



TOWN OF TYNGSBOROUGH

Government Study Commission

Town Offices

25 Bryants Lane

Tyngsborough, MA 01879

Tel: (978) 649-2300 Ext. 100 | Fax: (978) 649-2320

APPROVED 04-17-2014

Government Study Commission

Meeting Notice

Thursday, April 3, 2014 at 6:30 PM

Meeting Room 1, Town Offices, 25 Bryants Lane

AGENDA

1. Review/Approve Minutes of March 13, 2014 Meeting
2. Continue Discussion of Potential Recommendations for 2014 Annual Town Meeting with Town Counsel
3. Schedule Next Meeting





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Members Present: Karyn Puleo, Jacqueline Schnackertz, Donald Lampron, Diane Keohane, Eileen Farrell, and Paula Derby

Absent: and Robert Mercier

Staff Present: Michael Gilleberto, Town Administrator, and Town Counsel Charles Zaroulis.

The meeting was convened by Karyn Puleo at 6:35 PM.

The agenda was read.

The Minutes of March 13th were approved 5-0-1 on a motion by Eileen Farrell, seconded by Donald Lampron. Diana Keohane abstained.

The Town Administrator outlined the process to get answers to questions submitted to Town Counsel. In responding to Counsel's follow-up questions, the Town Clerk's index was the source of data and not annual reports.

Town Counsel outlined his opinion on the scheduling of the annual election. There is no prohibition against election occurring after Annual Town Meeting.

Town Counsel asked why the Commission was considering changing the election.

Karyn Puleo noted it is to eliminate issue of brand new Board of Selectmen members and other elected officials at Annual Town Meeting.

Town Counsel stated that a bylaw would be required to change the Annual Town Meeting.

Town Counsel was asked his opinion. He stated that it likely makes no difference, but could result in political forum at Town Meeting.

Town Counsel presented options for making Collector appointed, and for changing the order of the Meeting and Election. town meeting followed by annual town election. Regarding the Town Clerk, there was an option to provide the position to the incumbent and to provide for dismissal for just cause. This would occur through a special act.

A Cemetery Commission needs to be 3 members. Special legislation could create a Board of Public Works (which would actually be the Board of Selectmen) overseeing Highway, Cemetery, Tree Warden, and Sewer.





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Karyn Puleo stated that there may need to be further discussion with the Sewer Commission.

Diana Keohane expressed some concern with costs.

The Town Administrator indicated the cost would likely be neutral or could be a savings.

Town Counsel stated that a DPW Superintendent can save long term costs because things like new developments can be addressed consistently.

Town Counsel stated that the town is a multimillion dollar corporation.

Karyn Puleo indicated that residents have customer service issues dealing with multiple boards

There was some discussion of election. There are pluses and minuses to the current order. Consensus was not to recommend an immediate change, but to continue evaluating in future.

The Commission voted 6-0-0 on a motion by Member Keohane, second by Member Schnackertz for the Town Collector's position to go to the Board of Selectmen, Town Meeting, and then annual election (Chapter 41 section 1B). The incumbent should stay until current term ends.

Whereas the Finance Director issue is an administrative matter, no action would be taken by the Commission.

There was further discussion as to the options for the Town Clerk's position.

The Commission voted 6-0-0 on a motion by Member Keohane, second by Member Paula Derby to make Town Clerk appointed by the Board of Selectmen either by Chapter 41 Sec 1B or Special Act. Appropriate protections would be put into place for incumbent.

The Commission voted 6-0-0 on a motion by Eileen Farrell, second by Donald Lampron to recommend the Board of Selectmen appoint the Cemetery Commissioners and the Tree Warden.

The process dictates that the Tree Warden would have to become a certified arborist.

The Government Study Commission would next meet on April 14 or 17 for discussion.

The Commission voted 6-0-0 on a motion by Diana Keohane, second by Jacqueline Schnackertz, to adjourn at 8:31 PM.

Respectfully submitted

*Town of
Tyngsborough
Massachusetts*



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Michael P. Gilleberto, Town Administrator

