

TOWN OF GROTON  
CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
June 19, 2017

TOWN HALL ANNEX – COMMUNITY ROOM 2

Chair Hauber called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m.

I. ROLL CALL:

Members Present: Chair Hauber, Commissioners Kathy Chase, Jane Dauphinais, Robert Frink, Patrice Granatosky, Daniel Mello, Darcy Peruzzotti, and Jennifer White.

Members Absent: Commissioners Scott Aument, Rosanne Kotowski, and Brandon Marley

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

- a. A motion was made by Commissioner Chase, seconded by Commissioner Frink, to approve the minutes of the June 05, 2017 meeting.  
The motion passed unanimously.

III. CITIZENS' PETITIONS:

- a. Bryon Niemann, 76 Allen Street, City of Groton, stated that he is opposed to abolishing the RTM and having the Town Council and Board of Finance form of government. He noted that with a RTM, all of Groton has representation and a voice. He stated that he does not have a problem with referendum, but he wants to see all parts of the Town represented equally.

Commissioner Kotowski arrived at 6:35 p.m.

IV. COMMUNICATIONS:

- b. Chair Hauber: None
- c. Secretary: None
- d. Members:

Town Clerk Moukawsher noted that the Commissioners received the Town Attorney's opinion.

V. NEW BUSINESS:

- a. Chapter Nine
- b. Definition of Elector
- c. Consolidation of Boards and Commissions

Commissioner Frink reviewed the proposed recommendations for the remainder of Chapter IX, Section 9.11.

Commissioner Dauphinais noted that she is not in favor of referendum, so she will be voting against this, however, it is a great idea to move the majority opinion to the lawyers.

Commissioner Granatosky noted that there should be a requirement to keep a record of votes taken by members of the Board of Finance and Town Council.

Commissioner Frink made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Kotowski, to approve the following recommendation: "That the annual Town and Board of Education budgets shall be approved by referendum with no limit to the number of referendums to do so."

Commissioner Peruzzotti stated that there should be a limit to the number of referendum(s).

Commissioner Mello amended the motion, seconded by Commissioner Frink, that there is a three referendum limit.

Commissioner White stated that if the budgets fail at all three referendums, then they go back to the Town Council, and the referendums have been a waste of time.

Commissioner Peruzzotti made a second amendment to the motion, seconded by Commissioner Frink, to have a limit of two referendums. She noted that there would be feedback from the public after the first referendum, the budget(s) would be changed based upon the feedback, and then a revised budget would be created; two referendums should be enough.

In response to Commissioner Kotowski, Commissioner White noted that she does not support a referendum, but if the Commission moves forward with the referendum, then she wants to make sure it is reasonable and sustainable.

Commissioner Mello noted that everyone is entitled to his or her opinion.

Commissioner Dauphinais stated that her votes need to reflect how she feels about the referendum.

Commissioner Granatosky stated that you should vote according to conscience; the Commission needs to move on.

Commissioner Frink stated that he supports no limit on the number of referendums. He noted that Madison does not have a limit on the number of its referendum(s).

**Vote on second amended motion: FAILS**

**In favor: 2 (Dauphinais, Peruzzotti)**

**Opposed: 7 (Chase, Frink, Granatosky, Hauber, Kotowski, Mello, White)**

**Abstained: 0**

**Vote on the amended motion: FAILS**

**In favor: 2 (Kotowski, Mello)**

**Opposed: 7 (Chase, Dauphinais, Frink, Granatosky, Hauber, Peruzzotti, White)**

**Abstained: 0**

**Vote on the motion: PASSES**

**In favor: 6 (Chase, Frink, Hauber, Kotowski, Mello, White)**

**Opposed: 3 (Dauphinais, Granatosky, Peruzzotti)**

**Abstained: 0**

The Commissioners discussed which recommendations had already been approved. They determined that adopted means binding in Section 9.11.5 and recommendations 2-5 had previously approved and are included in Section 9.11.5.

Commissioner Frink made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Mello, to approve the following recommendation: "That in case a budget is not approved by June 30 that the previous year's budget shall be adopted until a new budget is approved."

Commissioner Dauphinais stated that she thought the standard was if the budget is not approved, then the Town Council/Board of Finance budget would be approved until there is a budget.

In response to Commissioner Dauphinais, Commissioner Granatosky noted that that is what happens now.

Commissioner Frink noted a possible solution is to pass a 90-day budget.

**Vote on the motion: PASSES**

**In favor: 7 (Chase, Dauphinais, Frink, Hauber, Kotowski, Mello, White)**

**Opposed: 2 (Granatosky, Peruzzotti)**

**Abstained: 0**

**TOWN COUNCIL:**

Commissioner Frink made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Chase, to approve the following recommendation: "That seven members of the Town Council shall be elected by district and two at-large."

Commissioner Dauphinais reviewed district representation of the current Town Council. She noted that it is difficult to find people to be on the Council. She stated that this is a noble goal, and if it was practical, then she would support it. She stated that the parties will have difficulty finding candidates from each district; good Town Councilors would be lost as well if only one Councilor per district was elected.

Commissioner Kotowski stated that this opens the door for people to get involved. She stated that if the Council was elected by district, then this would make people interested in running.

Commissioner Granatosky stated that it will be difficult to find somebody to run for Council from every district. She stated that she likes representation from every district, but mandating one person from each district is more problematic than having multiple candidates from each district.

Commissioner Mello stated that it is the responsibility of the parties to find people to run for office; people gravitate towards certain districts because that is where the political establishment has been.

Commissioner Chase stated that there are people who do not run for office because they know the same people will be elected.

Commissioner Kotowski noted that four of the seven districts have no representation on the Council. Commissioner Frink stated that he is not a fan of representation by district. He stated that Councilors know they represent the Town. He confirmed that it is difficult to find candidates to run for office. He noted that holding office as a Town Councilor requires an incredible amount of time.

In response to Commissioner Peruzzotti, Town Clerk Moukawsher stated that in the event of a resignation from office, the political party nominates somebody to fill a vacancy until the next election.

In response to Commissioner Mello, Commissioner Dauphinais stated that the parties do not run full slates of candidates if they cannot find enough candidates to run for office.

Commissioner White amended the motion, seconded by Commissioner Dauphinais, to keep the Town Council to the current structure: nine members elected at large.

**Vote on the amended motion: PASSES**

**In favor: 6 (Dauphinais, Frink, Granatosky, Hauber, Peruzzotti, White)**

**Opposed: 3 (Chase, Kotowski, Mello)**

**Abstained: 0**

Commissioner Frink made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Chase, to approve the following recommendation: "That the term of the Town Council be four years staggered"

Commissioner Dauphinais noted that this a major commitment; it may be harder to find people to run if it was a four-year term; however, you get good after a year or two. She stated that she likes staggered terms.

Commissioner Granatosky amended the motion, seconded by Commissioner Frink, that the Town Council be a two-year term.

Commissioner White noted that with a four-year term, there could be a learning curve for a year and then three years of productivity.

Commissioner Granatosky stated that she believes a four-year term is too long.

Commissioner Kotowski stated that having a four-year staggered term with term limits may work so that people do not have to worry about getting re-elected after the first year.

Commissioner Mello stated that four years is a long term. He noted that term limits would not allow somebody to get re-elected after a certain period of time if he or she is doing a good job.

Commissioner Peruzzotti stated that a four-year term would allow a Council to work towards long-term goals.

Commissioner Frink noted that there could be a recall procedure if the community feels somebody is not doing his or her job.

The Commissioners discussed staggered terms and how it affects the dynamics of the elected body.

**Vote on the amended motion: FAILS**

**In favor: 2 (Granatosky, Mello)**

**Opposed: 7 (Chase, Dauphinais, Frink, Hauber, Kotowski, Peruzzotti, White)**

**Abstained: 0**

**Vote on the motion: PASSES**

**In favor: 7 (Chase, Dauphinais, Frink, Hauber, Kotowski, Peruzzotti, White)**

**Opposed: 2 (Granatosky, Mello)**

**Abstained: 0**

Commissioner Frink made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Kotowski, to approve the following recommendation: "That the Mayor shall be elected at-large separately from the Town Council"

Commissioner Frink noted that if the Mayor is elected, then he or she has accountability and is elected to get things done.

Commissioner Kotowski stated that she agrees with this; the political parties could designate one of the Council candidates to be the Mayor candidate.

The Commissioners discussed the role of the Mayor in Groton.

Chair Hauber stated that she was the Chair of the Council of Governments and she could not vote on something unless she spoke with the Council first. She noted that there should be an elected Mayor and a Town Manager.

Commissioner Granatosky amended the motion, seconded by Commissioner Mello, that the Town Council shall vote on a Chairperson who shall preside over Town Council meetings.

Commissioner Peruzzotti noted that she agrees with Commissioner Granatosky; the person should be a facilitator.

Commissioner Frink made a second amendment to the motion, seconded by Commissioner Granatosky, that the person shall be called President of the Council instead of Chairperson.

Dauphinais noted that there are times at local, regional, or national, meetings when there is value in having the Mayor represent Groton.

Commissioner Granatosky noted that she wants the Council to elect the leader of the Council.

Commissioner Frink withdrew the second amendment, Commissioner Granatosky withdrew the second.

Commissioner Granatosky noted that she agreed to change "Chairperson" to "Mayor" in her amended motion.

Vote on the amended motion: "that the Town Council shall vote on a ~~Chairperson~~ Mayor who shall preside over Town Council meetings.

**Vote on the amended motion: PASSED**

**In favor: 8 (Chase, Dauphinais, Frink, Granatosky, Hauber, Mello, Peruzzotti, White)**

**Opposed: 1 (Kotowski)**

**Abstained: 0**

Commissioner Frink made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Granatosky, to approve the following recommendation: "That the start of the terms of the Town Council shall be the first Tuesday following their election"

**Vote on the motion: Passed unanimously**

Commissioner Frink referenced the following proposed duties of the Town Council:

- a. Strive to limit the size and cost of Town Government
- b. Strictly limit budget increases
- c. Improve the efficiency of Town agencies
- d. Listen carefully to expressed concerns of citizens and taxpayers
- e. Seek advice from professional government administrators
- f. Commit to growing the Grand List

The Commissioners discussed the list and if it was appropriate to include in the Charter.

Commissioner Frink made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Kotowski, to approve the following recommendation: "That the hiring of a Department Head by the Town Manager shall require a favorable vote by the Town Council."

Commissioner Frink noted that currently the Town Council currently has no say unless there is an issue; he referenced an example when he was on the Town Council.

Commissioner Granatosky noted that the Town Manager is trusted with good judgment about running municipal operations; that should be left to the Town Manager. She stated that the Town Manager could be fired if he or she hires the wrong people.

Commissioner Kotowski stated that that is not how it works; maybe the Town Council should be more involved.

Commissioner Chase noted that a Town Manager can do a great job, but he or she could be terrible at hiring people.

Commissioner Granatosky noted that the Town Manager is there on a daily basis and sees how employees interact with Town staff; the Town Council is not there on a daily basis.

Town Clerk Moukawsher stated that there could be Town Council representation on an interview panel when a Department Head is being hired.

Commissioner Frink amended the motion, seconded by Commissioner Chase: "The hiring of the Chief of Police, Director of Public Works, and the Director of Parks and Recreation by the Town Manager shall require a favorable vote by the Town Council."

Commissioner Dauphinais clarified that if this passes, a panel would be established, the Town Manager and Human Resources Department would interview, make a decision, and then the Town Council would be introduced to the candidate; most often the Town Council would accept the recommendation of the Town Manager. She noted that this would not usurp the Town Manager's authority; it is a safeguard against mistakes.

Commissioner Peruzzotti stated that the Town Manager needs to be able to work with the Department Heads; this takes the power away from the Manager. She noted that there could be animosity between the Manager and Council.

Commissioner Kotowski noted that the Town Manager should report to the Town Council.

Vote on amended motion: "The hiring of the Chief of Police, Director of Public Works, and the Director of Parks and Recreation by the Town Manager shall require a favorable vote by the Town Council."

**Vote on the amended motion: FAILS**

**In favor: 4 (Chase, Dauphins, Frink, Kotowski)**

**Opposed 5: (Granatosky, Hauber, Mello, Peruzzotti, White)**

Commissioner Frink made a motion to approve the following recommendation: "That the Town Council shall appoint a Town Attorney, by majority vote, until their successor is appointed."

Commissioner Frink noted that Groton is one of the few communities that has had a Town Attorney for this length of time.

In response to Commissioner Granatosky, Commissioner Frink clarified that the Town Council can choose a Town Attorney whenever it wants by majority vote. He referenced Glastonbury's Charter as an example.

**Vote on the motion: PASSES UNANIMOUSLY**

Commissioner Frink made a motion to approve the following recommendation: "That the Town Council shall issue an annual Town Report."

Commissioner White noted that the report should include information that goes beyond the budget: loss of residents, home values, cost analysis of Town operations, business growth.

Commissioner Granatosky noted that that this information is available online. She stated that this is something that we should not charge Town staff with doing; it is information we already have.

Commissioner Chase stated that the report should include Town Council goals and the progress towards achieving them.

Commissioner Frink stated that this improves communication to the citizens; more communication is better than less.

Commissioner Kotowski stated that the annual report would have the information for each department in one document; citizens could look at a detailed report for each department.

**Vote on the motion: PASSES**

**In favor: 8 (Chase, Dauphinais, Frink, Hauber, Kotowski, Mello, Peruzzotti, White)**

**Opposed: 1 (Granatosky)**

Commissioner Frink made a motion to approve the following recommendation: "That the Town Council shall have all the powers and duties granted by the General Statutes to the Town Meeting."

Commissioner Frink referenced the Town Attorney opinion. He stated that the opinion states that a non-resident property owner cannot vote except at town meetings. He noted that in Stonington, there is a town meeting, and it is adjourned to referendum. He questioned if there is a danger in not having somebody performing the role of town meeting.

Commissioner Dauphinais clarified that if the town meeting is adjourned to a referendum, the non-resident property owners could vote according to Statute Statutes.

Commissioner Peruzzotti noted that there is a difference between the Representative Town Meeting and a town meeting.

The Commissioners discussed the Town Attorney's opinion regarding non-resident property owners voting in referendum(s), the town meeting, and the ability to grant town meeting powers to the Town Council.

Commissioner Kotowski questioned if the Commission should use a different attorney; she noted that there are contradictory opinions regarding the non-resident property owners.

Commissioner Mello stated that the Commission should make a decision on this and then send it to the attorney as a recommendation on behalf of the Commission.

Commissioner Frink suggested sending this to the Town Attorney.

Chair Hauber confirmed that this recommendation will be sent to the Town Attorney.

Commissioner Granatosky made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Mello, to approve the following recommendation: "The Town Council and Board of Finance shall keep a Journal of its Proceedings, and publish the same, excepting such parts as in Executive Session; and the Yeas and Nays of the Members of each body shall be entered in the Journal by member name."

Commissioner Granatosky noted that she wants the votes by member to be published and public information. She noted that this information should be available to the public and easily accessible.

Commissioner Kotowski stated that votes are included in minutes; they are available. She stated that a good software program will do this.

**Vote on the motion: PASSES**

**In favor: 8 (Chase, Dauphinais, Frink, Granatosky, Hauber, Mello, Peruzzotti, White)**

**Opposed: 0**

**Abstained: 1 (Kotowski)**

#### **BOARD OF FINANCE**

Commissioner Frink made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Dauphinais, to approve the following recommendation: "That the Board of Finance shall consist of six members with a term of six years staggered."

Commissioner Kotowski amended the motion, seconded by Commissioner Mello, that the Board of Finance shall consist of seven members with a term of four-years staggered and elected by district.

In response to Commissioner Peruzzotti, Commissioner Frink stated that there is no financial background is required to serve on the Board of Finance. He noted that hopefully the members will be interested in the numbers. He stated that the Board of Finance will be developing actionable material for the Town Council.

Commissioner White stated that she likes the odd number of members. She stated that she does not support election by district because there may not be somebody from each district with a background in finance.

Commissioner White made a second amendment to the motion, seconded by Commissioner Dauphinais, that the Board of Finance shall consist of seven members with a term of four-years staggered elected at-large.

**VOTE on the second amended motion: PASSES**

**In favor: 6 (Dauphinais, Frink, Hauber, Mello, Peruzzotti, White)**

**Opposed: 3 (Chase, Granatosky, Kotowski)**

**Abstained: 0**

Commissioner Frink made a motion, seconded by Chair Hauber, to approve the following recommendation: "That the Board of Finance shall have minority representation such that no party has a majority."

Commissioner White noted that once an individual is elected, he or she should put aside political affiliation and think of the Town as a whole.

Commissioner Frink stated that in Glastonbury the people who are nominated by the parties and appear on the ballot are elected.

**Vote on the motion: FAILS**

**In favor: 2 (Frink, Hauber)**

**Opposed: 7 (Chase, Dauphinais, Granatosky, Kotowski, Mello, Peruzzotti, White)**

**Abstained: 0**

Commissioner Frink made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Kotowski, to approve the following recommendation: "That the Chair of the Board of Finance shall be an ex-officio member of the Town Council."

**Vote on the motion: PASSES**

**In favor: 8 (Chase, Dauphinais, Frink, Hauber, Kotowski, Mello, Peruzzotti, White)**

**Opposed: 1 (Granatosky)**

**Abstained: 0**

Commissioner Frink made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Kotowski, to approve the following recommendation: "That the start of the term of the Board of Finance shall be the first Tuesday following their election."

**Vote on the motion: PASSES**

**In favor: 8 (Chase, Dauphinais, Frink, Hauber, Kotowski, Mello, Peruzzotti, White)**

**Opposed: 1 (Granatosky)**

**Abstained: 0**

#### **DUTIES OF THE BOARD OF FINANCE**

After workshopping the language, Commissioner Frink made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Kotowski, to approve the following recommendation:

"That the Board of Finance shall support all fiscal decisions of the Town Council by providing research and data and support the budget development process delineated in Chapter IX, including but not limited to the following:

- a. Develop the schedule for annual budget development
- b. Communicate annual budget development schedule to the citizens of Groton.

- c. Support the budget workshops with fiscal data including a five year financial forecast of spending and revenue.
- d. Provide input regarding the form of the Board of Education and Subdivision budgets”

**Vote on the motion: PASSES**

**In favor: 8 (Chase, Dauphinais, Frink, Hauber, Kotowski, Mello, Peruzzotti, White)**

**Opposed: 1 (Granatosky)**

**Abstained: 0**

Commissioner Frink made a motion, seconded by Commission Dauphinais, to approve the following recommendation: “That the Board of Finance shall provide critical analysis and visibility to the Town’s public financial reports.”

In response to Commissioner Granatosky, Commissioner Frink noted that visibility means transparency and access.

**Vote on the motion: PASSES**

**In favor: 8 (Chase, Dauphinais, Frink, Hauber, Kotowski, Mello, Peruzzotti, White)**

**Opposed: 1 (Granatosky)**

**Abstained: 0**

Commissioner Granatosky made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Mello, to approve the following recommendation: “The Board of Finance shall keep a Journal of its Proceedings, and publish the same, excepting such parts as in Executive Session; and the Yeas and Nays of the Members of each body shall be entered in the Journal by member name.

**Vote on the motion: Passes unanimously**

Commissioner Mello made a motion to adjourn.

### **ELECTED OFFICIALS**

Commissioner Frink made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Chase, to approve the following recommendation:

1. That the following requirements be added to the eligibility criteria to hold elected office in the Town of Groton.
  - a. Cannot be an employee of the Town
  - b. Cannot be an employee of a Subdivision
  - c. Cannot be an employee of a Fire District

Commissioner Kotowski noted that she wanted to add the Board of Education to the list.

The Commissioners discussed the vote on this matter from October 17, 2016. The Commissioners discussed if this motion is legal under Connecticut State Statutes. The Commissioners determined that they had voted on this matter on October 17, 2016.

Commissioner Frink made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Kotowski, to approve the following recommendation: “That Town Council members after serving three consecutive terms shall not be eligible for a fourth consecutive terms

Commissioner Mello stated that if an individual is elected to this number of terms, then it means he or she is doing something right; he does not understand why you want to limit the terms.

Commissioner White noted that after twelve years, you want new blood.

**Vote on the motion: PASSES**

**In favor: 6 (Chase, Dauphinais, Frink, Hauber, Kotowski, White)**

**Opposed: 3 (Granatosky, Mello, Peruzzotti)**

**Abstained: 0**

Commissioner Frink made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Kotowski, to approve the following recommendation: "That Board of Finance members, after serving three consecutive terms, shall not be eligible for a fourth consecutive term."

**Vote on the motion: PASSES**

**In favor: 6 (Chase, Dauphinais, Frink, Hauber, Kotowski, White)**

**Opposed: 3 (Granatosky, Mello, Peruzzotti)**

**Abstained: 0**

### **GENERAL:**

Commissioner Frink made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Kotowski, to approve the following recommendation: "That non-resident property owners who are citizens of the USA, at least 18 years old, and own property in Groton assessed at \$1,000 or more, may vote on Town Referenda"

Commissioner Dauphinais questioned how the Commission could vote on this with respect to the Town Attorney's opinion.

Commissioner Kotowski noted that there are three opinions that say YES, and there are three that say NO.

Commissioner Dauphinais clarified that the Attorney said no; the Commission cannot do this.

The Commissioners discussed waiting to hear from the Town Attorney on the question regarding granting the Town Council powers of the town meeting.

Commissioner Chase stated that the Commission should vote.

In response to Commissioner Mello, Commissioner Kotowski stated that there are approximately 2,200 non-resident property owners who would be able to vote.

Commissioner Dauphinais stated that this is a hornet's nest; the Commission has been told it cannot do it.

Commissioner Frink retracted the motion.

Commissioner Dauphinais noted that based upon the answer from the Town Attorney regarding giving the Town Council powers of the town meeting, the Commission could reconsider this.

Commissioner Frink re-made the motion, Commissioner Kotowski seconded the motion.

Commissioner Chase clarified based upon her research, you need to be a bona-fide resident of the Town in order to vote.

**Commissioner Frink moved the question: PASSED**

**In favor: 7 (Chase, Dauphinais, Frink, Hauber, Kotowski, Peruzzotti, White)**

**Opposed: 2 (Mello, Granatosky)**

**Abstained: 0**

**Vote on the motion: FAILED**

**In favor: 1 (Kotowski)**

**Opposed: 8 (Chase, Dauphinais, Frink, Granatosky, Hauber, Mello, Peruzzotti, White)**

**Abstained: 0**

The Commissioners discussed tabling aspirational statements. Commissioner Frink noted that he would send-out sample aspirational statements.

The Commissioners noted that they had already voted on eliminating references to the RTM.

Commissioner Frink made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Dauphinais, to approve the following recommendation: "That the Town Clerk shall be appointed."

Commissioner Dauphinais stated that the Town Clerk is appointed in many towns as the job gets more professional and more complex; there needs to be qualifications aside from winning an election. She noted that the Tax Collector is often placed in this category as well. Commissioner Dauphinais stated that the Town Manager would be the appointing authority.

Commissioner Granatosky stated that she is concerned with having an appointed person in charge of elections. She referenced the Secretary of State as an example of somebody who is elected and runs elections.

Commissioner Dauphinais stated that that is one reason she does not want the position elected. She stated that in Connecticut, there is one part that is dominant, and the uneven distribution is electing the Town Clerk; the Clerk also oversees the election.

Commissioner Granatosky noted that in Groton, the same people who elected a Republican Town Council also elected a Democratic Town Clerk.

Commissioner Kotowski noted that a lot of towns do not do as much as the Groton Town Clerk's office does. She noted that in Ledyard, the Town Clerk is appointed; when a new Mayor is elected, the Town Clerk may lose his or her appointment. She stated that if it is not broken, do not fix it.

Town Clerk Moukawsher noted that Commissioner Dauphinais has valuable points. She stated that the Town Clerk's responsibilities are heavily regulated by State Statutes, and there is no way to get around them even if the Town Manager instructs him or her to do so. She stated that the Town Clerk needs to be beholden to the public and Statutes.

Commissioner Dauphinais noted that there are times when the Town Clerk, as the only department head who does not report to the Town Manager, develops an antagonism with the Town Manager. She

stated that there is no incentive to try and resolve issues; this is a way to avoid that. She noted that this is a way to avoid any efforts to try and undermine the Town Manager and to have more professionalism in the role.

Commissioner Kotowski moved to table the motion until the next meeting in order to do research on the issue.

Commission Mello stated that the appointment lends itself to problems and the election could be influenced by party politics. He questioned if there is a reason that the Town Clerk has a degree of independence.

Commissioner Granatosky noted that for years, the Town Clerk ran unopposed. She stated that if somebody is doing his or her job, then he or she should be re-elected.

Commissioner Dauphinais stated that there is less politics in the position if it is appointed.

In response to Commissioner Chase, Commissioner Granatosky stated that there are no term limits on this position because it is a detail-oriented and Statute-regulated position.

In response to Commissioner Mello, Town Clerk Moukawsher clarified that she is not political in the job, but she needs to be nominated by the political party.

**Vote on the motion: PASSES**

**In favor: 4 (Chase, Dauphinais, Mello, Peruzzotti)**

**Opposed: 3 (Frink, Granatosky, Kotowski)**

**Abstained: 2 (Hauber, White)**

#### VI. ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Peruzzotti, seconded by Commissioner Kotowski. Chair Hauber adjourned the meeting at 9:31.

Attest:

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Scott Aument, Secretary