

Town of New Milford Charter Revision Commission

BOARD OF FINANCE/ STRUCTURE CONSIDERATIONS

The New Milford Charter Revision Commission has met a number of times to discuss the role and powers of the Board of Finance. The following are some of those items that have been discussed and mentioned as possibilities for change.

I. ANNUAL BUDGET INVOLVEMENT....Section 705

1. Board of Education would follow current path toward adopting the budget. T. C. would follow the same path towards adopting a budget. BOF would follow the same path towards adopting a budget. If the budget is rejected at referendum, then the budget would be returned to the BOE for recommendations to the Mayor, the Mayor would then recommend cuts to the T.C who would make the final judgment. (BOF could have an advisory role in second budget vote)
2. Same as above, only BOF has bottom line responsibility only and would not deal with any line or category items. This would eliminate the need for budget hearings on BOF side, speed the annual budget process. BOF would still participate in joint budget hearing with T.C., could still hold hearing on financial picture of town.
3. Same as number 1, except in initial budget, T.C. would be able to override the BOF recommendations upon a super majority vote of the T.C. Possible that same could work for BOE budget, if BOE want BOF cuts restored, then a super majority would be required.

II. OTHER FINANCIAL MATTERS.... Section 706

1. Leave it as is in section 706
2. Leave it as is, however allows the TC to overrule upon a super majority.
3. Eliminate BOF from the first sentence of this Section and replace with TC. Also eliminate BOF from last sentence and replace with TC
4. Last sentence....If at any time during a fiscal year upon recommendation of TC (or Mayor)....then leave the decision up to the TC.
5. Last sentence...there needs to be determined what language is correct to *trigger* the review...a suggestion was to eliminate the “plus general cash surplus” language so that the *trigger* is earlier.

III. BOF involvement in **Section 707**...Town Meeting

1. Leave it alone.
2. Modify it in accordance with changes in Section 705
3. Eliminate town meeting, have all annual budgets go to referendum. We would still have an annual town meeting, only to debate the initial budget...no vote.
4. A rejected budget would return per suggestions in Section I above.
5. The “in cooperation” with the Mayor language would be removed and would be modified in accordance with Section 705 modifications...language may be “TC acting upon the recommendation of the Mayor shall revise...”

IV. EMERGENCY APPROPRIATIONS...**Section 708**

1. Language needs clarifying...a suggestion...”For the purpose of meeting a public emergency as defined by the Mayor in accordance with (*insert Connecticut general statute reference*), threatening the lives...”
2. Keep the same structure with the language from #1 above.
3. Modify with majority of TC and BOF.
4. Modify with the TC ability to overrule the BOF with a super majority.

V. EXPENDITURES AND ACCOUNTING...**Section 710**

1. All revisions begin with sentence...”Upon the request of an board, commission or department head...”
2. No change
3. Eliminate the BOF from this sentence.
4. The following sentence thereafter... raise the dollar amount up to \$5,000.00 but require approval by the Mayor and reporting requirement to the TC
5. The \$5,000 increased transfer should apply to each department and not just to major categories.
6. The sentence beginning...” Any portion of an annual appropriation remaining...” eliminate the BOF from this responsibility and transfer to TC.