

**TOWN OF SOMERS
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES
APRIL 23, 2015
6:00pm
Town Hall Auditorium**

1. **Call to Order:** First Selectman Lisa Pellegrini called the public hearing to order at 6:02pm.
2. **Present:** First Selectman Lisa Pellegrini, Selectmen Kathy Devlin and Bud Knorr, Operations Manager Kim LaFleur (recording) and Charter Revision Commission Chairman Tim Potrikus.
3. **First Selectman Lisa Pellegrini read aloud the following Legal Notice:**
The Board of Selectmen of the Town of Somers will hold a public hearing on Thursday, April 23, 2015 beginning at 6:00pm in the Somers Town Hall Auditorium, 600 Main St, Somers, CT. Residents may be heard regarding the elimination of Section 5-10 of the Town of Somers Charter regarding Board of Fire Commissioners recommended by the Charter Revision Commission and other matters over which the Board has authority.
4. **For the record, Ms. Pellegrini read aloud Section 5-10: Board of Fire Commissioners from the Town Charter:**
There shall be a Board of Fire Commissioners of five members, each serving a term of three years, with the powers and duties as prescribed by town ordinance. The Board of Fire Commissioners, under the supervision of the Board of Selectmen, shall be charged with: The financial management of the town funds used by the Fire Department and the supervision and care of town apparatus, buildings and equipment used by the Fire Department. The Board of Fire Commissioners shall set specifications that shall be followed in the purchase of apparatus, equipment and supplies by the town for the Fire Department. The organization, government and membership shall be in accordance with all applicable statutes and regulations and the Somers Volunteer Fire Department's constitution and by-laws. There shall be a Chief elected by the members of the Fire Department and approved by the Fire Commissioners. The Chief shall be responsible for the emergency operation of the Fire Department as prescribed by the Connecticut General Statutes.
5. **Ms. Pellegrini explained why and how Section 5-10 of the Town Charter was being eliminated:**
Ms. Pellegrini explained that the Selectmen were notified by the Fire Chief and the Volunteer Fire Association that the current Chief was not going to seek re-election at the end of this year and there was no one in the pipeline available to take his place. Thus, there was a request made to hire a paid fire chief. In order to hire a paid fire chief a couple of things had to take place, namely an agreement put in place between the Volunteer Association and the Town of Somers, the adoption of a Fire Ordinance and a change to the Charter.

Earlier this year the Charter Revision Commission was activated and members appointed included Brad Pellissier, Ralph Williams, Tim Potrikus, Keith Burger and Erik Ness. Their charge was to consider deleting Section 5-10 Board of Fire Commissioners from the Charter and to present a draft report to the Board of Selectmen on or before May 1st. They went thru the process and presented to the Board of Selectmen on April 2, 2015 a recommendation. Before she read the letter and Ms. Pellegrini formally thanked the Commission for their time and dedication and hard work. Ms. Pellegrini read the attached letter from Tim Potrikus, Chairman of the Charter Revision Commission.

6. Ms. Pellegrini asked if the audience had any comments and to be sure to state their name and address. There were none.
7. ***Mrs. Devlin made a motion to close the Public Hearing at 6:06, seconded by Mr. Knorr. A unanimous vote followed.***

**TOWN OF SOMERS
CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION
600 MAIN STREET – P.O. BOX 308
SOMERS, CT 06071**

Town of Somers, CT
Board of Selectmen
600 Main Street
P.O. Box 308
Somers, CT 06071

**Re: Charter Revision Commission
via Presentation to Board of Selectmen, April 2, 2015**

April 2, 2015

Dear Members of the Somers CT Board of Selectmen:

I am pleased to report that at the March 25, 2015 meeting of the Town of Somers Charter Revision Commission, the unanimous vote of the commissioners was to recommend to the Board of Selectmen that section 5-10 of the Somers Town Charter be removed in its entirety.

We believe this concludes the work that the Charter Revision Commission was asked to undertake, and that we have met the expectations as requested by the Board of Selectmen.

Respectfully Submitted,
Town of Somers, CT Charter Revision Commission


Timothy Potrikus
Chairman