



Minutes of the Government Study Committee

Date: Tuesday, January 8, 2019

Place: Ipswich Town Manager's Conference Room.

Time: 7:00 PM

Attendees: Gary Champion, Scott Glosserman (by approved remote participation), Craig Saline, David Standley, Diane Young. (full membership present)

Observers and Participants: James Engel (invited for discussion of charter/bylaw amendment process and status)

Meeting commenced at 7:06 pm, with Craig Saline as chair and David Standley as secretary.

Citizen Queries: None

Introductions: Mr. James Engel of Linebrook Road, former selectman

Approval of Minutes: The draft minutes of the GSC meeting of December 11, 2018 were approved by unanimous vote on motion of Champion seconded by Young.

Old Business: The Committee and Mr. Engle discussed the results of the 2018 fall Special Town Meeting in regards to matters of direct concern to the GSC, to improve its understanding of those outcomes, possibly amend the language of certain warrant articles, and consider new initiatives and procedures in consideration of its mandate to amend and update the Town Charter and Bylaws as appropriate.

Matters discussed included clarification/amendment of the language of Article 13 that sought to amend Section 2 of the Charter; understanding and considering the Town's practices and procedures in developing, reviewing, amending and establishing the operating and capital municipal and school budgets; and establishing responsibility for, developing and sustaining long-range plans for the maintenance, upgrading and enhancement, and protection of the Town's built and natural resources.

Practices and procedures of comparable municipalities were considered.

It was decided that the GSC should recommend the establishment and charging of a special committee or committees to identify and critique current practices of the town in developing

operational and capital budget recommendations. The recommended special committee membership would be the School Superintendent, the Town Manager and the Chair of the Finance Committee. This would likely be accomplished by Town Meeting establishing and charging such a committee(s) through approval of a separate warrant article.

New Business:

Amendment of Charter Section 34, modifying and clarifying procedures for amending the Town Charter by incorporating recommendations of Town Counsel may be undertaken and submitted to the SelectBoard at its January 28, 2019 meeting. However, there was doubt expressed that this matter is of sufficient concern for the Committee to focus on it prior to the ATM.

A GSC objective to replace gender-specific language with gender-neutral language throughout the Charter and Bylaws should also be completed and submitted to the SelectBoard at that meeting.

The GSC recommendation to Town Meeting in regard to the citizens' petition to change the method of membership of the Planning Board from appointed to elected, submitted to the 2018 ATM was discussed. In light of information presented to date to the Committee including the inclusive report of Diane Young, the Committee unanimous decision is to issue a negative recommendation in the form of a Committee report to the Town Manager and SelectBoard.

Next meeting: January 15, 2019, at 7 PM, location TBD.

Adjournment: There being no further business, on motion of Young seconded by Champion the meeting was adjourned at 9:07 PM by unanimous vote.

Respectfully submitted,

David Standley, Secretary