

Prospect Town Council  
Special Meeting  
Unapproved Minutes  
August 8, 2016

Chairman Thomas J. Galvin called to order the Special Meeting of the Prospect Town Council @ 5:00 p.m. The meeting was held at Prospect Town Hall, 36 Center Street and began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Members Present:** T. Galvin, Jeff Slapikas, Al Delelle, D. Merriman, S. Pilat, Pat Geary, Carla Perugini-Erickson @ 5:10 p.m. and L. Fitzgerald

**Members Absent:** C. Graveline

**CRC Members in Attendance:** Paul Krisavage

**Also in Attendance:** Mayor Robert J. Chatfield and Attorney John Yarbrough

**Public Participation:**

Fred Bonyai, 18 Woodcrest Drive, asked if question '1' of the Charter Revision Referendum Questions for Elected vs. Appointed positions of the Tax Collector, Town Clerk and Town Treasurer would be eliminated from the ballot. T. Galvin stated that he would like to have this question go to the voters. T. Galvin advised that if the ballot does not contain this question pertaining to Chapter 2, Section 2.01 General: Elections and Elective Offices and Appointive Offices, then that portion of the Charter will remain as is without any changes.

Paul Krisavage, 11 Stonefield Drive, read into the record a letter dated August 5, 2016, from the Chairman of the Charter Revision Commission, Glenn Gruber (Schedule A). G. Gruber's letter recommended: "The CRC suggests changing the positions of Tax Collector, Town Clerk and Town Treasurer from 'elect' to: 'The Mayor, with the majority vote of the Town Council, shall appoint...' those positions." G. Gruber also stated that the 'CRC had recommended a 'hiring process', a 'term of 4 years' and changed consent of the Town Council to 'majority vote of the Town Council'. G. Gruber continued that the 'CRC would like to encourage the Town Council to let this topic go to the voters for a decision'.

The discussion continued: T. Galvin asked the Town's Attorney, John Yarbrough to discuss his 'revisions' to the CRC's Charter Referendum questions. Attorney Yarbrough explained that he had taken the CRC's wording and in an effort to clarify, worked on alternatives (Schedule B). Attorney Yarbrough advised the Council to stick with what is important and continued that he had changed the wording to question '1' to advise the public that 'Appointed' would replace the current positions of 'Elected'. Attorney Yarbrough also asked the Council to consider adding an additional question of terms: '4' year instead of '2' year terms.

P. Geary commented that she felt the wording was difficult to understand and suggested to create a simpler question. Council members suggested eliminating 'assisted by a search committee' in question '1'. D. Merriman agreed that to get the point across, it should be noted that the 'Elected' positions would now be 'Appointed' (hired). Council members raised their concerns of advising the public of the changes. Attorney Yarbrough commented that per State Statute, a public notice could be placed in the paper advising that copies of the changes to the Charter, upon request, could be mailed to the public from the Town Clerk's office. The discussion continued with terms. P. Krisavage referenced CT State Statute 9-189 Town Clerks, Treasures and Tax Collectors and stated that the CRC's concern was to establish contracted hiring positions, with longevity. Mayor Chatfield questioned when the new terms would go into effect. A discussion took place on timing of a search committee.

The discussion continued on the remainder of the questions; question '2''s additional wording, 'budget and expenditure', J. Slapikas' concern of the necessity of question '5' and question '6''s 'catch-all' which included the Prospect Volunteer Fire Department. C. Perugini-Erickson raised her concern that the voters could misunderstand the questions and would need guidance. Attorney Yarbrough stated that the Town Council could authorize an explanatory text for the voters that would be approved by the Town's Attorney and come through the Town Clerk's office. The explanatory text could be published with the 'Warning of Election' as a separate document. Attorney Yarbrough advised that the Council should be aware not to use the Town's funds to advertize to the public to vote one way or another. Comments were made by the Council: L. Fitzgerald and A. Delelle commented that the questions should be given to the voters to decide.

T. Galvin continued the discussion by inquiring if the changes made to Section 7.02: Fire Department should be 'broken out' as a 2<sup>nd</sup> question of question '6'. T. Galvin asked Mayor Chatfield if he had any comments as to the Fire Department. Mayor Chatfield stated that he did not, nor on the Police Department as he had stated many times prior, the documentation provided to the CRC originally should have been documented in the revised Charter.

J. Slapikas commented that question '5' could be eliminated and become part of question '2' with variations. Mayor Chatfield requested a Special Meeting of the Town to begin on Tuesday, August 16, 2016 @ 6:30 p.m. with the regular meeting of the Town Council immediately following. T. Galvin stated that an additional Special Meeting of the Prospect Town Council would be held on Thursday, August 11, 2016 @ 7:00 p.m. at the Prospect Town Hall.

**Adjournment:** Motion made by D. Merriman, seconded by S. Pilat to adjourn the meeting. **Unanimous.** The meeting adjourned @ 6:23 p.m.

*Thomas J. Galvin*  
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Chairman