

Minutes – October 24, 2012
Ad Hoc Home Rule Study Committee

The Ad Hoc Home Rule Study Committee held a meeting in Conference Room C of the Municipal Building beginning at 7:00 p.m. Members present included: Bill Matthews, Geoff Hurd, Kevin Kearns, Mary Larsen, and Bradley Kitlowski. Nancy Carroll, and Chris Cahillane were not present. Municipal Manager Steve Feller, Solicitor Phil Weis, and Assistant Manager Marcia Taylor also attended the meeting.

There were no citizens present to provide citizen comments.

Mr. Kearns moved, and Mr. Hurd seconded to approve the minutes from the October 3, 2012 meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

The Committee began by reviewing open items. Mr. Mathews reviewed with the Committee a memo from Mr. Feller dated October 24, 2012 concerning his recommendations of four potential changes that have been discussed by the Committee. There was extensive discussion about advertising options, property tax cap options, possible assignment of tax collector responsibilities, and locating an expert on home rule tax limitation provisions.

The Committee asked that certain items be followed up on, including:

- Would like staff to prepare a synopsis of all changes that have been made to the Charter since its adoptions
- Would like Geoff Hurd to develop a first draft rationale for making all three tax cap changes as a property tax reform package. The draft should include a possible ballot question and an explanation of why the changes are necessary and appropriate
- Would like Phil Weis to report on what other communities have done when reorganizing the duties of a formerly elected Treasurer position
- Would like Bill Matthews to work with Steve Feller to condense the “side by side” document to just reflect those sections that may potentially be included in a list of changes for the Commission.

The Committee agreed on the following future meeting dates:

- Wednesday, December 5 beginning at 7 pm (this was subsequently changed to 12/17/12)
- Wednesday, January 9 beginning at 7 pm

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.