revenue and charges for services revenue shall be counted as part of the caps and limits on Special and Emergency Appropriations.

**Fairfield Hills Authority**

Mr Gaston moved to remove “which shall require a minimum of four affirmative votes for action” from subsection (c) of the Fairfield Hills Authority provisions previously passed by the Commission. Mr. Petersen 2<sup>nd</sup> -Approved by vote of the Commission.

Mr Gaston moved to add the word “by” (by the Board of Education) 6-35(b) in red. Mr Filiato 2<sup>nd</sup> Ms Rao asked to amend the motion by adding an oxford comma after **Education** (as shown in red below) this was 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mr Petersen. The amendment was accepted by Mr Gaston and Mr Filiato. The amendment was approved by vote of the Commission. Mr Buzzi then called for a vote on the amended motion, as shown below. Approved by vote of the Commission.

**6-35(b)**

A request for a Special or Emergency Appropriation may be initiated by the First Selectman with the approval of the Board of Selectmen, **by the Board of Education**, or by the Legislative Council. The request shall include an estimate of the funds required, the reasons therefore, and a proposed method of financing. Methods of financing include, without limitation, issuing notes or bonds of the Town or laying a special tax on the Grand List last completed. The Finance Director shall prepare a Financial Impact Statement for requests for Special Appropriations.

Mr Gaston moved to accept the changes made to 6-35(c) as shown in red below. Mr Petersen 2<sup>nd</sup>  
– Approved by vote of the Commission

**6-35(c)**

If the First Selectman **with the approval of the Board of Selectman initiates; or the Board of Education** initiates an Emergency Appropriation, the appropriation may be approved by a majority vote of the Legislative Council. If initiated by the Legislative Council, the Emergency Appropriation must be approved by the affirmative vote of at least eight (8) members of the Legislative Council.

Mr Gaston moved to accept the changes made to 6-35(e) including adding the number (1) as shown below. Mr Davidow 2<sup>nd</sup> – Approved by vote of the Commission

**6-35(e)(1)**

The Legislative Council shall have the power to ~~make approve without referendum~~ Special ~~and Emergency~~ Appropriations, in an amount not in excess of \$1,500,000 ~~for any one purpose cumulative~~ during a fiscal year. Said amount **approved by the Legislative Council** shall be cumulative **during as to the fiscal year.** ~~as to all appropriations related to said purpose.~~ The total of Special ~~and Emergency~~ Appropriations ~~made approved~~ by the Legislative Council for all purposes during a fiscal year shall not exceed an amount equal to one mill on the most recently completed Grand List. (That would currently be \$3.465M)

Mr Gaston moved to accept the changes to 6-35(e)(2) as shown below. Mr Davidow 2<sup>nd</sup>  
Approved by vote of the Commission.

**6-35(e)(2)**

**The Legislative Council shall have the power to approve, without referendum, Emergency Appropriations in a cumulative amount for the fiscal year not in excess of an amount equal to one mill on the most recently completed Grand List. Said amount approved by the Legislative Council shall be cumulative as to the fiscal year** ~~approved by the Legislative Council.~~ Upon approval by the Legislative Council of Emergency Appropriations beyond said one mill approval by referendum is required.

Mr Gaston moved to add the budget time line received from Mr Tait to the agenda. Mr Petersen 2<sup>nd</sup> – Approved by vote of the Commission.

Mr Gaston moved to accept the proposed timeline without Board of Finance (see attached). Mr Filiato 2<sup>nd</sup> - Approved by vote of the Commission.

ANNOUNCEMENTS Mr Buzzi reviewed the next steps in the process. As Chairman he will forward the finished draft report to the Town Clerk's office so it is available to the public before the Public Hearing on April 5<sup>th</sup>. The Public Hearing will be in Community Center Room 3 at 7pm.

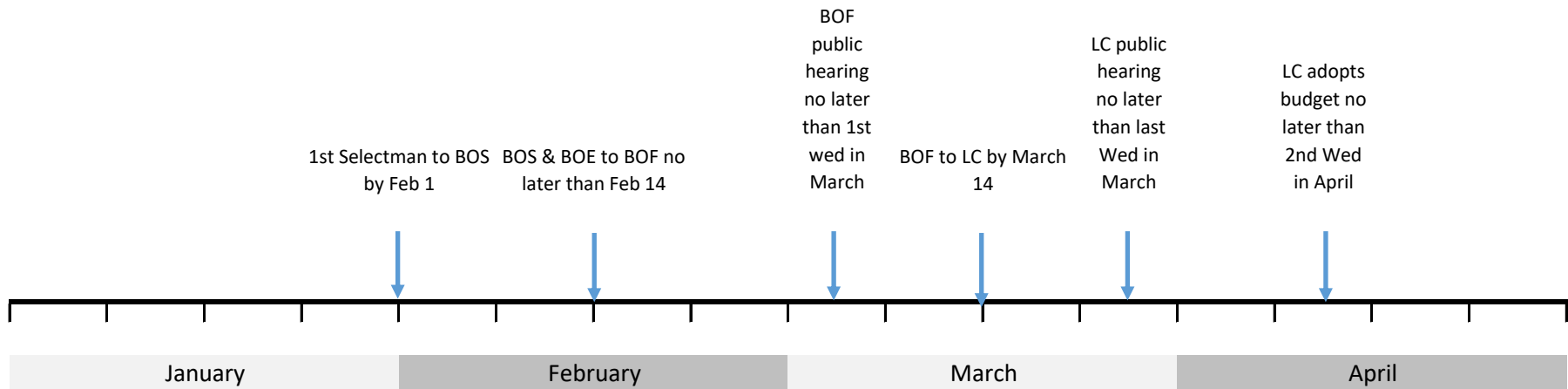
The Commission will hold a regular meeting after the public hearing to discuss public comment and any possible changes to the draft report. We will discuss whether further meetings are necessary before the draft report is submitted to the Legislative Council.

ADJOURNMENT – Mr Gaston moved to adjourn with Mr Filiato 2<sup>nd</sup>. Mr Buzzi adjourned the meeting at 8:41.

Respectfully submitted,

LeReine Frampton, clerk

### CURRENT BUDGET TIMELINE



### PROPOSED BUDGET TIMELINE WITH NO BOF

