

**Town of Somers
Board of Selectmen
Special Meeting
Public Hearing
July 20, 2006 – 7:00 p.m.
Town Hall Auditorium**

1. Call to Order

The public hearing was called to order by First Selectman David Pinney at 7:10 pm.

2. Members Present

Kathy Devlin, Ernie Allsup, David Pinney

Also: Town Clerk Ann Logan, Town Treasurer Ed Sullivan, members of the Charter Revision Commission and members of the public

3. Review Proposed Changes Made to the Town Charter by the Charter Revision Commission.

Members of the Charter Revision Commission reviewed some of the changes proposed in response to questions from the public. They explained that the recommendation to eliminate elected constables stemmed from the fact that these positions served little to no purpose since the probate office has been moved to Stafford. They also explained that they thought the increased challenges in the town treasurer's office warranted changing from an elected to an appointed position so that the group doing the appointing could review applicants and make sure the person appointed was qualified to perform the functions of the office. Similar logic applied to the Tax Collector with the additional consideration that the collector would serve under the treasurer, creating some potential for conflict if the collector continued to be elected while the treasurer was appointed. The commission members did not see a need to change the status of electing the Town Clerk or eliminating the Board of Assessors and so were not recommending changes in those areas.

There was discussion of whether all the changes would be presented as one or several questions on the November ballot. Support for each approach was offered. It was noted that it would be worthwhile to publicize broadly the question(s) once finalized.

There was a question as to whether the commission had considered a town council or expanded board of selectmen with an appointed administrator for Somers. The answer was no.

There was a comment that as regards the proposed change on the maximum amount of money the Board of Finance can authorize for appropriation or transfer that the public would want to know what amount is established by state statute. That amount currently is \$20,000.

There was a question as to when the charter was last changed which prompted a review of the questions presented and passed or defeated in 1999.

4. Adjournment

The hearing and meeting adjourned at 8:45.

Respectfully Submitted,

David Pinney,
First Selectman

Minutes are not official until approved at a subsequent meeting.