



Memorandum – 13

TO: Plymouth Charter Commission
FROM: Collins Center Charter Project Team
DATE: August 31, 2022
RE: Memorandum 13

Overview

This memo (Memorandum-13) addresses topics discussed at the Commission’s August 29th meeting. Included in the memo are:

1. Modified language regarding the number of at-large / district selectboard members
2. Modified language regarding the number of districts
3. New transition language regarding a study of committee for possible consolidation of town and school maintenance
4. Added language to transition provisions “transition provisions may be revised or expanded as the charter commission completes its deliberations.”
5. Noted typographical errors

1. MODIFIED LANGUAGE REGARDING 4 AT-LARGE SELECTBOARD MEMBERS / 3 DISTRICT MEMBERS

Modification to Chapter 3, Section 1:

Section 1 The Select Board: Composition and Terms

3-1-1 A Select Board of **seven (7)** members shall be elected as follows:

- A. **At-Large Members:** There shall be four (4) at-large members elected for three-year (3) overlapping terms.
- B. **District Members:** There shall be three (3) district members elected for three-year terms. These members shall be elected during the same election year, with the inaugural term as specified in ~~the Chapter 9 of Article 9-1-1,~~ and elected every three years thereafter.

The recall section original language states "town-wide officeholder". The voted language replaced "officeholder" but not town-wide. As district SB members are not town-wide, it is recommended that the phrase "town-wide" also be deleted.

Addition to Chapter 5, Section 12

5-12-1 District Select Board Members shall be subject to recall as generally provided in Section 10 of Chapter 5 of this Charter, provided:

that the words "district select board member" shall be substituted for the word "town-wide officeholder" throughout Section 10 of Chapter 5 of this Charter;

Note: The above in red is an addition. Do not delete provisions that follow in 5-12-1.

2. MODIFIED LANGUAGE REGARDING CREATION OF 3 DISTRICTS

The below modifies the timeframe for implementation and adjusts the number of districts to be consistent with the Commission's vote.

Section 6 District Implementation Committee

9-6-1 Within **90 days** ~~two (2) months~~ of the effective date of this Charter, the Town Manager shall create a District Member Implementation Committee to propose a method of devising district representation for **three (3)** ~~two~~ District Select Board members. The Committee shall be selected as follows:

COPC (Committee of Precinct Chairs) – 2 voter appointments

Select Board – 2 voter appointments

Moderator – 1 voter appointment

Town Clerk or designee

Town Manager or designee

9-6-2 The Committee shall review Plymouth's existing voting precincts and create a proposal dividing the existing precincts **as equally as possible** into **three (3)** ~~two (2)~~ districts for the purpose of electing **three (3)** ~~two (2)~~ District Select Board members. **A district is a geographical area comprising approximately one third of the population and one third of the Town's precincts.** In formulating its recommendation, the Committee shall follow all guidelines established by M.G.L. Ch. 54, sec. 6 and any other applicable state laws.

9-6-3 Within 90 days after convening, the Committee shall publish its proposal, including a preliminary map, to the Town's website and hold a public meeting to elicit public input and feedback at least 14 but no more than 21 days after the map is posted.

9-6-4 The Committee shall present its proposal for **three (3)** representational districts to the Select Board within four (4) months of convening. The Select Board shall act on this recommendation within 30 days of receipt, either approving or rejecting the proposal. Should the Select Board fail to enact the proposed recommendation of the Committee, the Select Board shall establish the districts within 30 days of the vote to reject. The inaugural election of district representative on the Board shall occur at the next regular Town election and every three years thereafter.

3. TRANSITION LANGUAGE REGARDING CONSOLIDATED MAINTENANCE STUDY COMMITTEE

Chapter 9 Section TBD:

Within 90 days of the effective date of this charter, the Town Manager shall create a 5 (five) member Consolidated Facilities Management and Maintenance Study Committee to study possible consolidation of Town and School facilities management and maintenance. The directive of this study committee is to consider a full range of options as practicable, provide analysis of the potential benefits and barriers of each option, and consider which are the best fit for the Town.

The committee shall issue recommendations to the Selectboard within 180 days of creation. The Selectboard shall take action on the recommendations within 90 days of receipt.

4. TRANSITION LANGAUGE ADDITION

It is recommended that the following language be added at the beginning of the Transition Section (Chapter 9):

[Note: Transition provisions may be revised or expanded as the charter commission completes its deliberations.]

5. NOTED TYPOGRAPHICAL ERRORS:

2-1-1 (c) – spelling of precincts

2-5-1 – last sentence needs end quote

5-9-2 – last sentence before quote: “The referendum question...” Missing capital T