

**Chevy Chase Village  
ad hoc Charter Revision Committee**

Meeting Notes

Wednesday, May 27, 2015

Committee Members

Ms. Patricia Baptiste of Grafton Street, Committee Chair  
Mr. Robert Goodwin of Bradley Lane  
Ms. Mary Sheehan of West Kirke Street  
Mr. Peter Yeo of Grafton Street

Village Staff

Ms. Shana Davis-Cook, Village Manager  
Ms. Suellen Ferguson, Village Counsel

The third meeting of the Committee was called to order by Committee Chair Patricia Baptiste just after 7:00 p.m. Prior to the meeting, Counsel circulated a revised draft incorporating the Committee's comments from the April 23, 2015 meeting.

The Committee discussed a write-in campaign that took place during a neighboring municipality's recent election. Counsel expressed that although the Village's Charter, and the Committee's proposed revisions to-date, prohibited write-in candidates in Village Board elections, the candidacy provision could be amended to further clarify that write-ins were not allowed. The Committee discussed various language options and ultimately asked Counsel to draft language making clear that write-in candidacy is prohibited. The Committee also asked Counsel to draft language in Section 301 (e) to confirm that if the number of candidates equals the number of available seats, no election will be held.

Committee members recommended various edits related to the layout, order and consistency, including the usage of sub-headings wherever appropriate. Various additional edits were made to Articles IV through VIII.

In Section 402, "Proposed Budget" the Committee agreed to set on or before April 1 as the deadline for the Village Board to prepare a budget for the ensuing year. In Section 403, the Committee felt that it was important to replace the references to public "meetings" to public "hearings", which will better inform residents to the opportunity and format to be heard on the

proposed budget and tax rate. In Section 403 (c), the Committee added that in the event the Village fails to adopt a tax rate by May 15, the County is authorized to use the same rate as was set in the prior year, “or the constant yield rate, whichever is less”. The additional latter language ensures there is no conflict with the State-required noticing requirements for exceeding the constant yield rate.

In addition to outlining the Chief of Police’s duties in Section 503, the Committee added that the Chief “serves at the pleasure of the Board”, which is consistent with the language used in Section 501, “Village Manager”.

Counsel will draft the agreed upon changes for review by the Committee at its next meeting on Monday, July 6, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. The Committee hopes to present its recommended revisions to the Board at its September 14 regular meeting. The Committee will provide to the Board a summary report detailing the changes that the Committee has proposed, and a list of proposed changes considered and not recommended by the Committee, along with redline and clean versions of the revised charter. The Committee anticipates that the Board will hold a public hearing on the revisions at its October 12 meeting, for possible adoption that same evening or at the Board’s November 9 regular meeting.

The meeting concluded around 9:00 p.m.