

Governance Committee Meeting

Minutes January 21 2021

Members Present: Leah Basbanes, Jim Dow, Bob Nelson, Mike Martin, Leo Tomatich, Susan Psaledakis, Ryan McLane

Also Attending: Kevin Paicos, Brian Palaia

Meeting called to order by Leah Basbanes, Chair at 6:35 pm

Draft 9 was version of the Charter before the committee. The meeting opened with the reiterating the determined need for the Charter. The main reason seems to be to establish guidance for the Town Administrator position and to secure the budget process. It is a better path to the TA's authority. Discussion ensued about whether a bylaw can accomplish the same thing, but it was mostly felt that the charter provides more cohesiveness and structure that can be built upon going forward.

The need to appoint or establish the Chief Procurement Officer was addressed and if the Charter is not approved, the Selectboard should specifically appoint one.

Section 7 was reviewed again regarding the Town Clerk as being appointed instead of elected. It was felt that appointed is the better way to go so that when the need arises, candidates for the position can be properly vetted for experience.

The topic of the Police Chief and Fire Chief being strong or weak was briefly addressed, the pros and cons for each. Kevin Paicos will be preparing a document for the committee to further review the options. The option to draft something new instead of the typical strong weak powers could be done in the Charter.

Next meeting was set to be Feb 11 2021.

Motion to adjourn made 7:45 pm.