

RECALL ORDINANCE PUBLIC HEARING

April 25, 2000

7:00 p.m.

Present: Brenda Charland, Willis Lord, Millard Genthner, Wendy Carter, Pam Witman, Pat McHugh, John Monteith, Don Mondor, Tim Neill, Bob Fay, Everett Whitten, Jack Hewes, Dean & Carol Look, Denise Waterhouse, Doug Blackwell, Theresa Lowell, Diane Winne, Dave Fedrizzi, Shawn Shoemaker, Dianne Holden, Bertha McAloon, Jerry Daigle, Dick Bateman, Nancy Brandt, Doug Foglio Sr., Dale Witman, Dwayne Woodsome, Eric Herrle & Frank Faith.

Brenda opened the hearing on the proposed recall ordinance at 7:00 p.m. Discussed whether to go referendum or on the warrant. If going referendum must be in by May 10th. Bob Fay questioned why this is being rushed through a Special Town Meeting. Discussed the charter proposal being done at the Special Town Meeting also. Brenda explained the procedure and legalities of a charter commission. Bob Fay felt this could have been handled in November during the general election when there will be a much greater number of voters. Doug Foglio Sr. felt this whole issue could be held off until the Charter Commission has been formed and they will probably look into a Recall Ordinance. Brenda questioned why everything needs to be planned around the one day a year when you can get people out. If the issue is important enough people should come out whenever the election is held. Theresa Lowell did not feel that the Charter Commission is being rushed as it has been talked about for some time. She also recommended that the recall ordinance be done as a referendum. Dale Witman recommended that they use the one from Buxton as it is already tested and the town would save money on the attorney. Bob Fay stated that a recall is a grave issue. His major concern is that a recall ordinance would be used as a political weapon and that if it isn't political then it shouldn't be rushed through. Very concerned that it would tear this community apart as it did in Buxton. Dwayne Woodsome questioned waiting until March to proceed with this. Dean Look stated that it should be written so that it makes it very difficult to recall someone. Brenda stated that if the Selectmen don't do this then it will probably happen by petition. Most agreed that it should be done in November not at the Special Town Meeting in June. Dianne Holden stated that they need to put things in place to protect the town in the event the current officials don't run again. Millard stated that the ordinances proposed do not include all elected people. They all exclude school board members and water district trustees. Took a straw poll of those present and the consensus was that it should be handled at the election in November.

Discussed the charter commission.

Brenda announced that Tim Neill had built and donated the new podium and that a plaque has been placed on the front of it.

Hearing adjourned at 7:50 p.m.