

Approved: March 13, 2025



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MEETING OF THE CHARTER REVIEW COMMITTEE

Minutes of March 4, 2025

The Charter Review committee met in person on Thursday, March 4, 2025, at 6:00 PM, at the Public Safety Building. In attendance: Steven Albert, Dale Bergevine, Mike Burns, Carol Lerch, Brian Kelly, Elizabeth Nowakowski.

The meeting was called to order by chair Steve Albert at 6:03 PM.

MOTION: Approve minutes of 2/27/2025 meeting. **Approved**

Discussion

Section C-1-4 Division of Powers

Original wording:

The administration of all of the fiscal, prudential and municipal affairs of the town shall be vested in an executive branch headed by the select board. The legislative powers of the town shall be vested in a town meeting open to all voters.

New Wording: The legislative powers of the town shall be invested in a town meeting open to all voters. The administration of all of the fiscal, prudential and municipal affairs of the town shall be vested in an executive branch headed by the select board.

MOTION: switch the two sentences. **Approved**

Section C-1-8 Definitions Line 64: "Town Meeting"

MOTION: Add the following statement to Line 64 ("Town Meeting") after special, The purpose of town meeting is to provide a forum for residents to discuss and vote on important issues affecting the Town of Plainville. **Approved**

Section C-2-2 Presiding Officer

Question: should the Town Manager vote at town meeting?

ACTION: Cindy Bush will check the "Town Meeting Time" handbook.

Result: Town Moderator may vote on issues, also breaks ties, so no action needed.

Section C-2-3 Finance Committee

Move Finance Committee to a separate section

ACTION: Brian K will look into placement of former Section C-2-3 Finance Committee, have a separate article or part of Section 6.

Change: members of finance committee are appointed by the town moderator, town selectboard chair and chair of finance committee.

Original wording:

There shall be a finance committee appointed by the select board of such number of members and for such term of years in the manner set forth in the town by-laws. No member of the finance committee shall hold a town office or be employed for compensation by the town.

MOTION: Amend C-2-3, Finance Committee, amend the first sentence to read: There shall be a finance committee appointed by the selectboard chair, finance committee chair, and the town moderator of such members. **Approved**

Discussion topic: No member of the finance committee shall hold a town office or be employed in a permanent full-time or part-time position for compensation by the town.

Section C-3-1 In General

See Section C-3-5 Town Clerk for motion. Amendment adds Town Clerk to list of elected officials.

Redevelopment Authority: Currently there are 3 members on the committee, and a position is on the ballot.

MOTION: add section C-3-12, Redevelopment Authority, to refer Massachusetts General Law Chapter 121 section 5. **Approved**

Notation: Massachusetts General Law, Chapter 121B, section 4 has the definition.

Section C-3-2 Select Board

No change

MOTION: Move wording to Section C-3-2(a):

- (a) New Wording: There shall be a select board consisting of 3 members elected at-large for terms of 3 years, so arranged that the term of office of 1 member shall expire each year. No person shall serve on the select board while at the same time serving as a town employee. Members of the select board shall be ineligible to serve in any other elected position established by this charter or by by-law. Members of the select board shall be ineligible to serve on multiple-member bodies established by this charter or by by-law to which the select

board is the appointing authority, except where such appointment contemplates that the board member will represent the select board on such multiple-member body. **Approved**

MOTION: Change ... except where such appointment “contemplates” ... to ... except where such appointment “anticipates” ... **Approved**

MOTION: request KP Law to either remove the term “at-large” in anywhere in the Charter or add it to each other section for elected positions. **Approved**

Section C-3-2 (c)

Original wording: The select board may remove any person appointed or hired by the board, whether for a fixed or indefinite term.

New wording: The select board may remove any person appointed by the board, whether for a fixed or indefinite term.

MOTION: Remove “or hired by” from Section C-3-2-c. **Approved**

Section C-3-5 Town Clerk

Motion: do not make any changes to C-3-5, town Clerk. **Amended:** add the town clerks position added to Section C-3-1. **Approved**

Question: Does the Town Clerk have to be a town resident?

Yes, anyone running for a town position must be a town resident. **Need the citation.**

Section C-3-2 Select Board (a)

No change

Items not anticipated at time of posting

MOTION: to adjourn at 7:33 PM, duly seconded and approved.

Meeting dates:

March 13, 6 PM, at the Public Safety Building
March 20, 6 PM, at the Public Safety Building
March 27, 6 PM, at the Public Safety Building
April 2, 6 PM, at the Public Safety Building
April 10, 6 PM, at the Public Safety Building