

Approved: 1/27/16

Charter Review Committee  
Town of Jamestown, Rhode Island  
Minutes of the January 13, 2016 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 4:34 PM.

**I. ROLL CALL**

The Chairman called the roll and noted the following members were present:

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

Mary E. Meagher (Ex Officio Member)

**II. MINUTES**

A motion was made by Mary Lou Sanborn and seconded by Jim Rugh to accept the amended minutes from the meeting of December 16, 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 4:36 PM.

**III. OLD BUSINESS**

A) The following Sections were reviewed by the Committee:

- a) Section 418. Ed Gromada presented new wording for this section as follows:  
"Section 418. 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.


- 1) *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.
  - 2) *Annual report.* The department shall make a written annual report to the town council of the condition of all fire stations, ~~fire~~-apparatus, fire alarm systems and of all matters and property relating thereto and such other matters as the town council may request.
  - 3) *Jamestown Fire Department.* The Jamestown Fire Department, a 501(c)3 charitable organization, shall make a written annual report to the town council on the condition of its financial position. This report may be in the form of its current year Form 990 filing statement with the IRS or other audited financial statement." A motion was made by Jim Rugh, and seconded by Mary Lou Sanborn to accept the wording as presented. Anthony Antine, Blake Dickinson, Edward Gromada, John Pagano, Arlene Petit, Jim Rugh and Mary Lou Sanborn voted in favor of the motion. The meeting adjourned at 4:42 PM.
- b) Section 422. This section was forwarded to the town solicitor for review. Additionally, Mary Lou Sanborn will rewrite this section and include the position of Library Director. She will present it to the Committee on January 27, 2015.
  - c) Section 1001. Had no revisions necessary.
  - d) Section 1002. Jim Rugh proposed a change to paragraph (3) as follows: "Unless otherwise mandated by state law or regulations, all terms of board, commission and committee membership shall be limited to three years. With the exception of the zoning board of review alternate members, no person shall serve more than three consecutive terms on the same committee and that person shall not be reappointed to that body for one years thereafter, unless the person has special qualifications required by the board, or for other good reason, with a unanimous vote of the council concurring with the reappointment." This proposal will be reviewed and voted on at the next Committee meeting, January 27, 2015.
  - e) Section 1101. There was substantial discussion regarding the way the annual proposed budget is presented and approved by the voters of Jamestown. Mary Lou Sanborn proposed three new sections to be added to Article XI (Section 1107 – Adoption of referendum warrants, Section 1108 – Adaption of budget, and Section 1109 – Rejection of budgets). There was no consensus on these proposals. Jim Rugh and Arlene Petit will prepare an alternative view and process regarding the acceptance of the town's annual budget. Further discussion was postponed until January 27, 2016 Committee meeting.

#### IV. NEW BUSINESS

A) The next meeting of the Committee will be January 27, 2016.

**V. ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by Jim Rugh, and seconded by Mary Lou Sanborn 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 6:00 PM.



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Secretary