

Minutes of the Longmeadow Charter Transition Team
1:00pm Thursday, September 16, 2004 – Police Dept Meeting Room

Members Present: Laura Bertelli-Vice Chairperson (representing the School Committee), Paul Pasterczyk-Secretary (representing Town Employees), Walter Gunn (representing the Planning Board), Jerry Nolet (representing the Finance Committee), Joseph Occhiuti (past member of the Charter Commission), Norman Thidemann (Acting Town Administrator)

Member Absent: Roger Wojcik-Chairperson (past member of the Charter Commission)

David Appleman-Parks & Recreation Commissioner and one member of the press were present.

Minutes of the September 2, 2004 meeting were accepted as presented.

Norman Thidemann updated the Charter Transition Team (CTT) on the Select Board's thoughts with regard to Town Manager Selection Committee (TMSC). The Select Board agreed in concept to the TMSC but felt 9 voting members were too many. The Select Board also wanted to retain the right to participate in the TMSC while not necessarily being allowed to vote. The Select Board felt that viewing candidates over a longer period of time in different settings would allow them to better judge the candidates. Also expressed was the fact that the original CTT proposal may have weighed too heavily in the area of Schools and Finance since each area had two members. Weighing these concerns, the CTT revised its TMSC proposal and voted favorably the following composition.

3 residents at large, Police Chief, Fire Chief, School Committee member, Finance Committee member.

Other positions that would be allowed to participate in the process and have alternate voting privileges: School Superintendent (voting alternate for School Committee member) Finance Director (voting alternate for Finance Committee member).

Other positions participating as non-voting members: Select Board member and the Acting Town Administrator.

The CTT also voted that the 3 resident at large selections could not be current Select Board, Finance Committee or School Committee members.

Joseph Occhiuti led the Team in discussion through a number of areas involved in the Town Manager's selection process. The CTT provided input on the areas presented and Mr. Occhiuti was to incorporate the CTT's input for discussion at the next meeting.

Ms. Bertelli raised her concern about the consolidation of the DPW coupled with the recent retirement announcement of Francis Boudreau, Supt of Buildings and Grounds for the School (and doing currently similar work for some non-school properties). Mr. Thidemann explained that the Department of Public Works Superintendent created by the Charter would be hired by the Town Manager. The hiring of DPW Superintendent actually may not take place until late in the fiscal year. It was also noted that the Charter Section 9-5 allowed concessions for an additional years time in which the DPW would assume the responsibilities of School maintenance. In the interim it was felt that the School Department should hire a replacement for Mr. Boudreau.

The Committee voted to adjourn at 2:40pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Paul J. Pasterczyk
Secretary, Charter Transition Team