

**Town of Uxbridge
Charter Review Committee
October 18, 2021**

REC'D UXB TOWN CLERK
2021 DEC 2 AM 10:12

The thirtieth meeting of the Uxbridge Charter Review Committee, held at the Uxbridge Police Station, 275 Douglas Street, Uxbridge, Massachusetts, was called to order by Chair, Patrick Stephan at 6:30 PM, Monday, October 18, 2021.

Present were Chair, Patrick Stephan, Vice Chair, Rob Knapik, Clerk, Ray Talke, and committee members Joann Lindenmayer and Michael Potaski. Melissa Desmarais, Barry Desruisseaux, Jeffrey Lourie, and Ron Parsons were absent from the meeting.

No members of the public were present to speak during open public forum.

Mr. Stephan announced he attended the golf tournament held to benefit the Uxbridge Elderly Connection, Inc. and thanked Mr. Knapik for being one of the sponsors of the tournament.

Mr. Stephan announced there will be a meeting to be held on Wednesday, October 20, 2021, sponsored by Moderator, Ed Maharay. This is a planning meeting discussing how warrant articles will be handled at town meeting.

Mr. Stephan created a report of the charter review committee to be submitted at town meeting on Tuesday, October 26, 2021. He reminded the charter review committee that the second night of town meeting, Wednesday, October 27, 2021, would be dedicated to the recommendations of charter amendments.

Article #17 on the town meeting warrant, discussing changes recommended to the charter, will be divided after the initial motion to accept the charter revisions is accepted. There will be three motions addressing changes which span throughout the charter and one motion for each of the seven articles in the charter. It is possible that town meeting attendees may further divide each article into separate components.

Mr. Talke has prepared alternate motions if the select board or public works board motions fail, since wording referencing these entities span several articles in the charter.

Mr. Stephan announced he received communications from town attorney, Jason R. Talerman, stating the charter review committee will dissolve upon the conclusion of the autumn annual town meeting. Effectively, this means the responsibilities of the charter review committee will end on October 27, 2021. Any other requirements of shepherding the charter to conclusion will be the responsibility of other entities in town.

Mr. Knapik moved the minutes from the October 4, 2021 meeting of the charter review committee be accepted as presented. The motion was seconded by Dr. Lindenmayer. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Stephan announced that he, Dr. Lindenmayer, Mr. Potaski, and Mr. Talke attended the finance committee meeting on October 13, 2021 and that he, Mr. Potaski, and Mr. Talke attended the board of selectmen meeting on October 14, 2021.

Mr. Talke moved, "Article 6, Section 7, paragraph E shall be changed from "The school committee, board of public works, and other elected officials shall submit their proposed operating budgets to the town manager at least seventy-five (75) days prior to the date on which the town meeting is to convene in its annual session" to "The school committee, board of public works, and other elected officials shall submit their proposed operating budgets to the town manager at least eighty (80) days prior to the date on which the town meeting is to convene in its annual session." The motion was seconded by Mr. Knapik. After discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Stephan noted that several people in town are uncomfortable with the charter review committee pursuing the special legislation route for the acceptance of the charter amendments. He stated that at least seven towns have recently pursued the special legislation path of getting charter amendments approved. While discussing the process for approving the charter amendments, Mr. Stephan stated the difference between a simple majority and 2/3 majority in typical town meeting elections is about 21 votes. Mr. Talke expressed his discomfort with the legal guidance given to us, particularly that the options in Massachusetts General Law, Chapter 43B, Section 10 weren't shared with the committee and had to be discovered by members of the committee.

Mr. Stephan reported that he and Mr. Talke are scheduled to be interviewed by Barry Giles of Uxbridge Community Television on October 19, 2021. The discussion will center around the amendments the charter review committee are proposing.

The charter review committee then practiced their presentations for town meeting. Sections were delivered as follows:

- Main motion – Mr. Stephan
- Change from board of selectmen to select board motion – Mr. Stephan
- Change from officer to official motion – Mr. Stephan substituting for Mr. Lourie
- Use of Arabic numerals and formatting motion – Mr. Talke
- Article 1 - Dr. Lindenmayer
- Article 2 – Mr. Knapik
- Article 3 – Mr. Stephan
- Article 4 - Dr. Lindenmayer
- Article 5 – Mr. Potaski
- Article 6 – Mr. Talke
- Article 7 – Mr. Potaski

Mr. Stephan motioned to adjourn the public meeting and, in accordance with the Massachusetts open meeting law, enter into executive session. The meeting won't return after executive session. The motion was seconded by Mr. Knapik. The motion passed unanimously.

The public meeting adjourned at 8:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/

Raymond A. Talke, Jr.
Clerk

