



Millinocket

Maine's Biggest Small Town

**CHARTER REVIEW COMMITTEE AGENDA
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 10, 2021
4:30PM IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS, PUBLIC VIA ZOOM**

PRESENT: Chairman Golieb, Wally Paul, John Raymond, Sherri Downes, Councilor Pray, Councilor Jackson, Interim Manager Angotti

Called to order 4:28PM

Discussion on Agenda Items: (Chair Golieb took minutes)

Raymond and Pray suggested potential names of those who could serve as 7th member of committee. Angotti was proposed by Raymond, Pray suggested Angotti was already extremely busy.

Angotti explained he will be at the meetings anyway serving in his capacity as IT and can still be of value/service to the discussion. Jackson suggested Angotti would be a good addition due to his wealth of knowledge.

Downes shared feedback she has gotten from the community and thinks it should be a resident of the community. Paul agreed that Angotti would be present regardless and that this committee will generally be functioning off of consensus as opposed to really needing a swing vote position. Pray said the purpose of the committee was to get the public involved.

Angotti suggested finding someone with a legal background would be ideal. Jackson concurred and suggested committee reaches out to someone with a legal background. Pray added it could be anyone with legislative or legal experience, not necessarily a lawyer. Paul said committee doesn't need 7th member to have legal background as this will all be run by a lawyer anyway before being implemented.

Discussion on how to find/reach out to 7th member.

Downes offered that there are women who would want to participate who can take time to research the issue. Proposed Susan D'Alessandro and Julie Archie. Pray suggested we all reach out to whoever we feel may be interested and come back to vote on it as a committee. Pray



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mentioned that the public is concerned about the perception that the “good ole boys” club is coming back together. Golieb agreed and suggested the committee adopts goals and procedures on how it operates. Raymond agreed on having a procedure to abide by.

Pray mentioned that in regards to goals he would like to see the Town Council have more authority over certain matters, such as personnel matters, perhaps through a subcommittee.

Angotti mentioned there’s already a section in the charter that allows the Council to investigate.

Pray added hiring and firing should be able to be superceded by the Council.

Angotti mentioned the need for following state statutes, and that there have been changes to the Home Rule. Golieb inquired as to whether it is the charter or the code that deals primarily with departments. Angotti mentioned the charter gives the Council the authority over departments, but the code primarily outlines the function of the departments.

Angotti mentioned the section of the charter that deals with the Council’s authority with the school board budget and a need to review that. Paul suggested 7th member should come from the school. Downes inquired as to whether the charter was written gender-specifically. Angotti said some sections are gender specific and need to be corrected.

Raymond suggested we review the whole charter and highlight things to bring back to discuss.

Pray agreed and offered that we should start from beginning and work our way to the end. Paul agreed and said we need to do this right and updated to today’s times. Angotti suggested the charter also get digitized to become searchable by section.

Raymond spoke to the benefit of getting public input to ensure all changes are being done right and won’t have to go back to make changes again. Angotti added better to improve than to make cumbersome. Raymond suggested hiring and firing of personnel should be left up to Manager and HR rather than the Council. Angotti reiterated that the Council can investigate. Golieb added that sometimes the act of investigating itself can have legal consequences as well, and the process might be too formal or inadequate of a process. Must look for other options of ensuring town functioning is being done properly. Angotti suggested tweaking existing language might help. Downes agreed.

General discussion on the functioning of a selectboard versus a council. Downes mentioned that elected councilors are a voice of the people via vote.

Golieb sought consensus on following meeting-- offered to draft procedural policies for committee to review and that next meeting will include vote of 7th member. Committee members agreed. Pray suggested committee members come with a brief description of the



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potential applicants. Angotti suggested Peter Jamieson from school board. Pray also suggested Deborah Roundtree and Michael Crowley. Discussion on the suggestions, general consensus was on Jamieson. Golieb offered to reach out, though mentioned Jamieson is extremely busy. Raymond expressed his interest in getting things done. Golieb inquired if the committee was interested in meeting in-person or via zoom. Committee members all agreed to meet in person.

Golieb sought date for next meeting. Meeting set for March 23 at 4:30PM.

Adjourned 5:15PM