

12/7 agenda

Approved: 11/4/15

Charter Review Committee
Town of Jamestown, Rhode Island
Minutes of the October 28, 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 3:35 PM.

I. ROLL CALL

The Chairman called the roll and noted the following members were present (3:36 PM):

- Arlene D. Petit, Chairman
- James Rugh, Co-Chairman
- John Pagano
- Mary Lou Sanborn
- Edward Gromada, Secretary

Mary E. Meagher (Ex Officio Member)

Antony Antine and Blake Dickinson were absent.

II. MINUTES

Mary Lou Sanborn suggested a wording change to the minutes of October 14, 2015. In paragraph A, sub-para b. Section 301, add the word "such" between the words "standard" and "as those in..." A correction was made to the Minutes.

A motion was made by Jim Rugh and seconded by John Pagano to accept the minutes from the meeting of October 14, 2015. Ed Gromada, John Pagano, Jim Rugh, Arlene Petit and Mary Lou Sanborn voted in favor of the motion. Time of motion 3:39 PM.

III. OLD BUSINESS

A) The following Sections were reviewed by the Committee:

- a. Section 401. Discussion of this Section was tabled until the November 4, 2015 meeting.
- b. Section 405. A motion was made by Jim Rugh and seconded by Mary Lou Sanborn to remove the words "There shall be no more than two board members belonging to the same political party noninclusive of the alternate member." Ed Gromada, John Pagano, Jim Rugh, Arlene Petit and Mary Lou Sanborn voted in favor of the motion. Time of motion 4:10 PM.
- c. Section 411, 415 and 416 had no revisions necessary
- d. Section 417. The Committee had a reservation with the use of the word "organized" in reference to the description of a candidate's prior police department. The term was passed to the Town Solicitor for review.

A motion was made by Mary Lou Sanborn and seconded by John Pagano to change the wording change to the second sentence to read: "The chief of police shall be nominated by the town administrator as outlined by generally accepted professional standards such as those in the International City/County Management Association and appointed with the approval of the town council." Ed Gromada, John Pagano, Jim Rugh, Arlene Petit and Mary Lou Sanborn voted in favor of the motion. Time of motion 4:25 PM.

- e. Section 418. Mary Lou Sanborn made a motion, and John Pagano seconded the motion to change the following: "Fire and Emergency Medical Services." There shall be a Jamestown volunteer fire department and emergency medical services the organization of which shall be consistent with its current operating Charter of incorporation and the fire department ordinance established by the town council. "Budget. The fire and emergency medical services department shall submit budget estimates in the same manner as other departments. The fire department shall operate under the same budget constraints as every other department. Ed Gromada, John Pagano, Jim Rugh, Arlene Petit and Mary Lou Sanborn voted in favor of the motion. Time of motion 4:28 PM. Jim Rugh made a motion, and John Pagano seconded the motion to change the wording in sub-para (2) to read "Annual report." The department shall make a written annual report to the town council of the condition of all fire stations, apparatus, fire alarm systems and of all matters and property relating thereto and such other matters as the town council may request. Ed Gromada, John Pagano, Jim Rugh, Arlene Petit and Mary Lou Sanborn voted in favor of the motion. Time of motion 4:30 PM.
- f. Section 419. A motion was made by Ed Gromada and seconded by Mary Lou Sanborn to change the wording change to the second sentence to read: The finance director shall be nominated by the town administrator as outlined by generally accepted professional standards such as those in the International City/County Management Association and appointed with the approval of the town council." Ed

Gromada, John Pagano, Jim Rugh, Arlene Petit and Mary Lou Sanborn voted in favor of the motion. Time of motion 4:32 PM.

- g. Section 421. A motion was made by Mary Lou Sanborn and seconded by Jim Rugh to change the wording change to the second sentence to read: "There shall be a town planner nominated by the town administrator with training and experience as outlined by generally accepted professional standards such as those in the International City/County Management Association and appointed with the approval of the town council." Ed Gromada, John Pagano, Jim Rugh, Arlene Petit and Mary Lou Sanborn voted in favor of the motion. Time of motion 4:34 PM.
- h. Section 422. The Committee noted some confusion in the description of the Library trustees as to the wording of Section 422 and the Editor's note regarding a wording change associated with a ballot question of November 3, 2009. Mary Meagher will investigate the Editor's note as it relates to Section 422 and report back to the Committee on November 4, 2015.
- i. Section 423. Had no revisions necessary.

Section III, Old Business concluded at 4:40 PM.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

- A. For the next meeting, the Committee will consider:
 - a. Reviewing Article V, Sections 501-509
 - b. Reviewing Article VI, Sections 601 and 602
- B. The Committee reviewed the letter forwarded to it by Sav Rebecchi and determined that:
 - a. Council members acting as a Body. The Committee felt that the actions of elected officials was not under the preview of this Committee.
 - b. Conflict of Interest "penalties" for Committee Members. The Committee members that felt R.I. Gen. Law 36-14-2 more than adequately covers all circumstances associated with ethical behavior.

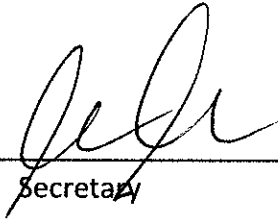
However, the Committee felt that, in deference to Mr. Rebecchi's concern, his letter would be forwarded to the Town Administrator for further clarification.

- C. The dates of the next four (4) meetings have been changed to adjust for holiday activities. The new dates are:
 - a. Wednesday, November 4, 2015
 - b. Wednesday, November 18, 2015
 - c. Wednesday, December 2, 2015
 - d. Wednesday, December 16, 2015
- D. The Committee decided to adjust the start times of all future meeting to 4:30 PM.

Section IV, New Business concluded at 4:51 PM.

V. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Jim Rugh, and seconded by Mary Lou Sanborn to adjourn the meeting. Edward Gromada, John Pagano, Jim Rugh, Arlene Petit and Mary Lou Sanborn voted in favor of the motion. The meeting adjourned at 4:54 PM.



Secretary