

Lynn Bielawiec

From: Lynn Bielawiec
Sent: Tuesday, November 28, 2017 12:41 PM
To: Lynn Bielawiec
Subject: FW: Input for Charter Revision

Begin forwarded message:

From: Bill Eccles <[REDACTED]>
Date: November 27, 2017 at 2:35:25 PM EST
To: Sue Errickson <[REDACTED]>
Subject: Input for Charter Revision

[I wrote this a week ago and forgot to send it. Argh!]

Hi, Sue,

I just got done talking with Steve and he and are in agreement on two things:

1 - The requirement for the Town Manager to live in the town should be left for the Town Council to decide. I recommend just deleting the requirement in its entirety from the Charter, or to provide a "Must live in Tolland but may be allowed to live outside Tolland at the Town Council's discretion" clause.

2 - The requirement to have a Town Manager who is dedicated to the service of Tolland should somehow be removed as well. This opens up the possibility of sharing a Town Manager with another community for the purposes of cost sharing, certainly, but also if we can't find a good candidate with this search. Given the number of qualified candidates that Simsbury saw (very few), sharing a Town Manager might be more a product of necessity than want. We need to have that option open to us.

My thoughts:

I absolutely oppose any move towards an elected mayor. We need to have an operational expert in the role of Town Manager, and having that person change every four years would be, in my opinion, disastrous. Others might argue that we'd just have an assistant who would conduct the day-to-day operations, but then I would argue that we would only be increasing costs with an additional layer of management with no perceivable benefit.

I can live with 4-year staggered terms.

The budget referendum process is pretty good as it is for handling non-exceptional years like we had this year. This year, I fear, will become the norm. Allowing the Council to adjust the timeline in case of extraordinary circumstances (so that we don't have to rely on a judicial workaround) would be ideal. Furthermore, allowing the Council to reschedule tax bills (if compatible with state statute) would be a good idea, too.

Them's my \$0.02,
Bill