

Town of Montville
Meeting Minutes of Special Town Council Sub Committee Meeting of Charter
Revision
Thursday, February 26, 2009
7:00 p.m. – Town Hall Council Chambers

1. **Call to Order** – Chairperson Buebendorf called the Special Sub-Committee meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.
2. **Roll Call** – Present were Councilors Buebendorf, Jones, and Geary. Also present were Mayor Jaskiewicz and Charter Revision Chairman Dick Wilson.
3. **Remarks by the Public** – none.
4. Motion made by Councilor Geary, seconded by Councilor Buebendorf to discuss and draft questions and explanatory text for Charter Revision. Voice vote: all in favor, motion carried.

The Sub-committee reviewed and edited the following explanatory text and by unanimous vote are in agreement the following would be the most concise and clear wording for the following three questions:

QUESTION 1

Shall the Town Charter be amended to create the appointed position of Town Manager, remove the elected position of Mayor and make related changes to the powers and duties of the Town Council, including creating a new position of a Mayor that is a member of the Town Council?

OVERVIEW

Question 1 presents for approval to the voters of the Town of Montville a proposal which will provide for the position of Town Manager, who will assume the administrative functions of the Town that are currently overseen by the Mayor. The Town Manager would be appointed by and be responsible to the Town Council, which could also remove the Town Manager by a two-thirds vote. The Town Manager will not have a veto over actions of the Town Council as the Mayor presently has. The position of Mayor would be the chairperson of the Town Council, the ceremonial head of the Town, and the Chairperson of the Economic Development Commission. The Mayor would be elected separately for a two-year term; six Councilors at large would also be elected for two-year terms. The political party of the elected Mayor would be counted in determining minority representation on the Town Council.

CHARTER SECTIONS AFFECTED BY QUESTION 1
(to be determined)

QUESTION 2

Shall the Town Charter be amended to abolish the Public Safety Commission, establish a Board of Fire Commissioners and a Board of Police Commissioners and add new Charter sections relating to the Municipal Animal Control Officer and Emergency Dispatchers?

OVERVIEW

Question 2 presents for approval to the voters of the Town of Montville a proposal which will abolish the current Public Safety Commission and replace it with a seven member Board of Police Commissioners and a seven member Board of Fire Commissioners. The Board of Police Commissioners will have the authority to hire a Police Chief to replace the current Resident State Trooper and to convert the current constabulary to a Police Department. The dispatchers and the Animal Control Officer would be part of the Police Department. The four volunteer fire companies will each have one member on the seven member Board of Fire Commissioners, which will have the authority to hire the full time paid firefighters and the Fire Marshall, and will be responsible for and coordinate all fire protection services in the Town. All new positions

created by either Board would require approval in the annual budget adopted by the Town Council.

CHARTER SECTIONS AFFECTED BY QUESTION 2
(to be determined)

QUESTION 3

Shall the Town Charter be amended to combine the Conservation Commission with the Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission, give Town boards, commissions and other agencies the right to hire certain personnel necessary to carry out their functions subject to budgetary funding and Town Council approval, require that the taking of property by eminent domain be approved by a two-thirds vote of the Town Council and a majority vote at a referendum and make grammatical, technical, administrative and other changes and clarifications?

OVERVIEW

Question 3 presents for approval to the voters of the Town of Montville all Sections of the proposed revised Charter not submitted for approval in **Questions 1 and 2:**

1. The terms of the Registrars of Voters will change from two years to four years.
2. Voting districts will only be changed after redistricting by the General Assembly every ten years.
3. The Town Council or Mayor prohibition from holding other Town employment will extend to include contracts with the Town for goods and services from a company in which the Councilor or Mayor is an officer, director or member having a financial interest.
4. The procedures for submitting and enacting ordinances and resolutions and making appointments will be clarified, including the rights of each Councilor and the Mayor.
5. Section C401 has been revised to clarify the duties of the Town Attorney, especially in cases on conflict of interest.
6. Section C406 provides for the combining of the Conservation Commission with the Inlands Wetlands and Watercourses Commission.
7. Section C417 provides for a vacancy to occur on boards, commissions, and authorities if a member misses four consecutive meetings in any twelve month period.
8. Section C419 gives the Town boards, commissions and other agencies the right to hire certain personnel necessary to carry out their functions, subject to budgetary funding and Town Council approval.
9. Section C604 provides for the Town Assessor to be separated from the Finance Department and report directly to the Town Manager.
10. Section C606 provides for the creation of a Department of Information Systems that will be responsible for the installation, maintenance, services and upgrading of all Town owned data processing, data communication and information management systems.
11. Section C610 provides for the hiring of a full time Town Engineer instead of contracting with an Engineering firm.
12. Section C613 provides for a Department of Human Resources that will be responsible for assisting the applicable appointing authority in the hiring, terminating, retention, promotion and performance counseling, and review of all personnel for all departments, boards, commissions and authorities, except the Board of Education.
13. Section C710 eliminates the need for a Councilor or the Mayor to be on the board of directors of an organization that receives contributions from the Town. The organization will now have to submit financial data with its request for donations.
14. Section C805 provides that the taking of property by eminent domain be approved by a two-thirds vote of the Town Council and a majority vote at a referendum.
15. Section C908 allows appointing authorities to require an employee not covered by a collective bargaining agreement to reside in the Town of Montville as a condition of employment.

CHARTER SECTIONS AFFECTED BY QUESTION 3
(to be determined)

5. Adjournment – Motion made by Councilor Buebendorf, seconded by Councilor Geary to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 p.m. Discussion: none, voice vote: all in favor, motion carried. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Audrey Ulmer, Recording Secretary for the Town of Montville