

TOWN OF TIVERTON
The Financial Town Meeting (FTM) Changes Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes for Monday, 16 May 2011
Tiverton Town Hall 343 Highland Road

The meeting commenced at 7:37PM in at the Tiverton Town Hall.

Members present included Jeff Caron (Co Chair), Nancy Driggs (Co Chair), and Bob Gaw.

The minutes of 25 April 2011 were approved by unanimous consent.

Jeff Caron and Nancy Driggs presented the documents:

- 1) Charter Proposal V5
- 2) FTMCAC Issue Tracking Sheet dated 16 May 2011
- 3) Letter to School Committee dated 4 May 2011
- 4) Input from Town Treasurer
- 5) Email from Chairman of the Budget Committee
- 6) Input from James Amarantes, a Budget Committee member
- 7) FTM/FTR Schematic present to School Committee on 10 May 2011
- 8) Summary Notes of 10 May 2011 meeting before the School Committee

The Committee worked through the FTMCAC Issue Tracking Sheet and upon deliberation closed many items, noting justifications.

Nancy Driggs moved and Bob Gaw seconded that Jeff Caron update V5 to include revisions made in the meeting, rename as V6, and send with a cover letter to the School Committee for their input. The vote was unanimous.

Jeff Caron led a discussion regarding the scheduling of public hearings over the summer. The Committee felt that the Town Council should hold such hearings. It was discussed that perhaps the TC should hold 3 public hearing sessions, perhaps one each in June, July, and August.

It was also discussed that V6 would be far enough along to request that the solicitor perform a thorough review ASAP. This would aloe the Committee to respond to any major legal issues should they arise.

Nancy Driggs moved and Bob Gaw seconded that a Town Council Agenda item be submitted which:

- 1) Submits V6 to keep the Town Council apprised of status.
- 2) Requests that the Town Council establish public hearing dated for the charter proposal.
- 3) Requests thorough Solicitor review of V6.

The vote was unanimous.

The meeting adjourned at about 10:15PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jeff Caron

Proposed Charter Amendment

REPLACE THE FINANCIAL TOWN MEETING WITH A BUDGET REFERENDUM PROCESS

Ballot Question

Shall the Tiverton Town Charter be amended to replace the current Financial Town Meeting with a budget referendum whereby voters will decide by secret ballot vote at polling places open all-day whether or not to approve the budget and tax levy recommendation presented by the Budget Committee, or other budget proposals placed on the referendum ballot by the Town Council, School Committee, or elector petition? This would modify Articles III, IV, V, VI, VII and other relevant sections of the Charter.

Reason for Change

This alternative to the Financial Town Meeting will provide a process by which the elected Budget Committee would recommend a total Town budget (including Municipal and School). This amendment would also allow the Town Council, School Committee, and electors via petition to place alternative budget proposals on the ballot. Voters will vote for one proposal by secret ballot vote at polling places open all-day.

Improvements Over Financial Town Meeting

- **Democracy:** The people remain the “appropriating body” of the town and retain exclusive authority to decide budgets and taxes. But unlike the FTM, all voters have an equal opportunity to participate, regardless of health issues, child-care issues, work issues, etc.
- **Simplicity:** People can vote for their preferred budget proposal without all the FTM procedural matters, amendments, etc.
- **Certainty:** Using the normal voting process administered by the Board of Canvassers will assure an accurate vote-count. The FTM process of hand-counts is less accurate, and doing paper-ballots at the FTM would add hours to the process.
- **Access to Ballot:** The Budget Committee Budget Proposal will appear on the ballot. Municipal and School budget requests may optionally appear on the ballot. Electors will also have access to the ballot via Elector Petitions.
- **Informed Decision:** All budget/tax options on the ballot and the Budget Committee’s recommendations will have been discussed at a hearing two weeks prior. Voters will have ample opportunity to find out all implications of each plan, versus the FTM where new proposals can be introduced and voted upon without being vetted.
- **Confidentiality:** People can vote their conscience on budget and tax matters in privacy as they do in elections, versus a public vote at the FTM.
- **Finality:** The town’s budget and tax-levy will be definitively set at a referendum, unlike the FTM which can go multiple days without resolution.
- **Practicality:** In a town with 11,000 voters, the largest turnout that can be accommodated is 1600-2000 (at THS, in multiple rooms). If just 20% of registered voters show up to participate at the FTM, the meeting cannot be held. As with any election, all voters can vote at a referendum.

Note: If this proposal deleted an entire section of the charter then that section has been removed from this document for ease of reading.

Exhibit 1: Summary Flow Chart of Budget Process *dates as if proposed change in effect this year.*

NO LATER THAN

January 15	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Joint Budget Workshop to establish general goals and objectives. 2) School Committee submits preliminary school department budget to Budget Committee. 3) Town Administrator submits preliminary municipal budget (excluding Clerk and Treasurer) to Budget Committee. 4) Town Clerk submits preliminary budget to Budget Committee. 5) Town Treasurer submits preliminary budget to Budget Committee.
------------	---

80 Days Prior to FTR 5-Mar-11	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Town Council: Approve and submit the final Municipal budget (excluding Clerk and Treasurer) to the Town Administrator. 2) Town Council: Approve and submit the final revenue estimates to the Town Administrator.
----------------------------------	---

70 Days Prior to FTR 15-Mar-11	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) School Committee approves and submits final School Department budget to Budget Committee. 2) Town Administrator submits approved Municipal budget (excluding Clerk and Treasurer) to Budget Committee. 3) Town Administrator submits approved revenue estimates to Budget Committee. 4) Town Clerk submits final budget to Budget Committee. 5) Town Treasurer submits final budget to Budget Committee.
-----------------------------------	---

51 Days Prior to FTR 3-Apr-11	Budget Committee submits final budget and non budget proposal(s) to Town Clerk.
----------------------------------	---

44 Days Prior to FTR 10-Apr-11	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) School Committee submits optional budget and non budget proposal(s) to Town Clerk. 2) Town Council submits optional budget and non budget proposal(s) to Town Clerk.
-----------------------------------	--

42 Days Prior to FTR 12-Apr-11	Elector Petitions for Budget Proposals made available by Town Clerk.
-----------------------------------	--

28 Days Prior to FTR 26-Apr-11	Elector Petitions for Budget and Non Budget Proposals due to Town Clerk
-----------------------------------	---

21 Days Prior to FTR 7-May-11	Certification of all Elector Petitions complete
----------------------------------	---

14 Days Prior to FTR 10-May-11	Financial Town Hearing
-----------------------------------	------------------------

10 Days Prior to FTR 14-May-11	Financial Town Referendum Notice Published
-----------------------------------	--

Tuesday Before The Last Monday In May 24-May-11	FINANCIAL TOWN REFERENDUM
---	----------------------------------

7 Days After the FTR 31-May-11	Financial Town Referendum Runoff [Only if necessary]
-----------------------------------	--

Exhibit 2: Sample Ballot For Referendum

Explanation to Voter: Town of Tiverton Fiscal Year 2011-2012 Budget and Tax Levy	
Vote For One	
← —	<p>1. The Town shall: Appropriate a sum of \$nn,nnn,nnn for School Department General Operating & Capital Expenses; and, Appropriate a sum of \$nn,nnn,nnn for Municipal Operations & Capital Expenses; and, Expend \$nnn,nnn from the Unreserved General Fund to offset the property tax levy; and, Levy a Property Tax not to exceed \$nn,nnn,nnn which is an increase to the prior year's certified Net Tax Levy of n.n% and includes a Motor Vehicle Tax Levy not to exceed \$n,nnn,nnn and a Real & Tangible Property Tax Levy not to exceed \$nn,nnn,nnn; as recommended by the Budget Committee .</p>
← —	<p>2. The Town Shall: Appropriate a sum of \$nn,nnn,nnn for School Department General Operating & Capital Expenses; and, Appropriate a sum of \$nn,nnn,nnn for Municipal Operations & Capital Expenses; and, Levy a Property Tax not to exceed \$nn,nnn,nnn which is an increase to the prior year's certified Net Tax Levy of n.n% and includes a Motor Vehicle Tax Levy not to exceed \$n,nnn,nnn and a Real & Tangible Property Tax Levy not to exceed \$nn,nnn,nnn; and, Approve an excess levy not to exceed \$nn,nnn; as proposed by Elector Petition.</p>

Proposed Changes to Charter

ARTICLE II ELECTIONS

Section 204 Transfer of Town Land

The transfer of any property rights in and/or ownership of any parcel/lot or tract of land owned by the Town of Tiverton as of November 5, 2008, except for parcels in the Industrial Park and transfers pursuant to RI General Law 44-9-18.3, must be approved by a vote of the electors of the Town of Tiverton either at a Financial Town ~~Meeting~~ Referendum, ~~Special Meeting~~ or a Referendum. Any such approval shall expire within five (5) years. Leasing of Town property for a period of ten (10) years or less shall not constitute a transfer of property, provided that at the end of the leasing period the Town retains sole right to renew, continue, or terminate the lease. This section shall not prohibit the Town Council from transferring property rights for the purpose of restricting use of any parcel/lot of land, for conservation or preservation purposes, or in connection with the provision of public utilities or similar services.

ARTICLE III FINANCIAL TOWN MEETING REFERENDUM

Section 301 Budget and Tax Levy Adoption Process (Summarized in Appendix A)

(a) Schedule

- 1.) Initial Budget Workshop: The Budget Committee, Town Council, and School Committee shall participate in an initial budget workshop no later than January 15.
- 2.) Town Administrator: Prepare and submit preliminary Municipal budget (excluding the Town Treasurer's and Town Clerk's budgets) to the Budget Committee and Town Council no later than January 15.
- 3.) Town Clerk: Prepare and submit preliminary Town Clerk budget to the Budget Committee no later than January 15.
- 4.) Town Treasurer: Prepare and submit preliminary Town Treasurer budget to the Budget Committee no later than January 15.
- 5.) School Committee: Prepare and submit preliminary School Department budget to the Budget Committee no later than January 15.
- 6.) Town Council: Approve and submit the final Municipal budget (excluding the Town Treasurer's and Town Clerk's budgets) to the Town Administrator no later than 80 days prior to the Financial Town Referendum.

- 7.) Town Council: Approve and submit the final revenue estimates to the Town Administrator no later than 80 days prior to the Financial Town Referendum.
- 8.) Town Administrator: Submit the final Municipal budget (excluding the Town Treasurer's and Town Clerk's budgets) and final revenue estimates to the Budget Committee no later than 70 days prior to the Financial Town Referendum.
- 9.) Town Clerk: Submit the final Town Clerk budget to the Budget Committee no later than 70 days prior to the Financial Town Referendum.
- 10.) Town Treasurer: Submit the final Town Treasurer budget to the Budget Committee no later than 70 days prior to the Financial Town Referendum.
- 11.) School Committee: Approve and submit the final School Department budget to the Budget Committee no later than 70 days prior to the Financial Town Referendum.
- 12.) Budget Committee: Approve and submit the Budget Committee Budget Proposal and Non Budget Proposals to the Town Clerk no later than 51 days prior to the Financial Town Referendum.
- 13.) School Committee: Submit Optional Budget Proposal and Non Budget Proposals to Town Clerk no later than 44 days prior to the Financial Town Referendum.
- 14.) Town Council: Submit Optional Budget Proposal and Non Budget Proposals to Town Clerk no later than 44 days prior to the Financial Town Referendum.
- 15.) Town Clerk: Budget Proposal elector petitions made available no later than 42 days prior to the Financial Town Referendum.
- 16.) Electors: Budget and Non Budget elector petitions due to the Town Clerk no later than 28 days prior to the Financial Town Referendum.
- 17.) Board of Canvassers: Certification of all elector petitions complete no later than 21 days prior to the Financial Town Referendum.
- 18.) Town Clerk: The Financial Town Hearing shall occur no later than 14 days prior to the Financial Town Referendum.
- 19.) Financial Town Referendum: The Financial Town Referendum shall occur on the Tuesday before the last Monday in May.
- 20.) [If Necessary] Financial Town Referendum Runoff: The Financial Town Referendum Runoff shall occur seven days after the Financial Town Referendum.

(b) Ballot

The Financial Town Referendum ballot shall be approved by the Board of Canvassers.

1.) Budget Proposals: Pursuant to Section 301 (c), Budget Proposals shall appear on said ballot and shall include:

- 1.) the total dollar amount to appropriate for the School Department budget,
- 2.) the total dollar amount to appropriate for the Municipal budget,
- 3.) if necessary, the dollar amount of the Unreserved General Fund to be used to offset the tax levy,
- 4.) the total dollar amount to raise by taxation including maximum dollar amounts for the Motor Vehicle, Real & Tangible Property and resulting Total Property tax levies,
- 5.) the percentage increase or decrease to the prior year's certified Net Tax Levy, and
- 6.) if necessary, the dollar amount of the Total Property Tax Levy that is in excess of the maximum levy as calculated in accordance with R.I.G.L. 44-5-2 (b).

Electors shall be instructed to "Vote For One" budget proposal.

2.) Non Budget Proposals: Pursuant to Section 301 (c), a resolution or ballot question may be included on said ballot, provided that if adopted it shall not alter the ballot entries of Section 301 (b) Ballot 1.) though 6.). Electors shall be instructed to "Approve or Reject" non budget proposal(s).

(c) Access to Ballot

- 1.) The Budget Committee Budget Proposal shall appear first on the ballot in accordance with Section 301(b) 1.). Non Budgetary Proposals submitted by the Budget Committee shall appear on the ballot.
- 2.) At the discretion of the Town Council, an Optional Budget Proposal including the Municipal budget request may appear on the ballot in accordance with Section 301(b) 1.). Non Budgetary Proposals submitted by the Town Council shall appear on the ballot.
- 3.) At the discretion of the School Committee, an Optional Budget Proposal including the School Department budget request may appear on the ballot in accordance with Section 301(b) 1.). Non Budgetary Proposals submitted by the School Committee shall appear on the ballot.

- 4.) Qualified Elector Budget Proposals in accordance with Section 301(b) 1.) submitted by elector petition in accordance with Section 301 (d) shall appear on the ballot in an order determined by to Board of Canvassers lottery. Qualified Non Budget Proposals submitted by elector petition in accordance with Section 301 (d) shall appear on the ballot.

(d) Petitions

1.) Elector Budget Proposals: Electors of the town may petition that an alternate budget proposal be included in the Financial Town Referendum. No later than 42 days before the Financial Town Referendum the Town Clerk shall make petition forms available which include fields for the name of the elector who is the petition originator and the ballot entry amounts of Section 301 (b) Ballot 1.) through 6.). The Town Clerk shall record the dollar amounts sought by the petition originator and enter the same on the petition forms. Petitions must be returned to the Town Clerk no later than 28 days prior to the Financial Town Referendum. Any language added to a petition, or any alteration of the language thereof subsequent to its verification by the Town Clerk, shall be of no force or effect. There shall be no limit to the number of separate petitions which an elector may sign. Nothing in this charter shall prevent an elected official or any appointed member of a Board, Committee or Commission from being a petition originator or signatory. Nothing in this Charter shall prevent an elector, a majority of an elected body or Board, Committee or Commission from petitioning. An elector may originate no more than one Budget Proposal petition.

2.) Elector Non Budget Proposals: No later than 28 days before the Financial Town Referendum electors may petition that a Non Budget Proposal pursuant to Section 301 (b) 2.) be included in the Financial Town Referendum.

3.) Qualification of Petitions: The Town Clerk shall cause petition signatures to be verified by the Board of Canvassers, such verification to be completed no later than 21 days before the Financial Town Referendum. All petitions for proposals shall be included on the ballot for the Financial Town Referendum and presented at the Financial Town Hearing provided that Elector Budget Proposals are accompanied by 301 qualified elector signatures and Elector Non Budget Proposals are accompanied by 50 qualified elector signatures.

(f) Financial Town Hearing

1.) Notice: The agenda notice for the Financial Town Hearing shall comprise the Budget Committee recommendation and other qualified budget proposals as they will appear on the ballot for the Financial Town Referendum.

2.) Time: The Town Clerk shall schedule the Financial Town Hearing to be no later than fourteen (14) days prior to the Financial Town Referendum.

3.) Agenda: The Town Clerk shall preside over the Financial Town Hearing.

4.) Purpose: The ballot pursuant to Section 301 (b) as it will be presented at the Financial Town Referendum shall be provided for electors to equitably review and debate all budget and non – budget proposals.

(g) Financial Town Referendum

1.) Purpose: The Financial Town Referendum may order any tax which lawfully may be ordered, make appropriations, and transact any other business pertaining to the affairs of the Town which may legally come before such referendum via Budget Proposals and Non Budget Proposals.

2.) Notice: No less than ten (10) days prior to the Financial Town Referendum, the Town Council President shall cause the referendum to be noticed pursuant to RI General Laws.

3.) Time: The Financial Town Referendum shall be held on the Tuesday before the last Monday in May and poll hours shall be the same as those used for a general election. Absentee ballots shall be permitted.

4.) Jurisdiction: The Board of Canvassers shall have jurisdiction over the Financial Town Referendum.

5.) Ballot: Electors shall vote on the ballot in accordance with Section 301 (b) presented at the Financial Town Hearing.

6.) Budget Proposals: The Budget Proposal receiving the most and a majority of votes shall be adopted.

7.) Non Budget Proposals: Non Budgetary questions shall be adopted if the number of approvals is greater than the number of rejections. In the case of contradicting non budgetary proposals, the proposal receiving the most approvals shall be adopted.

(h) Financial Town Referendum Runoff

1.) Purpose: The Financial Town Referendum Runoff will ensure that a Budget Proposal is adopted by a majority of voters.

2.) Applicability: The Financial Town Referendum Runoff shall occur only if no Budget Proposal at the Financial Town Referendum receives a majority of votes.

3.) Notice: The Financial Town Referendum Runoff shall be noticed with the Financial Town Referendum pursuant to RI General Laws.

4.) Time: The Financial Town Referendum Runoff shall be held seven days after the Financial Town Referendum and poll hours shall be the same as those used for a general election. Absentee ballots shall be permitted.

5.) Jurisdiction: The Board of Canvassers shall have jurisdiction over the Financial Town Referendum Runoff.

6.) Ballot: The ballot shall comprise the two Budget Proposals receiving the highest number of votes in the Financial Town Referendum. Electors shall be instructed to “Vote For One”.

7.) Budget Proposals: The Budget Proposal receiving the most votes shall be adopted.

Section 302 Special Meetings Referenda

Special ~~Meetings~~ Referenda shall be called by the Town Clerk upon a resolution of no less than two thirds of the Town Council or whenever five (5%) percent of the electors of the Town shall make a request in writing for the calling of a ~~Town Meeting~~ Special Referendum and direct the same to the Town Clerk; provided, that said five (5%) percent shall be computed on the total number of electors appearing on the last canvassed voting lists of the Town as having a right to vote in the transaction of any business that may be duly presented at such ~~meeting~~ referendum. Any request for Special Referenda shall include a Budget Proposal and or Non Budget Proposal(s) in accordance with Section 301 (b) Ballot. Requested Budget Proposal(s) shall appear on said ballot with the currently adopted Budget Proposal. Voters shall be instructed to “Vote for One” Budget Proposal. Voters shall be instructed to “Approve or Reject” Non Budget Proposals. The Board of Canvassers shall have jurisdiction over Special Referenda. Special Referenda shall be noticed in accordance with state and local law. The date of such Special Meeting Referendum shall not exceed forty five (45) days following certification of the petition.

(a) Restriction of Special Meetings Referenda

No Special ~~Meeting~~ Referendum shall be called without the consent of the Town Council if the subject proposed to be considered has been acted upon by a Financial Town ~~Meeting~~ Referendum within six (6) months previous to the time of such proposed call.

(b) Subjects Requiring Special Notice

No vote shall be taken at a Special Referendum to levy a tax or to dispose of real property of the Town unless special notice thereof has been given in the warrant issued for the warning of such referendum.

Section ~~310~~ 303 Unreserved General Fund

No moneys shall be taken, withdrawn or obligated from the Unreserved General Fund if such withdrawal would cause said fund to fall below three percent (3%) of the current operating budget. This restriction may be suspended on a case basis by an affirmative vote of four-fifths of the Town Council in order to address a declared state of emergency as enacted by the Town Council.

ARTICLE IV TOWN COUNCIL

Section 407 Powers and Duties

3) Develop and publish such policies, plans and objectives consistent with the long-range plan to provide a basis for planning the ~~m~~Municipal (non-school) budget by the Town Administrator and its review by the Budget Committee and to provide whatever interpretive consultation is appropriate for generating a budget within these general guidelines. Review and approve the ~~preliminary~~ Municipal budget and revenue estimates submitted by the Town Administrator ~~within 10 days in accordance with Section 301(a) of this Charter.~~

14.) Order such budget reductions or transfers of funds within the Municipal budget as may become necessary to meet unanticipated requirements or shortfalls during the fiscal year, as recommended by the Administrator ~~and within any constraints imposed by the Financial Town Meeting.~~

16.) Upon receipt by the Town Clerk of a Budget Proposal which requires a tax levy in excess of the maximum permitted by state law, apply for excess levy approval from the state.

ARTICLE V TOWN ADMINISTRATOR

Section 503 Duties and Powers of the Town Administrator

The Town Administrator shall:

1.) Submit to the Budget Committee and Town Council, ~~not later than 150 days prior to the Financial Town Meeting~~, a ~~proposed~~ preliminary ~~m~~Municipal (non school) budget of receipts and expenditures and an explanatory budget message in accordance with Section 301(a) of this Charter. Submit to the Budget Committee, ~~not later than 120 days prior to the Financial Town Meeting~~, the proposed budget and revenue estimates as reviewed and approved by the Town Council in accordance with Section 301(a) of this Charter. For such purpose the head of each office, department and agency shall submit to the Town Administrator estimates of their anticipated revenues and expenditures with such supporting data as he/she may request. In preparing the proposed budget, the Town Administrator shall review the estimates, and with the exception of the School Department budget, may revise them as he/she deem appropriate. The Municipal budget, as proposed by the Town Administrator shall include all anticipated revenues and expenditures, except those for the school purposes, and the total of such expenditures shall not be greater than the total of the anticipated revenue. He/She shall incorporate the total of these expenditures and revenues with the total he/she has arrived at for general town purposes.

ARTICLE VI FINANCIAL SERVICES

Section 602 Town Treasurer

(a) Duties and Responsibilities

- 2.) Monitoring the spending by all departments, boards and commissions of the Town to insure that the budget approved at the Financial Town ~~Meeting~~ Referendum is not exceeded.
- 9.) Preparing an annual department budget to be submitted ~~to the Budget Committee~~ in accordance with Section 301(a) of this Charter.
- 12.) Releasing to the parties legally entitled to redeem the same, real estate conveyed to the Town by the Collector of Taxes, upon payment to the Town of taxes, penalties and expenses thereto, and selling other parcels on which the period of redemption has expired.
- 13.) Borrowing, if necessary, in the name and on the credit of the Town, such sums of money as may be required for transacting the obligations incurred by duly approved appropriations, such sums of money not to exceed, in the aggregate, the sum of \$500,000.00, provided that Town Council approval is granted prior to said borrowing.

ARTICLE VII BUDGET COMMITTEE

Section 701 Composition

The Budget Committee shall consist of eleven (11) members elected for a term of four (4) years, so staggered, that no more than six (6) terms expire at any one time. The Budget Committee shall elect annually, from among its membership, a Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer and other such officers as they deem appropriate. Budget Committee members shall hold no other town position.

Section 702 Elections and Vacancies

Biennial elections to fill vacancies on the non-partisan Budget Committee shall be held at general elections.

(a) Transitional Election

The first Budget Committee membership terms to expire after the adoption of this amendment shall be extended to the next general election, at which time a like number of candidates shall be elected.

Section 703 Duties and Responsibilities

The Budget Committee has the following responsibilities:

1.) To participate in the Initial Budget Workshop.

~~1-2.)~~ To review the budgets submitted by the Town Administrator and the School Department, in which review the Committee shall consider both the supporting evidence for each requested budget expenditure and the ability of the Town to support the level of service recommended.

~~2-3.)~~ To provide the electorate with budget recommendations which balance the value of the proposed goods and services with their cost in taxes.

~~3~~ 4.) To develop submit a docket budget proposal and optionally non budget proposal(s) to the Town Clerk no later than 51 days prior to the Financial Town Referendum. including both (a) resolutions of its own, those of the Town Council, the Town Administrator and those submitted by others and (b) the preceding year's approved budget, the budget requests of the Town Administrator and the School Department for the coming year, and the Budget Committee's recommendations.

~~4-5.)~~ To prepare and submit ~~the docket~~ a budget report for publication to the Town Administrator Clerk no later than 51 days prior to the at least thirty (30) days before the Financial Town Meeting-Referendum.

~~5-6.)~~ To present ~~the docket~~ Budget Committee proposal(s) to the electorate at the a public hearing and at the Financial Town Meeting Hearing.

ARTICLE VIII TOWN OFFICIALS AND OFFICES

Section 801 Town Clerk

There shall be a non-partisan Town Clerk who shall be elected at the general election for a two (2) year term pursuant to the provisions of State Law and this Charter. The Town Clerk shall be the ~~Clerk of the Financial Town Meeting~~, Clerk of the Town Council, Clerk of the Probate Court, Clerk of the Board of Canvassers, Clerk of the Municipal Court and the Recorder of Deeds.

(a) Duties and Responsibilities

It shall be the responsibility of the Town Clerk to make permanent record of all proceedings and certify by signature all actions of the aforesaid bodies, be custodian of the Town Seal and of official documents, contracts, and records of the town. In addition, the Town Clerk shall direct and supervise the recordings of deeds, mortgages, surveys, vital statistics, licenses, permits and other such records as shall by ordinance and law be required to be kept. The Town Clerk shall issue birth certificates, marriage licenses and such other licenses and permits as required by ordinance or law. The Town Clerk shall be responsible for receiving ~~resolutions~~ proposals for the Financial Town ~~Meeting~~ Referendum. Additionally, the Town Clerk shall print, advertise and distribute the ~~docket~~ ballot at least twenty (20) days prior to the Financial Town ~~Meeting~~ Referendum. The Town Clerk shall submit his or her budget ~~directly to the Budget Committee~~ in accordance with Section 301(a) of this Charter. The Town Clerk shall perform all other such duties as may be prescribed by this Charter or by law.

Section 802 Town Sergeant

There shall be a non-partisan Town Sergeant elected at the general election for a two (2) year term pursuant to the provisions of State Law and this Charter. The duties of the Town Sergeant shall be to attend all Town Council meetings, post Town Council agendas to designated bulletin boards in compliance with the Open Meeting Law, transport and post voter list to each district, transport ballots to the State Board of Elections, and assist the Board of Canvassers at all ~~Financial and Special Town Meetings~~ Referenda.

ARTICLE IX DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES

Section 902 Police Department

(a) Organization

There shall be a Police Department, the head of which shall be the Chief of Police, who shall have served at least five (5) years in the rank of Lieutenant or higher in any organized police department and shall during those years have gained command experience in several areas of responsibility. He/she shall possess a bachelor's degree in either criminal justice or sociology. The Chief of Police shall be employed for an initial contract period, not to exceed three (3) years,

by the Town Administrator with the approval of the Town Council. Renewal contracts shall not exceed three (3) years. There shall be such other subordinate officers, patrolmen, special police officers and employees as shall be determined from time to time by the Town Administrator, upon the recommendation of the Chief of Police and the approval of the Town Council, ~~subject to appropriation by the Financial Town Meeting.~~ The organization of the department into divisions, offices or grades shall be made by the Town Council on recommendation of the Town Administrator, in consultation with the Chief of Police.

Section 903 Fire and Rescue Department

(a) Organization

There shall be a Fire and Rescue Department, the head of which shall be the Fire Chief, who shall have at least ten (10) years experience with progressively greater responsibility in fire department management, firefighting, fire prevention, and Emergency Medical Services. He/she shall possess at minimum an Associates degree in fire science, public administration, or a related field, and five (5) years experience in a command position, as well as two (2) years of administrative experience. In addition the Fire Chief shall be a qualified Emergency Medical Technician (EMT). The Fire Chief shall be appointed for an initial contract period not to exceed three (3) years, by the Town Administrator with the advice and consent of the Town Council. Renewal contracts shall not exceed three (3) years. There shall be such other subordinate officers, firefighters, EMTs and employees as shall be determined from time to time by the Town Administrator, upon the recommendation of the Fire Chief and the approval of the Town Council, ~~subject to appropriation by the Financial Town Meeting.~~ The organization of the department into divisions, offices or grades shall be made by the Town Council on recommendation of the Town Administrator, in consultation with the Fire Chief.

ARTICLE XI SCHOOL DEPARTMENT

Section 1101 School Committee

(a) Powers and Duties

The School Committee shall be responsible for the general care and management of the Tiverton Public School System, including the selection of the Superintendent of Schools. The School Committee shall prepare and submit its budget requests to the Budget Committee ~~and Town Administrator as required in accordance with Section 301(a) of this Charter.~~ Additionally, the School Committee shall have all other duties, responsibilities and powers as provided for in State Law. For all labor or collective bargaining agreements requiring approval of the School Committee, the details of any tentative agreement shall be made public at least three days prior to the meeting at which the final approval vote is to be taken.

~~**(b) Compensation**~~

~~The School Committee annually, shall provide to the Budget Committee, in addition to its budget request, recommendations for compensation of its members. Actual compensation will be as determined at the Financial Town Meeting.~~

ARTICLE XII MISCELLANEOUS

Section 1217 Health Benefits for Elected Officials

Health benefits for elected officials, including the School Committee, shall be limited to the position of Town Clerk or such other position(s) approved by ~~a Financial Town Meeting~~ the Financial Town Referendum or Special Referendum. This section does not preclude town officials from obtaining health benefits at their own expense.

Section 1218 – Use of Town Resources to Influence a Voting Contest

No officer or employee of the Town, including the school Department, shall use, or cause to be used, Town property, goods, money, grants, or labor to influence the outcome of an election, ballot question, ~~Financial Town Meeting~~, or referendum; the foregoing shall not prohibit the distribution or publication of election, ballot question, ~~Financial Town Meeting~~, or referendum information by the Town Clerk, the Board of Canvassers, or a Charter Review Commission.

~~**Section 1309 Compensation**~~

~~Compensation for the Electrical, Plumbing and Mechanical Inspectors as well as the Harbormaster shall be set by the Financial Town Meeting in accordance with Section 311 of this Charter.~~

Financial Town Referendum Issue Tracking Sheet

16 May April 2011

MAX ID = 43		Jen Caron = JC Nancy Driggs = NG Brian Medieros = BM Bob Gaw = BG Jeff Sroczynski = JS					
ID #	Origination Date	Raised By	Section	Issue	Status	Notes	Possible Solicitor Review
1	11-Apr-11	JC	Cover Page	"Improvements over FTM" - add a chart / list of all things in common with FTM.	Open	Ongoing	
3	11-Apr-11	BM	Section 301 d 2	Electon Non Budget Proposals - Are there things we need to include/exclude?	Open	Brian to bring forward a list for discussion	
9	11-Apr-11	BM	Section 301 (c)	Who will automatically place budget proposal on ballot?	Open	Consensus on 21 March gave BC (lead), TC, and SC access to ballot. Issue raised again by BM on 11 April. JC took initiative to go before the SC on 4/26. BM: Proposed an idea where BC only leads, and charter has language where TC/SC could endorse either BC Recommendation or a petition - and said endorsement would appear on ballot. JC: Initial feedback from the SC is that they want access. Language drafted for review by SC. Suggest leaving open until after meeting with SC on 10 May. JC: Most agree it is the role of the BC to recommend (take the lead) re first, automatic, required Budget Proposal. As such if the FTMCAC agrees recommend closing.	
10	11-Apr-11	BM	Section 301 (b)	how to have one-time process without risks of plurality	Open	Inquired with Solicitor re plurality "Vote for One" ballot structure. Solicitor provided written opinion dated 3 December 2010 that there is no legal provision to prevent a plurality "Vote for One" ballot. Policy tradeoff for FTMCAC: "minority adoption" versus "non-finality" BM will not support a plurality vote. JS proposed a vote for one with majority requirement, and a post runoff of the two highest vote getters if needed. JC to draft language in V4. JC: Language drafted for FTMCAC review and approval.	
11	11-Apr-11	BM		retaining FTM voters' rights to exceed state tax-cap	Open	BM has proposed language for consideration. BM to send JC language - upon agreement of draft forward to solicitor for request. JC: BM resigned from the FTMCAC. To Date he has not brought this language forward as a member of the public. Recommend FTMCAC discuss in conjunction with Item 28.	X
15	11-Apr-11	BM	301 g 1.)	what to do with other business allowed at FTM	Open	Handled via Non Budget Proposals. JC added section 301 g 1.) which make it clear that FTR can also address other questions. BM: Is there something that may need to change when FTM>FTR? Ask Nancy.	X
17	11-Apr-11	BM		unanticipated legal / Charter changes resulting from FTM-to-referendum change	Open	BM stated this is like #11 above FTMCAC to review and compile list to best of ability so that it is prepared for questions.	
23	22-Apr-11	Laura Epke	Section 301 d. 1	Delete: "Originator specified ballot entry amounts must and shall be verified by the Town Clerk within one (1) business day. No petition shall be accepted that proposes an appropriation or tax levy amount that is in violation of the RI General Laws." Town Clerk arbitrating this could create a battle. Better to remain silent and let the petition live/die on the merits.	Open	FTMCAC to decide JC asked that this be left open JC: Owing to the comment by Carol Hermann, JC deleted this requirement - for FTMCAC review and approval.	
24	25-Apr-11	JC	???	Allow for absentee ballots	Open	Town Clerk investigateing with BOC/BOE.	
25	25-Apr-11	JC	301 (b) 1.)	Allow for General Fund Offset/there must be a way to accomplish this on the ballot in one step, not two.	Open	JC drafted language to permit this. Approach is the same as used for the excess levy - namely to bury the approval right in the budget proposal statement. JC: FTMCAC review and approval	X
26	26-May-11	Carol Hermann		Is there a limit on the total # of proposals? For example, with 8 proposals 15% of the voters voting could decide budget.	Open	JC: Plurality issue address by Section 301 (h) runoff. Suggest FTMCAC review and approval.	
27	26-May-11	Carol Hermann		Petition & process to exceed the CAP.	Open	JC: Language added to Town Council powers and duties which requires then to seek state approvals for excess levy should a Budget Proposal with an excess levy be received by the Town Clerk. Recommend FTMCAC review and approval.	
28	26-May-11	Carol Hermann		4/5ths must be clarified	Open	Discuss this with Item 11	
29	26-May-11	Bill Rearick		Special Meeting: State law allows for an additional budget. The SC can ask the appropriating body for more funds. We need to comply with the RIGL requirement. See RIGL 16-2-9 #9 and 16-2-21.4 (Carulo Act)	Open	JC: See latest cover letter to SC. Propose that current language meets the RIGL requirements. Suggest leaving open until after meeting with SC on 10 May. JC: V5 has revised language. To date Robinson has no issues re Ballot Access in a Carulo action. Recommend closing - reopen if Robinsons legal opinion changes.	

Jen Caron = JC
 Nancy Driggs = NG
 Brian Medieros = BM
 Bob Gaw = BG
 Jeff Sroczynski = JS

Financial Town Referendum Issue Tracking Sheet

16 May April 2011

ID #	Origination Date	Raised By	Section	Issue	Status	Notes	Possible Solicitor Review
30	4-May-11	JC		Should FTR Runoff be 7 or 14 days after FTR?	Open	Suggest getting input from Town Clerk & Town Administrator. 7 Days after FTR is by defn the day after Memorial Day. Can BOE print Ballots that fast? Do we want to let a news cycle occur? JC: Needs further investigation - leave open.	
31	4-May-11	Frank Marshall		Concern regarding minority adoption in a plurality vote.	Open	Recommend closing because Runoff obviates concern	
2	16-May-11	Treasurer	Section 602 (a) 12.)	Before commenting, I would like to explore this addition as noted –	Open		
4	16-May-11	Treasurer	Section 602 (a) 13.)	Borrowing....appears to be a partial restatement of current charter #10 – may wish to review the two items and segregate as necessary.	Open		
5	16-May-11	Treasurer	Section 602 (a)	Manage the daily operations of the Treasurer's Office, which includes but is not limited to the following: Review and approve journal entries Review asset and liability reconciliations on a regular basis, to ensure all accounts are properly stated on the trial balance. Review, recommend and write a department policy and procedures manual. To ensure proper flow of information within Town government, work with other departments to implement proper documentation of accounting related input to the general ledger.	Open		
6	8-May-11	J Amarantes	Article V	1. The first is ARTICLE V on page 7 where line 10 should be changed to read "...exception of the School Department, Town Clerk and Town Treasurer Budget, may revise them as he/she deems appropriate...". It is necessary to add the Town Clerk and Treasurer to this exception, (1) to insure an appointed official does not change an elected official's proposed budget, and, (2) to make this provision consistent with the language in ARTICLE III Section 301 (a) 2.), 6.), 8.) which clearly excludes the Administrator and Council from involvement in the Treasurer's and Clerk's budget.	Open		
7	8-May-11	J Amarantes	Section 703.4 AND Section 703.5	2. Second. I can't overstate the importance of minimizing radical changes in order to increase the chances of voter approval of this charter change. Accordingly I urge you to keep the requirement for the development of a docket by the Budget Committee. The electors are used to the docket and rely on its content and format. The docket is like an old friend which must be retained in order for the electors to follow the proposed budget in a format they are used to, and so that they can bring the docket to the Financial Town Hearing and to polling place (and into the booth if they are so inclined to do so). Thus I ask that on page 9, Section 703 4. read "...to develop a docket..." and Section 703 5. read "To prepare and submit the docket..."	Open		
8	10-May-11	TSC/Robinson	Section 301 (c)	Robinson reviewed older draft which offered V1, V2, V3 ballot access options. Robinson: RE SC BP iaw BC recommendation for municipal. This would be a problem b/c it could limit the SC.	Open	V5 as drafted removes this restriction. Recommend closing.	
12	10-May-11	TSC/Robinson	Section 301 (d) 1.)	Robinson reviewed older draft: RE Elector Budget Proposals / The concern is who makes the determination of legality.	Open	JC: V5 as drafted removes eliminates this determination all together. Recommend closing.	
13	10-May-11	TSC/Robinson	Section 301 (b) 1.)	"Total" - this was very important to the SC - that the final language permit a "Total" appropriation.	Open	JC: Facts are in litigation. It is important that the draft charter proposal be general enough so that the charter complies with either verdict. This was expressed at the SC meeting on 10 May, and is consistent with the desire of the SC to be able to put forth a total amount inclusive of aid. I also stated that this is how the FTM is now - it depends on the BC/maker of motion. Recommend FTM/CAC carefully generate language that makes this comply with the possible set of court verdicts.	

Financial Town Referendum Issue Tracking Sheet

16 May April 2011

ID #	Origination Date	Raised By	Section	Issue	Status	Notes	Possible Solicitor Review
14	10-May-11	TSC/Robinson		Policy: Robinson feels that the FTM allows for "collective discussion" and as a result the Town has avoided Carulo actions where the SC sues the Town for more money.	Open	JC: No action needed, just a policy statement. Recommend closing.	
16	10-May-11	TSC/Robinson	Section 302	No ballot access problem for Carulo action was identified.	Open	JC: No foreseen issue. Recommend closing.	
18	10-May-11	Bergandy		Supports the private vote	Open	JC: No action needed, just a policy statement. Recommend closing.	
19	10-May-11	Bergandy		Has some concern about the FTH and FTR voter turnout. Will the same people attend both? Will both have good elector turnout?	Open	JC: A valid concern. FTH is elevated in stature from the current FTM BC public hearing. We likely will never know the answer to this until we give it a few years. There may or may not be a problem. Many will watch the debate on CH 18 and youtube. Recommend closing.	
20	10-May-11	Coulter/Bergandy	Section 301 (c)	Ventured an opinion that the SC would want access to the ballot, and Jan said it should be unrestricted without V2 limitation.	Open	JC: No action needed, just their preference. Since no other SC members opined, recommend leaving this section as in V5. Recommend closing.	
21	11-Apr-11	JC	Throughout	"Financial Town Referendum"	Closed	Implemented by JC Agreed to by unanimous consent on 11 April	
22	11-Apr-11	BM	Section 301 g 3	BOC Jurisdiction over FTR	Closed	JC talked to Clerk: BOC would certify vote by next day JC spoke to BOC Chair: RIGL is silent on BOC jurisdiction over FTMs. BOC agreeable to have charter delegate jurisdiction to BOC. BOC meeting Monday AM to discuss.	X
32	11-Apr-11	JC	Section 902 a	"subject to appropriation by the FTM" Should we not delete this?	Closed	JC talked to Laura Epke. Reason for deletion is that there is no mechanism to vote on this in the Referendum under the MEP ballot question format. Recommend deletion.	
33	11-Apr-11	JC	Section 903 a	"subject to appropriation by the FTM" Should we not delete this?	Closed	JC talked to Laura Epke. Reason for deletion is that there is no mechanism to vote on this in the Referendum under the MEP ballot question format. Recommend deletion.	
34	11-Apr-11	JC	Section 1101	(b) Compensation Should we not delete this section?	Closed	JC talked to Laura Epke. Reason for deletion is that there is no mechanism to vote on this in the Referendum under the MEP ballot question format. Recommend deletion.	
35	11-Apr-11	JC	Section 1309	(b) Compensation Should we not delete this section?	Closed	JC talked to Laura Epke. Reason for deletion is that there is no mechanism to vote on this in the Referendum under the MEP ballot question format. Recommend deletion.	
36	11-Apr-11	BM		what if there is only one budget proposal on ballot	Closed	FTMCAC to decide policywise that if there are no challenges to BC budget then just adopt it. Unanimous consent that FTR must occur.	
37	11-Apr-11	BM		what to do with resolutions under FTM (TC's right?)	Closed	Addressed by Non Budget Proposals and those that have been hard worded into the charter proposal	
38	11-Apr-11	BM		can't do additional spending items (50 signatures/"ladder truck")	Closed	Addressed by Non Budget Proposals because they cannot affect Budget Proposal Entities	
39	11-Apr-11	BM		what to do about voters / TC right to call "special FTM" during the year	Closed	JC drafted language to address this concern in V3. The right of TC/electors to call special referenda remains unchanged.	
40	20-Apr-11	Tax Assessor		change "secret vote" to "private vote" (Assessors personal preference)	Closed	FTMCAC agreed "Secret Ballot" is a term of the art. Wording unchanged.	
	20-Apr-11	Tax Assessor		change "appeal" to "appear" in "Access to Ballot"	Closed	JC fixed this	
41	20-Apr-11	Tax Assessor		change "ABR" to "FTR" in flowchart	Closed	JC fixed this	
42	20-Apr-11	Tax Assessor		Clarify Municipal include/not include treasurer & clerk budgets	Closed	JC fixed this	X
43	20-Apr-11	Tax Assessor		Move FTR date to last Tues in May. Confirm OK with Treasurer, TA re prepay issue. BM preferred 2 June - unanimous consent to put back to 2 June and see how feedback comes in.	Closed	Updated in V3 to last Tues in May Updated in V4 to first Tuesday in June	

May 4, 2011

Dear Members of the Tiverton School Committee:

Per our discussion at your 26 April 2011 meeting, please find attached a most recent draft of the charter proposal for your review in advance of the 10 May 2011 School Committee meeting.

Regretfully the FTMCAC has not met since our discussion. However, based upon the information conveyed to me by your committee and others in the last week, draft V5 is modified to address expressed concerns.

I look forward to receiving your further input on 10 May 2011. If there are advance questions please contact me via the Town Clerk. Additionally, if any part of the V5 is not preferable to the School Committee, please provide alternate language.

In closing, the final FTMCAC charter amendment proposal is likely to include compromises, and it is hoped any input received from the School Committee can be incorporated into the document.

Your continued input as an important stakeholder in this unique and important initiative is greatly appreciated.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jeff Caron
Co-Chair,
Financial Town Meeting Changes Advisory Committee

FROM TOWN TREASURER

Dear Members of the Financial Town Meeting Changes Advisory Committee,

Asked to review the changes to Section 602 (a) Duties and Responsibilities of the Town Treasurer, I would make the following recommendations:

2.) – no other changes as noted

9.) – no other changes as noted

12.) Before commenting, I would like to explore this addition as noted –

13.) Borrowing....appears to be a partial restatement of current charter #10 – may wish to review the two items and segregate as necessary.

In the short time I have held this position, I would suggest adding the following:
Manage the daily operations of the Treasurer's Office, which includes but is not limited to the following:

Review and approve journal entries

Review asset and liability reconciliations on a regular basis, to ensure all accounts are properly stated on the trial balance.

Review, recommend and write a department policy and procedures manual.

To ensure proper flow of information within Town government, work with other departments to implement proper documentation of accounting related input to the general ledger.

From: cccfe@cox.net
To: ["Donna Edwards"; "Daniel Rapoza"; "Joseph Sousa"; "David Perry"; "James Amarantes"; "Laura Epke"; Nancy Mello; "JoAnne Arruda"; "Jeff Caron";](#)
cc: ["Jeff Caron";](#)
Subject: Re: Letter to BC.pdf - Adobe Reader
Date: Saturday, April 30, 2011 4:34:45 PM

Not sure what the committee wants to do with this letter, if anything. Obviously I will not be back until after May 9th.

I suggest the Budget Committee not become embroiled in such a difficult issue. Time and time again, the public have thwarted any effort to change their Financial Town Meeting other than the day. In as much as I personally have issues with how it is done today, I do not think we should offer an opinion until after the actual charter amendment⁵ is drafted for the ballot.

Just one person's view. I'd hate for people to think we are seeking changes to our our committee or our responsibility in providing recommendations to the taxpayer before the town meeting has taken place.

Chris

---- Nancy Mello <nmello@townoftivertonri.com> wrote:

> Forwarding email, will send hard copy in mail today.

>

> Nancy

>

From: [James Amarantes](#)
To: nmello@townoftivertonri.com; jeff@catek.com;
Subject: FTMCAC proposed Charter Amendment
Date: Sunday, May 08, 2011 8:49:07 PM

I am in receipt of above referenced draft. Please be advised that the Budget Committee has elected not to comment as a Committee but rather leaves any responses to the individual members of the Budget Committee. So I can speak only

for myself as the Budget Committee has not taken any position on this charter amendment. I enthusiastically support the draft and the concept of an all day referendum where balloting is conducted in the privacy of a ballot booth; a cornerstone of our democracy. This concept also levels the playing field although I am sure you are aware of the rumblings of special interest groups who will oppose this charter amendment for any reason, however petty, as they don't want a level playing field.

In any event, I only see the need for two important changes as follows:

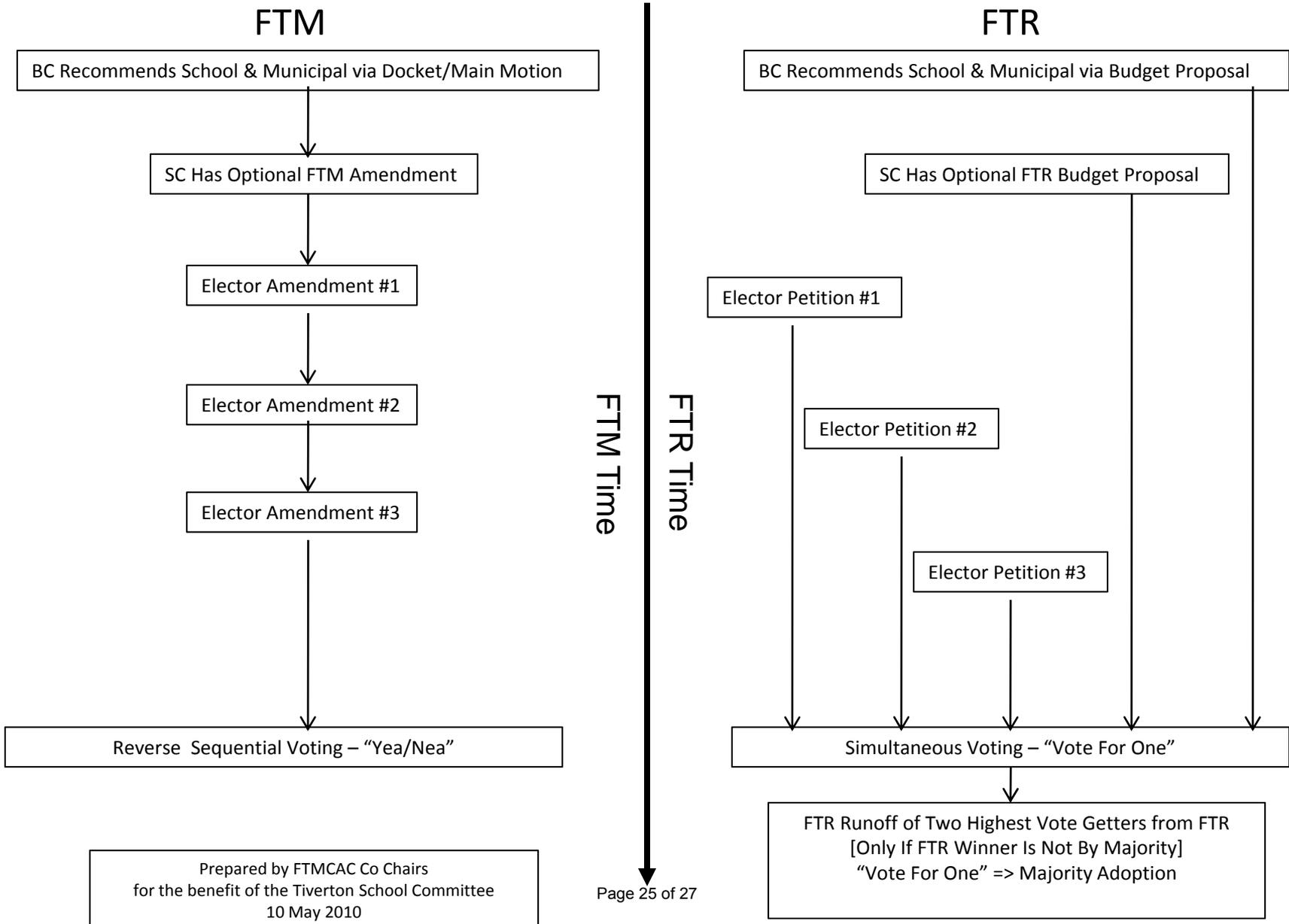
1. The first is ARTICLE V on page 7 where line 10 should be changed to read "...exception of the School Department, Town Clerk and

Town Treasurer Budget, may revise them as he/she deems appropriate...". It is necessary to add the Town Clerk and Treasurer to this exception, (1) to insure an appointed official does not change an elected official's proposed budget, and, (2) to make this provision consistent with the language in ARTICLE III Section 301 (a) 2.), 6.), 8.) which clearly excludes the Administrator and Council from involvement in the Treasurer's and Clerk's budget.

2. Second. I can't overstress the importance of minimizing radical changes in order to increase the chances of voter approval of this charter change. Accordingly I urge you to keep the requirement for the development of a docket by the Budget Committee. The electors are used to the docket and rely on its content and format. The docket is like an old friend which must be retained in order for the electors to follow the proposed budget in a format they are used to, and so that they can bring the docket to the Financial Town Hearing and to polling place (and into the booth if they are so inclined to do so). Thus I ask that on page 9, Section 703 4. read "...to develop a docket..." and Section 703 5. read "To prepare and submit the docket..."

James P. Amarantes

School Committee Ballot Access Comparison



Meeting before School Committee – May 10, 2011

Co-chairs, Jeff Caron and Nancy Driggs

Jeff Caron presented his Schematic of School Committee Ballot Access Comparison, stressing how functionally similar in status the two schemes are – SC not losing anything.

Robinson:

Indicated he hadn't yet read 5/4 draft – so was just re-acting to 4/20 memo.

Said, clearly, the town has the right to change from FTM to a balloting process, BUT, V2 of 4/20 draft concerns include:

301(b)(1) – provided such budget represents budget in accord with BC – is this an improper restriction on the SC?

p.4 elector budget proposal – can't put something in violation of RI Gen. Laws – who makes that determination? Town official?

Robinson said he has been a counsel for a long time to SC- and haven't had a Caruolo fight (which is very expensive) in last 15 years

p.2 – what on ballot: total amount for school budget. Are currently involved in litigation whether school needs to report only local budget, or total budget. JC suggests, maybe strike "total", so it can go either way depending what court decision is. JC says pick words general enough so cards can fall where they must.

Bergandy:

FTM allows people to express concerns and have discussions – people come to FTM b/c have a stake

FTR can still have discussion – BUT, people can vote in privacy

Coulter:

Any cap on petitions? JC: not now – and, if a limit, what criteria

Robinson:

Can't take a position at this time – don't act on it tonight.

JC, only 4 items?

Robinson: haven't looked at newest draft

JC: Does SC want access to the ballot – JC would like some barometer

Robinson – haven't reviewed new draft details

Coulter: the FTMCAC would like our input

Bergandy: the SC must have access to the ballot, and if budget exceeds cap, voters should decide on that