

Governance Committee Meeting

Minutes February 11 2021

Members Present: Leah Basbanes, Jim Dow, Bob Nelson, Mike Martin, Leo Tomatich, Susan Psaledakis, Ryan McLane

Also Attending: Kevin Paicos, Brian Palaia

Meeting called to order by Leah Basbanes, Chair at 6:30 pm

Draft 10 was version for the committee to review as well as strong/weak chief information provided by Mr. Paicos.

There was a question about the Moderator and the authority to appoint the Charter committee that was in the draft. It was discussed and decided that the authority should be with the Select Board.

The Police Chief when strong has absolute power. Committee was not comfortable with that and wanted to have the Select board/TA have authority to hire and fire. The committee felt the same with Fire Chief and that their authorities should ultimately be the same. As strong/weak fire chief has different powers than a strong/weak police chief. The Charter can "overpower" strong chief laws because it would be a new law of legislature.

There was then discussion who would discipline, and chiefs would be able to discipline up to a point in progressive discipline, but termination would not be in their authority.

Mr. Paicos was going to prepare some language to address the authority of the chiefs for next meeting.

The committee briefly discussed what the next steps are and decided that perhaps one more draft review and then start the roll out process of the draft to the departments for review. All agreed that having this at ATM was not appropriate. Mr. Paicos was asked to provide a draft of an Executive summary to be presented for the committee to review.

Next meeting set to be March 18th.

Meeting adjourned 8:00.