

TOWN GOVERNMENT REVIEW COMMITTEE

Minutes of February 16, 2012 meeting

Meeting called to order at 7:06 PM

Members in attendance were Boyd Jackson, Al Wallace, Jan Ablon, George Anderson (in absentia)

Others in attendance were: Laura Powers, Marilyn Contreas (Mass Housing and Community Development)

Discussion:

- Characteristics of Strong Police Chief and Strong Fire Chief and their differences as specified by state statute.
- Marilyn was asked to describe pros and cons of elected boards vs appointed boards.
 1. She explained that sometimes it is difficult to get people to run for an elected position.
 2. She also said that appointed boards might result in more qualified people filling various positions.
- She referenced the “Town Managers Act” which provides broad powers budget setting, performance reviews and evaluations and goal and objective setting.
- She did not see any reason that the town should continue with elected boards vs appointed boards.
- Discussed in detail the difference between Town Charter and Limited Home Rule Petition.
 1. She described a very complicated process to develop and get approved, by the voter, a town charter.
 2. She pointed out that home rule petitions are a much simpler and less detailed process and usually takes less time.
 3. She said the town charters are set up by citizen petition and are usually started by a group that is dissatisfied by the way things are operating.
- She provide study materials on several towns that had reorganized....some going to appointed boards and some going to strong town managers.

- Details on changing from elected boards to appointed boards can be found in Chapter 41 of State Statutes on town government.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:43 PM