

**TOWN OF EAST HAMPTON
CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION**

**PUBLIC HEARING
MARCH 9, 2016
6:00 P.M.
HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY**

Minutes

Present: Pete Brown, Melissa Engel, Lori Lanzi, Michael Rose, Diane Achenbach-Zatorski, Sandra Wieleba (Town Clerk)

Absent: Anne McKinney, Rolland Jackson

1. Call to Order: Vice Chairperson Lanzi called the meeting to order (as Chairperson Engel entered the public hearing a few minutes later) at 6:08 p.m.

2. Review of Commission's Charge

3. Public Remarks:

Patience Anderson of 17 Anderson Way, Chairperson of the Town Council, stated that she is in support of bifurcating the budget. She is in favor of taking it out of the Charter and having that be made an ordinance, in case bifurcation does not work and the Town would like to change it back. On the subject of previously elected officials not being able to serve for two years, she believes the intent was for them not to be able to take a paid position. She stated when a community struggles for volunteers, excluding these people contributing is not the way to go. Concerning the appointment process, she would like to see clarification. The Board of Education (BOE) should be devoid of political influence and she feels they should make their own appointments. However, if the Commission recommends that the Town Council make their appointments, please make it very specific as how to appoint.

Ted Turner of 223 Hog Hill Road stated that he would like to see politics stay out of filling open Boards and Commission positions. He agreed with Ms. Anderson that the BOE should take care of their own appointments. After some questions and answers with Commission members, Mr. Turner revised his statement to say that the BOE should use the same rule as other Boards, such as the Board of Finance and Town Council, and that it should be that the electorate should

rule when filling positions The Charter should state that the next highest vote-getter takes the open position (if that person so desires.)

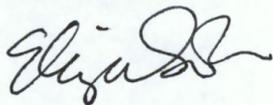
Mike Bloch of 31 Cone Road stated that the BOE should appoint their own. He agrees that the open position should be offered to the next highest vote-getter if that occurs close to the time of the election. He suggested putting a short term on this (such as three months), after which if an opening became available the Boards would put out a public notice for the opening. He also stated that if the Commission decides to move forward on the bifurcation that he hopes that will be a separate question on the ballot. He stated that bifurcating the budget may be a hard sell as that will be pitting two groups against each other and that this has caused legal battles in other towns. Mr. Turner then stated that he agrees with Mr. Bloch on this and believes this could cause a campaign against the BOE, which will end up hurting the kids, as the education in our town attracts and retains residents.

Phil Visintainer of 12 Ox Yoke Circle stated that the budget process creates competition for pieces of one pie, and the situation could be that the Town doesn't really know what to do to pass a budget. Mr. Rose asked about the current situation and how that is different as the Town experiences multiple referenda and more discussion occurred. Mr. Visintainer also asked about the provision of past elected officials not being allowed to volunteer on boards and commissions, whether this was only for Town Council members or if it applies to others as well. Chairperson Engel explained some of the background of how this had come into play recently and discussion occurred on this topic as well.

8. Adjournment:

Public hearing was adjourned at 6:36 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Eliza LoPresti
Recording Secretary