

Town of Somers Charter Revision Recommendations

Submitted by the
Charter Revision Commission

Members

Tim Potrikus, Chairman, Eric Ness, William McGurk,
Linda Roberts, and Ralph Williams

2013

First Selectman and Board of Selectmen

The First Selectman and two Selectmen shall comprise the Board of Selectmen, and each shall be for a term of two years, in accordance with the General Statutes. **During any election, an unsuccessful candidate for the office of First Selectman shall be deemed ineligible for a seat on the Board of Selectmen regardless of the number of votes that candidate shall receive. No person may simultaneously seek the office of First Selectman and the office of Selectmen.**

Provisions for Elected Offices

3.3 - Board of Education – change term from six years to four years

3.6 - Create the titled section of ‘Town Clerk’

Provisions for Appointed Boards and/or Commissions

- 5.5 – Planning Commission – change the term of full members from five years to four years
- 5.5 – Allow for the appointment of three alternates on Planning Commission serving one year terms
- 5.6 – Zoning Commission – change the term of full members from five years to four years
- 5.8 – Zoning Board of Appeals – change term of full members from five years to four years
- 5.8(b) – Change term of alternate ZBA members from five years to one year terms
- 5.13 – Conservation Commission – change the term of full members from five years to four years
- 5.14 – Housing Authority – change the term from five years to four years
- 5.15 – Building Board of Appeals – change term from five years to four years
- 5.16 – Cemetery Committee – change term from five years to four years

Board of Assessors

Position of Assessor

3.4 – Board of Assessors – Remove from the charter and recommend the authorization for the appointment of an assessor by a panel, requiring professional credentials commensurate with the requirements of the role

Charter provisions for Treasurer, and Collector of Taxes, and Assessor

Appointed positions of Treasurer, Collector of Taxes, and Assessor are modified as follows:

Section 5-20. Treasurer. There shall be a Treasurer serving a term of two years reviewable annually by the Board of Selectman. The Board of Selectmen shall establish and periodically review a written job description for the Treasurer including any required certifications, licenses, or degrees. The Treasurer shall act as the Director of Finance and the Chief Financial Officer of the Town and shall perform all duties and functions prescribed to Town Treasurers in the Connecticut General Statutes and shall report to the Board of Selectmen. A panel comprised of one member of the Board of Finance, one member of the Board of Selectmen, and one non-elected individual with a background in finance chosen by the other two members shall submit a nomination to the Board of Selectmen for appointment as Treasurer. Should the nominated candidate fail to be appointed for any reason, the panel shall then reconvene and submit subsequent nominations until a candidate is seated.

Section 5-21. Collector of Taxes. There shall be a Collector of Taxes serving a term of two years reviewable annually by the Board of Selectman. The Board of Selectmen shall establish and periodically review a written job description for the Collector of Taxes including any required certifications, licenses, or degrees. The Collector of Taxes shall perform all duties and functions prescribed to Tax Collectors in the Connecticut General Statutes and shall report to the Director of Finance. A panel comprised of The CFO of the Town of Somers, one member of the Board of Finance, one member of the Board of Selectmen, and one non-elected individual with a background in property management or property evaluation chosen by the other three members shall submit a nomination to the Board of Selectmen for appointment as Collector of Taxes. Should the nominated candidate fail to be appointed for any reason, the panel shall then reconvene and submit subsequent nominations until a candidate is seated.

Section 5-22. Assessor. There shall be an Assessor serving a term of two years reviewable annually by the Board of Selectman. The Board of Selectmen shall establish and periodically review a written job description for the Assessor including any required certifications, licenses, or degrees. The Assessor shall perform all duties and functions prescribed to Assessors in the Connecticut General Statutes and shall report to the Director of Finance. A panel comprised of The CFO of the Town of Somers, one member of the Board of Finance, one member of the Board of Selectmen, and one non-elected individual with a background in property management or property evaluation chosen by the other three members shall submit a nomination to the Board of Selectmen for appointment as Assessor. Should the nominated candidate fail to be appointed for any reason, the panel shall then reconvene and submit subsequent nominations until a candidate is seated.

Miscellaneous

7.6 – Eliminate the need for confirmation by Town Meeting of appointments for Planning, Zoning, ZBA and Board of Assessment Appeals

5.18 – Rename Civil Preparedness Council to Emergency Preparedness Advisory Council

5.18 – Add: The appointive authority may suspend residency requirements for the following personnel: Resident Trooper, Fire Chief, Superintendent of Schools, and Superintendent of Highways

7.1a – Add: the meeting shall have the power to decrease any appropriation or item but it may not increase any appropriation

7.1b – If Budget is not approved by vote at first referendum, Selectmen shall schedule subsequent referendum at 14-day intervals