

TOWN OF PLYMOUTH

CHARTER REVIEW COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

January 23, 2024

Zoom Meeting

*Pursuant to Governor Baker's March 12, 2020, Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A, §18 and further updates, this meeting was conducted in a **Virtual format only**. A Zoom Meeting link was provided.*

These minutes are not verbatim – they are the recording secretary's interpretation of what took place at the meeting, per Open Meeting Law, G.L. C 30A, § 22.

The Charter Review Committee held a scheduled Zoom-only meeting on Tuesday, January 23, 2024, 6 PM.

In attendance: Chair David Golden, Vice Chair Alan Costello, Clerk Robert Zupperoli and members Betty Cavacco, Joseph Hutchinson, Tim Lawlor, Len Levin, Laurence Pizer and Martha Vautrain. Alternate Mike Hanlon was present and alternate Steve Bolotin was absent. Staff assistant Michelle Turner was also present.

CALL TO ORDER

David Golden, Chair called the meeting to order at 6 PM, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Betty Cavacco suggested meetings be changed to a night rather than a Tuesday because it conflicts with the Select Board meetings. The Chair will review the schedule going forward, and he reminded members that meetings will continue as long as a quorum is present, but it is understandable that everyone cannot attend all meetings.

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

January 23, 2024

Laurence Pizer MOTIONED to approve the meeting Minutes, as presented. 2nd by Tim Lawlor
Noted that Martha Vautrain had technical difficulty with her audio – her vote counted as an abstention.

	YES	NO	ABSTAIN		YES	NO	ABSTAIN
Betty Cavacco			X	Martha Vautrain			X
Alan Costello	X			Robert Zupperoli			X
Joe Hutchinson	X			David Golden-CHAIR	X		
Tim Lawlor			X	Steve Bolotin			
Len Levin	X			Mike Hanlon-ALT	X		
Larry Pizer	X			*Alternate votes are taken but their vote is not included in the vote tally unless the alternate replaces an absent full standing member.			

MOTION PASSED 5-0-4

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

Betty Cavacco began the first discussion item – the stipend of Select Board members and motioned to raise the stipend to \$20,000 for Select Board members and \$25,000 for the chair. 2nd by Alan Costello for discussion.

A lengthy discussion ensued and ultimately the motion was withdrawn by Ms. Cavacco.

A 4-member subcommittee will organize in order to research the Select Board stipend of surrounding towns of a similar budget.

Public Comment: Al Dinardo commented that some of the authority/actions of the Select Board should shift to others.

CHAPTER 3: The Executive Branch, The Select Board, The Town Manager and Planning Board

Section 1 The Select Board: Composition and Terms

3-1-1 A Select Board of five (5) members shall be elected for three-year (3) overlapping terms. The regular election for the office of selectman shall be held in accordance with Chapter Five of this Charter.

<No changes proposed at this time.>

~~3-1-2 Vacancies in the office of selectman shall be filled by special election in accordance with G.L. c. 41, § 10, and any other applicable law.~~

Laurence Pizer MOTIONED to delete 3-1-2 in its entirety, 2nd Tim Lawlor

	YES	NO	ABSTAIN		YES	NO	ABSTAIN
Betty Cavacco	X			Martha Vautrain	X		
Alan Costello	X			Robert Zupperoli	x		
Joe Hutchinson	X			David Golden-CHAIR	X		
Tim Lawlor				Steve Boletin			
Len Levin	X			Mike Hanlon-ALT	X		
Larry Pizer	X			*Alternate votes are taken but their vote is not included in the vote tally unless the alternate replaces an absent full standing member.			

MOTION PASSED 9-0-0

Section 2 Select Board: General Powers and Duties

3-2-1 The Select Board shall be the chief executive body of the town. It shall serve as the goal setting, and policy-making body of the town . It shall serve in conjunction with the Planning Board as the long-range planning and policy making body of the town.

It shall make recommendations on major courses of action to the representative town meeting. It shall adopt policy directives and guidelines which the officers, boards,

committees, commissions and employees of the town shall implement. The Select Board shall maintain a policy handbook containing such policy directives and guidelines.

Laurence Pizer MOTIONED to make the changes as noted above. 2nd Joseph Hutchinson

	YES	NO	ABSTAIN		YES	NO	ABSTAIN
Betty Cavacco		X		Martha Vautrain	X		
Alan Costello		X		Robert Zupperoli		X	
Joe Hutchinson	X			David Golden-CHAIR		X	
Tim Lawlor		X		Steve Boletin			
Len Levin		X		Mike Hanlon-ALT		X	
Larry Pizer	X			*Alternate votes are taken but their vote is not included in the vote tally unless the alternate replaces an absent full standing member.			

MOTION FAILED 3-6-0

The Committee took no further action on the remaining text of 3-2-1

3-2-2 The Select Board shall have the power to enact rules and regulations to implement its policies.

<No changes proposed at this time.>

3-2-3 The Select Board shall review the annual proposed operating and capital budgets submitted by the Town Manager and make recommendations with respect thereto as it deems advisable. The Town Manager shall present the budget, incorporating the recommendations of the Select Board, to the Advisory and Finance Committee.

<No changes proposed at this time.>

3-2-4 The Select Board shall act as the licensing authority of the town and shall have the power and responsibility to issue licenses, to make all necessary rules and regulations regarding the issuance of licenses, to attach conditions and impose restrictions in the public interest, and to enforce, or cause to be enforced, laws, rules and regulations relating to all businesses for which it issues licenses.

Mr. Hanlon suggested a Licensing Authority might be needed to allow the Select Board to focus more on long-term goals, planning and policy making.

Betty Cavacco explained the licensing processes of the Select Board

Discussion ensued. <No changes proposed at this time.>

3-2-5 The Select Board shall have the power to approve all collective bargaining agreements to which the town is the contracting agency and may designate one 1 or more Select Board Members Person to participate in the negotiating of collective bargaining agreements.

Laurence Pizer MOTIONED to revise 3-2-5 as noted above, 2nd Tim Lawlor

	YES	NO	ABSTAIN			YES	NO	ABSTAIN
Betty Cavacco	X				Martha Vautrain	X		
Alan Costello	X				Robert Zupperoli	X		
Joe Hutchinson	X				David Golden-CHAIR	X		
Tim Lawlor	X				Steve Boletin	X		
Len Levin		X			Mike Hanlon-ALT		X	
Larry Pizer	X				*Alternate votes are taken but their vote is not included in the vote tally unless the alternate replaces an absent full standing member.			

MOTION PASSED 8-1-0

3-2-6 The Select Board shall be responsible, through the Town Manager, for the efficient and orderly operation of all agencies of the town except those under the direction of another elected town agency.

<No changes proposed at this time.>

3-2-7 The Select Board may investigate or authorize the Town Manager, or another town officer or any agency, to investigate the conduct of any town department, office or agency. A detailed written report of any such investigation shall be filed in the Town Manager's office. ~~a report summarizing such investigation shall be printed in the next published annual town report.~~

Len Levin MOTIONED to strike the text after the words...."filed in the Town Manager's office."

Discussion ensued and Mr. Levin withdrew his motion.

Discussion continued on 3-2-7 with a 2nd motion

3-2-7 The Select Board may investigate or authorize the Town Manager, or another town officer or any agency, to investigate the conduct of any town department, office or agency. A detailed written report of any such investigation shall be filed in the Town Manager's office and to the extent permissible by law, a report summarizing such investigation shall be printed in the next published annual town report.

Martha Vautrain MOTIONED to approve as written above, 2nd Len Levin

	YES	NO	ABSTAIN			YES	NO	ABSTAIN
Betty Cavacco	X				Martha Vautrain	X		
Alan Costello	X				Robert Zupperoli		X	
Joe Hutchinson	X				David Golden-CHAIR	X		
Tim Lawlor	X				Steve Boletin	X		
Len Levin	X				Mike Hanlon-ALT	X		
Larry Pizer	X				*Alternate votes are taken but their vote is not included in the vote tally unless the alternate replaces an absent full standing member.			

3-2-7

MOTION PASSED 8-1-0

3-2-8 The Select Board shall meet jointly with the School Committee and, Planning Board, Advisory & Finance Committee, and Committee of Precinct Chairs and all other elected boards of the Town for the purpose of sharing information. The Select Board shall schedule the joint meeting(s), which shall be held no less than twice (2) a year.

Martha Vautrain MOTIONED as written above, 2nd by Joseph Hutchinson.

Discussion continued

Martha Vautrain agreed to strike A & F Committee and COPC, from her motion.

Mr. Hutchinson agreed to Ms. Vautrain's amendment.

Mr. Hutchinson agreed to maintain his 2nd.

Robert Zupperoli motioned to move the question.

	YES	NO	ABSTAIN			YES	NO	ABSTAIN
Betty Cavacco	X				Martha Vautrain	X		
Alan Costello		X			Robert Zupperoli		X	
Joe Hutchinson	X				David Golden-CHAIR		X	
Tim Lawlor		X			Steve Boletin			
Len Levin		X			Mike Hanlon-ALT		X	
Larry Pizer	X				*Alternate votes are taken but their vote is not included in the vote tally unless the alternate replaces an absent full standing member.			

MOTION FAILED 4-5-0

3-2-8 Remains as written.

3-3-1 The Select Board shall appoint a Town Manager, town counsel, registrars of voters, election officers, constables, and members of all multiple-member boards, committees, and commissions except as otherwise provided in this Charter and/or the town by-laws.

Laurence Pizer stated that as written 3-3-1 suggests that the Select Board is the default appointer of committees, and this is not true. He would like to eliminate all text after the word "constables".

David Golden believed discussion on 3-3-1 would take more discussion and asked for Mr. Pizer to motion to table discussion on 3-3-1 for another meeting.

Mr. Pizer MOTIONED to table the discussion of 3-3-1 for a future meeting, 2nd Betty Cavacco.

	YES	NO	ABSTAIN			YES	NO	ABSTAIN
Betty Cavacco	X			Martha Vautrain	X			
Alan Costello	X			Robert Zupperoli	X			
Joe Hutchinson	X			David Golden-CHAIR		X		
Tim Lawlor	X			Steve Belotin	X			
Len Levin	X			Mike Hanlon-ALT	X			
Larry Pizer	X			*Alternate votes are taken but their vote is not included in the vote tally unless the alternate replaces an absent full standing member.				

MOTION approved 8-1-0

NEW BUSINESS/OLD BUSINESS:

Mr. Lawlor asked the Committee to consider for future discussion moving the meeting night from Tuesday to Thursday. Brief discussion ensued. The Chair noted again that if members need to attend the Select Board meeting or other meetings, the Charter Committee would continue to move forward with a quorum.

Meeting adjourned at 8:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle A. Turner

Michelle A. Turner

Minutes Approved on: February 6, 2024