

Town of Somerset - Somerset Government Efficiency Committee

Minutes of the April 5, 2010 meeting
Meeting # 15 - Held at the Town Hall

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Meeting attended by Committee Members: Councilman: Dan Engert, Councilman: Gary Alt, and Councilman: Randy Wayner.

Town resident attendees: Ruth Wendler, Doug Lewis, Jeff Reeson, and Town Supervisor: Richard Meyers. (William Engert attended from approx. 7:00 on).

The meeting was called to order at 6:02 pm by Committee Chairman - Randy Wayner.

Agenda Topic:

- Having Part Time Active and Retired Elected Officials pay a percentage of their Town Health Insurance premiums.

Councilman Wayner read excerpts from the Town Attorney's opinion regarding if and how part time elected officials could be required to pay a percentage of their health insurance premium.

1. The answer is yes - by resolution, the Town Board can adopt this requirement.
2. A mandatory referendum is required if these changes were to become effective within the effected official's term of office. However, the Town Justice can not be required to comply with this change during the Justice's term of office.
3. These changes could become effective without the mandatory referendum (including the Town Justice) if they were timed in conjunction with the election cycle so that changes are not made in mid-term(s).
4. Changes regarding retired part time elected officials can be made by resolution or local law, there are no timing restraints as these part time elected retirees no longer hold public office.

After considerable discussion, the Committee agreed to amend its latest version of this recommendation. The agreed upon changes will be incorporated into the recommendation which will then be sent to the entire Board so that they can become familiar with its elements in advance of their April 13th. meeting.

Next Steps:

Councilmen Engert will check with the Town Attorney to make sure we have a clear definition of "election cycle". Councilman Wayner will then amend Recommendation to include the agreed upon course of action and will circulate it to the members of the Committee. Upon approval by the members of the Committee it will be formalized and forwarded to the Town Board for their review. We will have the formal recommendation to the Board before their April 13th meeting so they will have time to prepare for any potential discussion.

Agenda Topic:

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- Conduct a review and analysis of reimbursed mileage expenses incurred by Town officials and employees.

Councilman Alt has received copies of all mileage expense submittals for 2009. He will calculate a grand total as well as departmental totals for analysis at our next meeting. Councilman Engert has produced an enhanced mileage log form which will be presented to the Town Board for their consideration and potential adoption at the April 13th. Meeting.

Next meeting:

6:00 pm April 19, 2010

Meeting adjourned at 7:22 pm

Respectfully submitted,
Councilman: Randall Wayner