

CHARTER REVISION
PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES
MARCH 10, 2015

The public hearing was called to order at 7:30PM by Chairman Gross. Secretary West did roll call. Those present were Mark Gross, Edward Roman, Brett Olbrys, Keith O'Hara and Margaret West.

Chairman Gross opened up the floor for public comments:

Jack Kiley, BOF Chairman explained several changes he would like to see the committee Consider. (See addendum A)

Lila Ferrillo explained that she was not in support of alternates for the Board of Finance and would like to see the bidding process get changed to read 3 sealed bids instead of 3 quotes.

David Stocker, 144 Punk up Rd, explained that under Land use there is a conflict with Connecticut General Statue and the charter regarding enforcement officers. Statue says the Planning and Zoning appoints, but the Board of Selectmen is the hiring authority. This should be clarified. Also should we have the Conservation Commission Elected?

Keith O'Hara moved to close public hearing, seconded.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30PM

Respectfully submitted,



Margaret A West
Secretary

15 MAR 12 AM 11:45
TOWNSHIP CLERK
Margaret A West

1) Tax Collector

A) Tax collector should be an appointed position instead of an elected position.

1) In order to have direct control of the tax department, the tax collector should report to the finance director. Currently the tax collector is an elected official and reports to no one.

With the problems that the tax office had in the past, the finance director and me are constantly updating internal controls to prevent any mishandling of funds.

2) If appointed the tax collector does not have to be a resident of Oxford. This could produce a larger pool of candidates with greater qualifications.

3) Presently an unqualified candidate could be elected to manage the tax office putting the integrity of records in jeopardy.

2) Treasurer

A) Either make this position a ceremonial one or eliminate it.

1) Treasurer duties are performed by the Finance Director.

2) If you read the current Town Charter, the treasurer has the responsibility to account for all the cash collected and spent by the Town of Oxford. Treasurer is responsible to report the cash position to the Board of Finance and present to the Board of Finance the revenues to be used in the budget. Currently the Finance director performs all these duties.

3) Board of Finance – Alternates

A) Every First Selectman tries to make an end run around the Board of Finance. This proposal is the latest attempt.

1) Only an elected member of the Board of Finance should vote on the budget, large capital appropriations or money transfers. If given that power to an alternate, then they would only be accountable to whoever appointed them.

4) Hiring Procedures

A) We hire FRO's (friends and relatives only)

1) Since the town is a 40 million dollar enterprise we should stop being a Mom & Pop organization. I want written test for positions and new hire physicals to protect our Workers Compensation premiums.

5) Town Clerk

A) I am in favor of making this a full time appointed position, rather than an elected position.

The danger here of someone being elected not knowable of the duties of the Town Clerk's office would put a great burden on the town until this person became qualified.