

TOWN OF WESTMINSTER

Town Government Study Committee (TGSC)

Meeting Minutes for August 13, 2018

Members Present: John Fairbanks, Adam Collette, Dan Gilbreath, Dan Bartkus, Roy Hughes,
Lisa Rocheleau, Wayne Walker, Jon Wyman,

Members Absent: None

Others Present: Bernard Lynch & Peter Hechenbleikner (Community Paradigm, Inc.),
Vance Butterfield & Lorraine Emerson (Public Works Commission)

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by the chairman.

As members of the Public Works Commission (PWC), Vance and Lorraine were asked to share their concerns about our report to the Board of Selectmen (BoS) which was presented on June 18, 2018.

Vance cited the following concerns:

- Potential confusion over which governmental bodies were unaffected by new charter proposed by TGSC. Suggestion was made that inclusion of an exhibit to the final TGSC report which lists the committees, boards, etc. previously unmentioned that will remain unaffected by the proposed new charter.
- Insufficient explanation in the report of TGSC evaluation process of alternative governmental structures beyond that proposed by the TGSC.
- Possible outward appearance of haste in proposed TGSC timeline for charter consideration.

Lorraine cited the following concerns:

- Insufficient outreach by TGSC to departments potentially affected by the proposed new charter.
- Board of Selectment (BoS) expansion from 3 to 5 members would be beneficial in handling a potentially increased workload due to reorganization under new charter and decreased influence of any one selectmen providing better stability to a potential manager.
- Lack of a transition plan at the immediate moment which must be available and communicated to the voters and town government.

- Unclear as to benefit of replacing elected officials with appointed officials under new charter.
- Suggestion in report of transitioning Town Clerk position to appointed vs. elected may be significant concern for voters, consider de-coupling from new charter proposal.
- Certain members of TGSC have a significant political and oratorical history in town and as such may incite confrontation for reasons unrelated to the new charter proposal. TGSC should carefully consider this in selecting spokesman for public meeting.

Wayne Walker made a motion to adjourn at 8:36 PM. Jon Wyman seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

Submitted by:

John F. Fairbanks
Chairman, Town Government Study Committee

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1. Vance Butterfield's 7/23/18 email to TGSC Chairman, Subject: TGSC Report To BoS
2. Lorraine Emerson's 7/25/18 email to TGSC Chairman, Subject: Concerns about TGSC report to the BOS