

Town Government Study Committee 2014-2015

Town Hall, Great Hall

September 15, 2015 7:00 pm

Committee: Chair Katherine L Babson Jr. , Vice Chair Rose Mary Donahue, Arthur J Goldberg, Ann Marie Gross, Anna Sereiko, Thomas Ulfelder, Linda Perlmutter, Stanley Brooks, Rich Page

Others: David Murphy(BOS), Marjorie Freiman (BOS), Barbara Searle (BOS), Ellen Gibbs (BOS), Hans Larsen (EXEC DIR), Ray Miyares (Town Counsel), Kathy Nagle (TGSC Staff)

Chair Babson called the meeting to order at 7:10 pm. She advised the Committee that the meeting was being cable cast by Wellesley cable. There were no citizens present to address the committee.

Chair Babson introduced the Special Act for approval. She noted changes from the prior draft:

1. "no sooner than" – appointment to be effective. This language gives flexibility for situations where the appointment is made to be effective at some future date.
2. Section 1 – now specifies that BOS terms are to be staggered
3. Clarifies that BOS will not delegate licensing authority for alcohol licensing
4. Section 3.b.2 – title of Fire chief to include Chief Fire engineer
5. Clarifies that appointment of Fire Chief and Police Chief requires affirmative approval by BOS
6. Section 5 clarifies term of office for town clerk
7. Edits language to refer to Finance Department
8. Section 9 clarifies that Exec Director position is abolished upon the appointment of a Town Manager or November 30, 2016 whichever is later.

Rich Page made a motion to accept the Special Act as Amended and presented this evening (September 8, 2015 version) and give Chair Babson authority to make minor technical changes if needed.

Voted: UNANIMOUSLY

Chair Babson introduced a discussion of the minimum qualifications for the candidate for Town Manager. Proposing language in the Town Bylaw

BOS shall establish minimum qualifications but the Board of Selectmen may waive such qualifications if they make a finding that it does not undermine the public interest.

Discussion among the BOS present and the committee offered opinions that the minimum qualifications should be flexible to allow the BOS maximum latitude in selecting a Town Manager. Others offered the opinion that certain minimum qualifications such as educational background and municipal experience should be included in a town bylaw. Further discussion suggested amending the waiver to be stated in the positive (finding that a waiver would substantially protect the public interest)

There was no final consensus and will revisit the minimum qualifications issue using language suggested by Freiman.

Tom Ulfelder introduced Beth Sullivan Woods who conducted and analyzed a survey of Town Meeting Members conducted in April- June 2015. Ms Woods presented the findings report and a grid of possible actions to be implemented in response to the survey findings.

Committee directed Nagle to post the Findings Document and the Reponse Grid to the web and distribute to Town Meeting Members as soon as the BOS has an opportunity to review the action items noted for their consideration.

Motion to accept Minutes of August 29, September 2 and September 8. VOTED: UNANIMOUSLY

Meetings next week : September 24, Interboard followed by TGSC meeting for Board members to comment on the proposed Special Act and TBL amendments. TGSC will also meet at 6:00 pm to review and vote on TBL amendment documents.

Babson asked committee to review the TBL amendment documents to be voted at STM as motions:

1. Art 20 accepted as presented, to the committee
2. Art 19 accepted as presented, to the committee
3. Appointments sections – accepted as presented, to the committee

BOS still reviewing other TBL amendments. Committee will vote those documents after receiving comment from the BOS.

Meeting Adjourned at 10 pm.

DOCUMENTS:

Special Act 9/8/15

Article 19 9/8/15

Article 20 9/8/15

Appointments 9/8/15

Woods Report of TMM Survey findings – powerpoint

Woods action items grid

Submitted by Kathy Nagle