

Town of Manchester, Connecticut  
Charter Revision Commission  
Minutes  
February 18, 2025 - 6:30 PM  
Manchester Room & Zoom Teleconference

1. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:32 PM.

Present at the meeting were Committee Chair Tim Bergin, Secretary Emily Luna, and Commissioners Tim Becker, Tom Ferguson, Mike Pohl, Audra Ricci, Harun Ahmed, and Richard Rader. Also present were Assistant Town Attorney John Sullivan (remotely), and Assistant Town Manager Kasia Purciello.

Absent: Vice Chair Dr. Diane Clare-Kearney

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a. Minutes of 2/4/2025 Meeting

There is a motion to approve the 1/21/25 meeting minutes by Commissioner Ferguson.  
Commissioner Becker seconds the motion. The motion passes 8-0-0.

3. COMMUNICATIONS

There are no communications.

4. REPORTS

5. REVIEW AND DISCUSSION OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS' RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CHARTER REVISION

h. Review technical changes as may be recommended by Town staff.

The Commission takes up Item h. This is followed by a discussion about Budget Director Wolverton's recommendation to delay the public hearing deadline in Section 5-4 from March 23<sup>rd</sup> to March 31<sup>st</sup> and replace instances where the word "newspaper" is used with "as prescribed by State law." Commissioner Becker stated that the budget adoption date used to be in April and asked if any research had been done as to how changing the date would interfere with the petitioning process as outlined in the Charter. Chair Bergin provides that for Municipal budget adoption, a majority or two-thirds vote of the Board of Directors can change the budget adoption date. This is followed by a discussion on drivers of budget adoption in the Charter. Assistant Manager Purciello clarifies that this year's budget adoption is scheduled for May 13<sup>th</sup>.

There is a motion made by Commissioner Pohl to approve the Town revisions. The motion is seconded by Commissioner Ferguson.

The motion passes 8-0-0.

r. Technical Revisions.

v. Board of Education member compensation.

Note: The votes taken at Charter Revision Commission must make a final vote on all issues at the time the Draft Report is adopted. Accordingly, the Charter Revision Commission can change its vote on any position taken.

The Commission takes up Item v. Commissioner Pohl speaks about recent legislation (SB 356) that went before the House and wonders if it is possible to add language to the Charter that states compensation would be possible if State Statute changes during the current legislative session. Commissioner Pohl asks if there is a place in the Charter that prohibits the Town from compensating the Board of Education. Chair Bergin answers no. There is discussion that based on this information, there is no need to add this language to the Charter at this time as State Statute would enable compensation if legislation passes.

Commissioner Pohl withdraws this agenda item.

#### 6. COMMENT AND DISCUSSION BY COMMISSION MEMBERS ON ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDA OR OF GENERAL DISCUSSION

Chair Bergin introduces the Draft Report of the Charter Revision Commission. The Commission discusses the status of the current draft report. The draft is not yet finalized, and the appendix will be a track change document of the Charter. The Commissioners will review and send comments to Chair Bergin.

There is a discussion on scheduling the public hearing on the final draft report and the Commission asks whether the Town's Communications department could create graphics on high-profile agenda items. Assistant Manager Purciello will speak with the Town's Communications staff on creating such graphics.

#### 7. ADJOURNMENT

There is a motion to adjourn at 7:02 PM by Commissioner Ricci. The motion was seconded by Secretary Luna. The meeting is adjourned until March 4, 2025.