

A public hearing of the Charter Revision Commission was held on Thursday, September 18, 2008 at Riverhead Town Hall. The following were in attendance:

Dennis McCarthy, Vice-Chair  
Maureen Liccione, member  
Robert Braun, member  
Victor Fusco, member  
Jacqueline Gordon, member  
Arthur Cliff, member  
Edwin Perez, member  
Ronald Devine, Jr., member  
Steven Kenny, member  
Roger Clayman, member  
Marlene Israel, member

Also in attendance:

Terrence Pearsall, Chief of Staff to Presiding Officer Lindsay  
Arona Kessler, Aide to Presiding Officer Lindsay  
Debra Alloncius, AME  
Roger Podd, of the County Attorney's Office  
And other interested parties

Mr. McCarthy called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. Three speakers addressed the Commission.

Mr. Raymond Corwin, representing the Suffolk County Parks Trustees was the first speaker.

Mr. Corwin explained to the Charter Revision Commission that the Suffolk County Parks Board of Trustees has one member for each of the ten towns and one member at large. The Presiding Officer and County Executive are both ex-officio members with voting rights. The Presiding Officer and County Executive do not actually attend the meetings of the Parks Board of Trustees, instead they send representatives. Currently, these representatives vote; however, the Charter does not specify that the Presiding Officer and County Executive can appoint representatives to vote. Mr. Corwin and the other members of the Parks Board of Trustees want the language regarding the Parks Board of Trustees changed to explicitly state that the Presiding Officer and County Executive *or their representatives* are voting members of the Board.

Mr. Braun asked if ex-officio members vote

Mr. Corwin said that yes, they do.

Mr. McCarthy said he thought it was practice for representatives to go.

Mr. Corwin said the Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner of Parks do not vote, but they attend every meeting.

Mr. Fusco asked if there are any down sides to this proposal.

Mr. Corwin said no, this would codify what they are already doing. He also said that the Board has better communication with the Legislature and County Executive's office now than in the past, since they began allowing representatives to vote.

Mr. Fusco asked if other Boards and Commissions have representatives from the Presiding Officer's and County Executive's offices with voting rights

Mr. Pearsall said the County Executive and Presiding Officer have appointments to other boards, and their representatives having voting rights on those boards; however, for many of those boards and commissions the resolutions that create them state the Presiding Officer or his representative shall be a member.

Mr. Braun suggested a catch all provision authorizing the County Executive and Presiding Officer to designate representatives with voting rights.

Ms. Gordon asked if the representatives have voted.

Mr. Corwin said for the past six years representatives have been voting, but they have few split votes.

Mr. Fusco asked if the same people go to represent the Presiding Officer and County Executive each month.

Mr. Corwin said the representatives change maybe once a year. He is not recommending terms for the representatives, just formal appointments. He said the representatives were less involved when they did not vote; now they do more research and speak.

The next speaker was David Hegermiller from the Town of Riverhead, SCCOPA.

Mr. Hegermiller spoke about the different police funds and charge backs. He said the 01 fund should fund county-wide programs, such as communications, not just programs for the Suffolk Police District.

Mr. Cliff said resources are getting tight for everyone; the Charter doesn't specify what the funds pay for, it's the County Executive's decision

Mr. Fusco asked if this should be spelled out in the Charter.

Mr. Hegermiller said he spoke to the County Attorney, who said it is in the Charter. As an example, he said the Marine Unit was in the 15 budget this year, but next year it will be in the 01 budget.

Mr. Fusco asked Mr. Hegermiller what input the town and village police departments have in this process, Mr. Hegermiller said they have no input, but would like to have input.

Mr. Hegermiller said there is uniformity among police districts, as they all stand alone and do not use county services. Amityville was just told they can no longer use Suffolk Detectives.

The third speaker was Councilwoman Barbara Blass from the Town of Riverhead.

Councilwoman Blass spoke about the Suffolk County Planning Commission. She said the Charter does not define what a "full referral" is, so the Planning Commission defines this term subjectively. This creates confusion among the towns and a lack on uniformity.

Mr. Braun said the Planning Commission is currently re-writing definitions, and will adopt new rules on October First, 2008.

Councilwoman Blass asked if the Sewer Stabilization fund is mentioned in the Charter

Mr. Pearsall said that is in the Administrative Code.

Mr. McCarthy scheduled the next meeting of the Commission for October 30, at 2:30 PM in the Legislative building in Hauppauge. Mr. McCarthy asked if anyone else wanted to address the Charter Revision Commission. Seeing none, the meeting was adjourned at 7:30 PM.