



BOARD OF SELECTMEN RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CHARTER COMMISSION CONSIDERATION

To: Chester Charter Commission, Town of Chester, Connecticut
From: Board of Selectmen, Town of Chester, Connecticut
Date: April 5, 2024

The Board of Selectmen received the Chester Charter Commission's Draft Report/Proposed Draft Charter on February 14, 2024 and conducted a Public Hearing on March 28, 2024. Following the Public Hearing, at its April 5, 2024 meeting the Board of Selectmen acted on the Draft Report/Proposed Draft Charter by returning its recommendations for changes to the Charter Commission for their consideration, as follows:

ADDITIONS

Cover Page: ADOPTED DATE: Upon adoption by referendum, insert adopted year - 2024

Cover Page: inserted Effective date of Charter – assumes adoption: "January 1, 2025"

Article 11: Section 11.5: Add Subsection (d): *"The Tax Collector and Town Clerk shall serve out the balance of their elected terms and each shall then be appointed as provided in Section 8.2."*
The addition of this subsection clarifies the transition of these positions shall be upon the expiration of their current elected terms

CORRECTIONS

All Articles, where included: Change "agency" to "Agency" and "agencies" to "Agencies" for all references to a Town "Agency" or "Agencies. References to federal "agency" or "agencies" are shown as "agency" or "agencies"; and "officer" and "official" to "Officer" and "Official"

Article 2: Section 2.5 (e); and Article 3: Section 3.3(a) (2): Change "Federal" to "federal"

Article 3: Section 3.4: The Proposed Draft Charter did not update the quorum needed for Board of Selectmen meetings when the proposed size of the Board was changed from seven members to five members. The correction in this Section corrects the quorum required for a five member Board of Selectmen from four members to three members.

Article 4: Section 4.1: Remove "strikethrough" 2nd paragraph – 2nd line: for "Education) to "Education)"



Article 6: Section 6.5: Change "a vote of the Board of Selectmen" to "a majority vote of the Board of Selectmen"

Article 8: Section 8.3 (b): Change "an affirmative vote of two-thirds of the Board of Selectmen" to "a majority vote of the Board of Selectmen"

Article 9: Section 9.17 (a)(3): change "contingency fund" to "contingency account" and "must be approved by a Town Meeting" to "may be made only with the approval of a Town Meeting"

In addition to the noted "Corrections", the Commission should consider any other "Corrections" as needed.

CHANGES

Article 3; Section 3.8: Revised to clarify who shall take an oath of office – and to provide that an Officer may "affirm" or "swear" an oath rather than only "swear" an oath in accordance with the General Statutes – as follows: *"Section 3.8: Oath of Officers: The Board of Selectmen shall, forthwith, after the election or appointment of all Town Agency Officers and the Officials specified in Section 8.2 (c) of Article 8 of this Charter, cause such Officers to swear or affirm to the faithful discharge of their respective duties, and such shall be recorded with the Town Clerk by the Officer administering the oath or affirmation. The oath given shall be that provided in Section 1-25 of the General Statutes (Forms of Oath: For All Other Persons of Whom An Oath is Required). The Officer administering the oath shall record such fact in the Town Clerk's office. The Board of Selectmen shall see that notice of election or appointment of Town Officers shall be in written form, and as applicable, indicating the time and location of the Officer's next regularly scheduled Agency meeting."*

REVIEW

Please review electing vs. appointing members of the Planning & Zoning Commission.