

Minutes
Town Government Study Committee
January 6, 2011
7:00 p.m.

The meeting was called to order by the Chairman at 7:06 pm.

Members present: Keith Elder, Jean Landis Naumann, Paul Tura, Richard Dennehy, Mary O'Donnell, Fran Hoeg, Wendell Chamberlain, Ken Stevens

Members absent: Bob Ward

The reading of the minutes was deferred to the next meeting.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:

The petition was submitted to and accepted by the Town Clerk. It will now go on to Town Counsel for approval.

The Technology Committee would like to come to our next meeting. The Conservation Committee also expressed a desire to meet with us at the earliest convenience.

Ken Stevens gave an update on Bridgewater's reorganization. They began in 2006 with a Town Government Study Committee and conducted a very thorough study. The final result was a charter establishing a 9 member Town Council and a Town Manager. They abolished Town Meeting, combined their Treasurer/Collector and made it an appointed position. The study is online if anyone would like to review it. Ken will contact the Chairman of the Bridgewater TGSC to see if he would like to come to one of our meetings.

Upcoming Schedule:

The Chairman discussed the upcoming schedule of appointments with the Committee. The schedule is as follows:

- 1/20 Technology Committee

- 2/3 Street Trees and Parks
Recycling Committee/ Transfer Station
- 2/17 Water

- 3/3 Sewer
- 3/17 No scheduled appointments

- 4/7 Board of Health/ Health Agent
- 4/21 Police Chief
Animal Control

- 5/5 Fire Chief
Harbormaster/Waterfront Committee/ Shellfish warden
- 5/19 Inspectional Services (Building, Electrical, Plumbing)
Permanent Building/ Conservation Lands

- 6/2 No scheduled appointments
- 6/16 Planning Board
Zoning Board

Treasurer/Collector Position:

The Committee had a discussion on combining the Treasurer Collector position.

Richard Dennehy questioned how the positions can be combined when they have been established by

statute.

Jean Landis Naumann made a motion, seconded by Mary O'Donnell to combine the positions of Treasurer and Collector and to make the new position an appointed position.

Jean stated that an elected position does not always guarantee someone will be qualified to hold the position. She stated that Kingston has been very lucky to have people in the positions who are good at what they do, but it could become a "grab bag" if it were to remain as an elected position.

Keith Elder stated that appointed would be an excellent way to go, but would this new position require more staffing in the office such as an Assistant Treasurer/Collector. Would that position require further expenditures?

Jean Landis Naumann stated that you would need a good financial team and a combining of staff.

Ken Stevens suggested that we use the Massachusetts Treasurer/Collector group as a resource.

Fran Hoeg sees a benefit to combining the positions, but would like to keep the position as an elected office.

Keith Elder agreed that an elected Treasurer/Collector would be answerable to the electorate.

Wendell Chamberlain stated that the DOR report recommended that the positions be combined. Finance Committee has also made a recommendation that is in their minutes.

Fran Hoeg made a friendly amendment to vote only on the combination of the positions and to defer the discussion/vote on elected versus appointed to a later date. The amendment was accepted by the committee. The motion as amended was approved on a 6-0-2 vote with Dennehy and Tura abstaining and all others present voting in the affirmative.

On a motion by Paul Tura, seconded by Wendell Chamberlain, it was voted unanimously to adjourn at 8:55 p.m.