

## **GTF: Charter Sub-Task Force Meeting Minutes**

Monday, November 21, 2022

Attendees: Ray Seigfried, Steve Benigni, Barbara Macklem, and Lynda Kolski

Guest: Jeff Politis

Meeting called to order by Ray at 7:37 Buzz Ware

Ray opened the meeting by stating that he wanted more time to talk to the Assessors, Budget Committee, New Castle County Government, and the School Board to review time frames for their budget for our Task Force to understand this process overall. An opportunity exists to align the process and provide flexibility for Town Assembly to create an integrated budget process and a fiscal year that Town Assembly can determine. With this in mind, our focus will be on Jeff Politis's email regarding the authority to spend money for the Village. Ray invited Jeff to present his email for consideration from the Task Force.

Jeff reviewed his email explaining the difficulty in the current process. Section 8 Budget Committee (b) states that the Budget Committee will prepare a budget governing the expenditure of all Village funds and all monies derived from the collection of ground rents which are subject to the approval and consent of the residents of the Village. The budget process is performed by having the Town Assembly vote to approve the proposed budget and then approval by a majority of Village residents through a referendum. Over the past several years, Arden has received grants, donations, and gifts that technically should have been approved by the majority of residents through a referendum but were not.

Additionally, the Town Government lacks the authority to advance any spending, reducing its effectiveness. After a discussion of this point, it was decided that the Charter should provide a specific opportunity for our Town government to make decisions on spending. Therefore, the Task Force will add a new section (d) to define this opportunity with some examples for guidance.

The subtask Force also agreed to modify Section 8 [c] in the third sentence. To read, "The proposed budget with any amendments thereto, if approved by a majority vote of those present by the Town Assembly, shall be submitted to a general referendum of the residents of the Village."

Lynda Kolski presented an email from Ellie Hansen regarding the Hare voting system used in the Charter by the registration committee. A general discussion took place. It was decided that this topic would be reviewed at our next meeting with more facts to understand how it works and compare it to a regular voting system.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:40.