

Frankford Town Charter Committee
Tuesday, January 26, 2016

Second Town Charter Committee meeting

Present:

Kathy Murray
Robert Murray
Greg Welch Charter Committee Chair
Edward Ash
Marty Presley

The Committee met at Town Hall at 7:00p.m.

Greg Welch started the meeting after ascertaining that everybody that was going to show up was probably there.

Using the minutes from the 1/19/16 charter meeting minutes, that outlined the charter changes being discussed, the group progressed with the discussion of the changes.

Absentee Voting

The prior charter was silent on absentee voting. The current charter does outline absentee voting. The entire process is fully outlined and adopted by our current charter. Fenwick and Bethany have allowed absentee voting by establishing an ordinance governing absentee voting. Dagsboro has adopted the states guidelines. Selbyville's charter is silent
The town and state have stated that absentee voting was badly needed.

Even without the state process adopted by our charter we could have absentee voting by just passing an ordinance. We do not really need to change our charter to have absentee voting.
Our charter has adopted the state process.

Frankford Charter

ELECTIONS Section 5. d. Except as set out herein, the conduct of general elections of the Town of Frankford and absentee voting shall be governed by the laws of Delaware set out in **Title 15, Chapter 75, of Delaware Code, entitled Municipal Elections**, as they may be from time to time hereafter amended.
78 Del. Laws, c. 260, § 1

Title 15, Chapter 75, Subchapter IV of Delaware Code, entitled Municipal Elections, outlines the entire process.

§ 7570 Purpose of subchapter; scope.

§ 7571 Persons eligible to vote by absentee ballot.

§ 7572 Request for ballot; affidavits for absentee ballots; delivery of absentee ballots.

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7573 Distribution of ballots, envelopes, and instructions; envelope specifications; prepaid postage.

§ **7574** Requirements for ballot envelope; numbering and coding; voter identification label; affidavit of eligibility.

§ **7575** voting procedure; execution of affidavit; return of ballot.

§ **7578** Counting procedure for absentee ballots.

§ **7579** Preparing absentee ballots to be counted.

§ **7580** Carrier envelope specifications; carrier envelopes as ballot boxes.

§ **7581** Challenges

§ **7582** Rejected ballots.

§ **7583** Validity of absentee voter's ballot for wrong municipal election district.

Voter Registration

The current charter does not have the process of registering to vote, or any mention of a town registration. The current charter does have the requirements to be qualified to register.

State Law allows for this process to be established in town code.

The consensus of the committee was to pursue using the state registration system.

Greg Welch was chosen to explore the process and investigate if nonresident voting can be incorporated into the process.

The voter registration deadline would be defined.

Non Resident Property Owner Council position.

The consensus of the committee was to allow nonresident property owners to hold 1 seat on council.

The committee felt that there were interested owners that should have representation in our government and would help in filling the volunteer positions that our government requires.

Establish a procedure to remove non attending council members.

The consensus was to remove a council member for 3 unexcused absences per term. There is discussion on whether a quorum or a unanimous vote would excuse absence.

Produce by designee of council a rough draft of the budget 60 days prior(May 1st) to the start of the fiscal year July 1st

Set in charter the process for passing ordinances and amending the charter.

Currently there is no process outlined.

Make provisions to allow for a Town Manager.

The council may hire a town manager.

Define a quorum

In the event of council vacancies, a quorum will consist of a majority of the remaining council members.

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Items that were not addressed at this meeting were:

Establish a process to establish a board of elections. Define the board's terms and duties.

Our current charter is silent on the board of elections

Candidacy deadlines

The current charter is silent on candidacy deadlines

The committee adjourned at 8:30 p.m. The committee agreed to meet again on February 9, 2016 at the town hall at 7:00 p.m.

Greg Welch 1/26/16