

Approved: 10/28/15

Charter Review Committee  
Town of Jamestown, Rhode Island  
Minutes of the October 14, 2015 Meeting

The meeting of the Jamestown Charter Review Committee was held at the Jamestown Town Hall, in the Rosamond A. Tefft Council Chambers, 93 Narragansett Avenue, Jamestown, RI. The Committee Chairman, Arlene Petit, called the meeting to order at 3:37 PM.

**I. ROLL CALL**

The Chairman called the roll and noted the following members were present (3:38 PM):

Arlene D. Petit, Chairman  
James Rugh, Co-Chairman  
Anthony Antine  
Blake A. Dickinson  
John Pagano  
Mary Lou Sanborn  
Edward Gromada, Secretary

Mary E. Meagher was absent.

**II. MINUTES**

A motion was made by Jim Rugh and seconded by Tony Antine to accept the minutes from the meeting of September 23, 2015. Tony Antine, Blake Dickinson, Ed Gromada, John Pagano, Arlene Petit, Jim Rugh and Mary Lou Sanborn voted in favor of the motion. Time of motion 3:40 PM.

**III. OLD BUSINESS**

- A. The following Sections were reviewed by the Committee:
- a. Sections 201, 212 and 302 had no revisions necessary.
  - b. Section 301. Blake Dickinson suggested the following change to this section: "The town council shall appoint a town administrator for an indefinite period of time, based solely upon the executive and administrative qualifications of the applicant, as outlined by generally accepted professional standards such as those in the International City/County Management Association. The town administrator need



not be a resident of the town or state at the time of appointment, but must become and remain a qualified elector and resident of the state within six months after appointment, unless an extension is approved by town council. The relationship between the town and the town administrator shall be contractual and not that between a municipality and a civil officer. A motion was made by Jim Rugh and seconded by Mary Lou Sanborn to accept the new wording. Tony Antine, Blake Dickinson, Ed Gromada, John Pagano, Arlene Petit, Jim Rugh and Mary Lou Sanborn voted in favor of the motion. Time of motion 4:16 PM.

- c. Section 401. The Committee decided to reserve action on this Section until the October 28, 2015 Committee meeting.
- d. Section 402. The wording of this section suggests that the Town Council give "annual" consent to the Town Administrator to head or appoint heads of town departments, offices and agencies. A motion was made by Jim Rugh and seconded by Mary Lou Sanborn to remove the word "annual" from this section, because authority need only be granted once to a new Town Administrator and it would automatically be renewed indefinitely. Tony Antine, Blake Dickinson, Ed Gromada, John Pagano, Arlene Petit, Jim Rugh and Mary Lou Sanborn voted in favor of the motion. Time of the motion 4:44 PM.
- e. Section 404. The Committee felt that the description of the tax accessor's position did not indicate an experience or training level required for that position. A motion was made by Jim Rugh and seconded by Mary Lou Sanborn to revised the wording in this section, as follows: "There shall be a tax assessor with training and experience who shall be nominated by the town administrator with the approval of the town council, and shall have those powers and perform those duties prescribed now or in the future by town ordinance, the constitution and laws of the state not inconsistent with this Charter." Tony Antine, Ed Gromada, John Pagano, Arlene Petit, Jim Rugh and Mary Lou Sanborn voted in favor of the motion. Blake Dickinson voted in opposition to the motion. Time of the motion 4:49 PM.
- f. Section 405. There was much discussion about the inclusion or exclusion of political party membership on the Board of Assessors. Jim Rugh volunteered to research a number of towns across Rhode Island and report back to the Committee by October 28, 2015 to determine the Board of Accessor makeup relative to party affiliation.
- g. Section 406. Jim Rugh suggested the following change to this section: "There shall be a town moderator, who shall be elected at the regular town election and shall have those powers and perform those duties prescribed now or in the future by the constitution and laws of the state not inconsistent with this Charter. In the event that the office of the town moderator becomes vacant during the term of office, the next highest vote getter from the most recent election shall be elevated to serve until a replacement is found. Should there be no next higher vote getter or if none of the vote getters be willing to serve then the council shall appoint a member, pursuant to the laws of the State of Rhode Island." A motion was made by Blake Dickinson and seconded by Tony Antoine to accept the new wording. Tony Antine, Blake



Dickinson, Ed Gromada, John Pagano, Arlene Petit, Jim Rugh and Mary Lou Sanborn voted in favor of the motion. Time of motion 5:03 PM.

h. Sections 407 to 410 had no revisions necessary.

Section III, Old Business concluded at 5:07 PM.

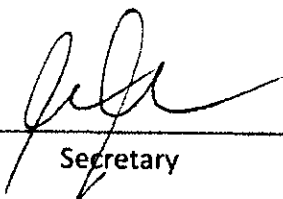
#### **IV. NEW BUSINESS**

- A. The next meeting of the Committee will be held on October 28, 2015.
- B. Blake Dickinson suggested the Committee revisit the start time of meetings. The Committee decided to reserve action on start times until the October 28, 2015 Committee meeting.

Section IV, New Business concluded at 5:09 PM.

#### **V. ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by Mary Lou Sanborn, and seconded by Jim Rugh to adjourn the meeting. Anthony Antine, Blake Dickinson, Edward Gromada, John Pagano, Jim Rugh, Arlene Petit and Mary Lou Sanborn voted in favor of the motion. The meeting adjourned at 5:11 PM.

  
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Secretary

