

**Sturbridge Finance Committee
Meeting Minutes
December 12, 2016
Tantasqua Regional High School
Brookfield, MA**

Call to Order:

The chairman called the meeting to order at 6:33pm with the following members present: Kathleen Neal (KN), James Waddick (JW), Jared Burns (JB), Michael Hager (MH), Michael Serio (MS), Joni Light (JL) and Bruce Boyson (BB).

Absent: Suzanne Smiley (SS) and Larry Morrison (LM).

Article 53 – Tax Increment Financing Agreement and Project Certification: Publick House

JL moved the motion to reconsider Article 53 – Tax Increment Financing Agreement and Project Certification: Publick House, JW seconds; motion accepted 5-0-2 (BB and MH abstaining).

JL moved to take no action on Article 53– Tax Increment Financing Agreement and Project Certification: Publick House, JW seconds; motion accepted 6-0-1 (BB abstaining).

Article 46 – Amendments to the Sturbridge Charter

KN notified the committee of the rationale on returning the Charter Review Committee's revision to the previous version. Town Counsel stated that the revision proposed did not align with town law and the Home Rule Amendment, so it went back to existing language (view attachments.)

JL moved the motion to reconsider Article 46 – Amendments to the Sturbridge Charter, MS seconds; motion accepted 5-0-2 (MH BB abstaining).

JL moved the motion to revise Article 46 – Amendments to the Sturbridge Charter as presented, JW seconds, motion accepted, 6-0-1 (BB abstaining).

Review of Meeting Minutes

August 16, 2016: *JW moved the motion to accept the minutes as presented, JB seconds, motion accepted 5-0-2 (BB and MH abstaining).*

November 1, 2016: *JL moved the motion to accept the minutes as presented, JW seconds; motion accepted 4-0-3 (JB BB and MH abstaining).*

November 14, 2016: *JW moved the motion to accept the minutes as presented; JB seconds, motion accepted 5-0-2 (BB and MH abstaining).*

JW moved the motion to adjourn at 6:54pm, JB seconds, motion accepted 7-0-0.

From: Leon Gaumond [<mailto:lgaumond@town.sturbridge.ma.us>]

Sent: Monday, December 12, 2016 9:23 AM

To: cmoran@sturbridgeservice.com; meblanch@hotmail.com; dowlingmsgb@aol.com; michaelsuprenant@gmail.com; priscillacgimas@gmail.com; kneal@nealaw.net; sturbridgecharter@gmail.com; bruce.boyson@charter.net; sgibquig@charter.net; lsmorrison@charter.net; Pzapun@aol.com; mvc@caplettelaw.com

Subject: Re: Fwd: RE: Charter review - section on Charter Revision

for your consideration I would propose the following substitute motion for the Charter revisions under the first article tonight:

I move to approve Article 46 by substituting the new Charter as proposed by the Sturbridge Charter Review Committee and to further amend the Charter Section 7-5 to read as follows:

Section 7-5 Charter Revision.

Amendments to this charter relating in any way to the composition of the town meeting or the composition or mode of election or terms of office of the Board of Selectmen may be proposed only by a charter commission elected under the General Laws of the Commonwealth.

Amendments to this charter relating to other matters may be proposed at a duly called town meeting. Proposed amendments approved by a two-thirds majority town meeting vote shall be acted upon by ballot of the whole town at a regular election of town officers held in accordance with the General Laws. The effective date of revisions will be the date the town clerk certifies that the proposed amendment was approved by a majority of valid ballots cast.

The Board of Selectmen shall every five years, form a committee to study the working of town government. The committee shall recommend procedures to revise the charter, if that is deemed advisable.

This motion (while long) would substitute the charter for the new version and then further amends the Charter to replace the questionable language with the previous language. It appears to be the easiest way to do so.

-Leon Gaumond Forwarded email to the Finance Committee