

**Town of Southbury
Public Hearing
Town Hall, Room 205
June 18, 2009 at 7:00 p.m.
(Subject to Approval)**

PRESENT: First Selectman H. William Davis, Jr.
Selectman Carol Hubert
Selectman Ken Kerin
Selectman Stuart Somers
Selectman John Turk

NOT PRESENT: Selectman Barbara McLaughlin

First Selectman Davis opened the Public Hearing at 7:00 p.m. and read the legal notice of the Hearing. This is a continuation of the Public Hearing held on June 4, 2009 to hear comments on the proposed changes to the Charter in accordance with the requirements of the Connecticut General Statutes 7-191(b).

Charlotte Shapiro of 628A Heritage Village read a statement in favor of inserting a "place holder" position of Executive Administrator in §507 of the Charter. She feels that, given the town's population and economic growth, the First Selectman's duties and responsibilities will grow and more oversight and coordination may be needed in such areas as long range planning and economic development.

Jon Norris of 145 Hornet Nest Road spoke against the position of Executive Administrator as being too expensive and another level of bureaucracy we don't need. He said that in Watertown the town manager's office spends over \$200,000. Mr. Norris is also against a 4-year term for the First Selectman as it would insulate the First Selectman from the town's people.

Ginger Salisbury, Town Clerk, read a letter from DeLoris Curtis, Land Use Administrator noting that if the position listed at §507 (14) "Town Planning Administrator" was meant to be her job, it should be titled "Land Use Administrator".

Mark Cooper, former First Selectman, read a statement against a town manager format which he feels would be a grave mistake. He said the Charter should "clearly delineate the authority and responsibility of the First Selectman as the town's chief executive as well as, the policy formation and oversight role of the Board of Selectmen." Further, Mr. Cooper said the First Selectman should have an administrative assistant who can research and vet important issues and priorities and ensure said priorities are implemented.

Claire Dwyer, Republican Town Committee Chairman, read a statement opposing the proposal of the Democratic Town Committee Chairman Drew Morten that the position of Executive Administrator be established. She refuted each of Mr. Morten's points.

Carol Renza of 799 Peter Road said she thinks that the reference to the Constitution and General Statutes of the State of Connecticut should not be deleted from §302 of the Charter. Also, Mrs. Renza feels the Board of Selectmen should not police itself with respect to conflicts of interest. She thinks the town needs an independent ethics commission.

Bernard Kokinchak of 197 Strongtown Road gave a written statement to the Board. In his statement, Mr. Kokinchak suggests a way the Charter could be changed to allow for the possibility that the State might end the Trooper Program.

Ed Platt of 536 Spruce Brook Road said that accountability is the most important issue. An elected Board of Selectmen is accountable to him as a citizen, whereas a town manager or administrator would not be.

There being no one else who wanted to speak, First Selectman Davis closed the Public Hearing at 7:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jocelyn Bagger