

REPORT OF THE
2013 CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION
OF THE VILLAGE OF WAITE HILL

To the Mayor and Council of the Village of Waite Hill:

The 2013 Charter Review Commission (“Commission”) began meeting in March of this year and has met four times. We have reviewed the Charter of the Village of Waite Hill (“Charter”); we have considered numerous possible changes to the Charter, we have held a public hearing regarding the Charter and our proposed amendments and we have concluded that the Charter continues to serve a number of valuable purposes for the Village governance and is not in need of major reformation.

The undersigned members of the Commission are unanimous in our conclusion that the attached Ordinance should be enacted so that the voters of the Village have the opportunity to consider two changes to the Charter. This report explains the reasoning behind the two proposed changes.

Changes to Article IV

The first proposed change is to eliminate the term of office of the Clerk-Treasurer, and to change the removal provision for the office, in order to treat the position of Clerk-Treasurer in a manner that is the same as other employees of the Village.

The Commission determined that the term and removal provisions of the office the Clerk-Treasurer were vestiges of the time when the position was an elected official, and reflected a view that the Clerk-Treasurer was a political position, subject to political considerations. Under the current language in the Charter, the term of office runs for four (4) years from April of the year that the term of office of the Mayor commences, then ends at the end of March after a new Mayoral term commences. Under the removal provision, the Clerk-Treasurer may be removed from office by the Mayor with the approval of two-thirds of the members of Council.

A term of office is not consistent with the concept that the Village’s Clerk-Treasurer is a professional who is an employee of the Village, subject to the same type of management concerns as any other employee or professional working for the Village. The change to the Charter reflects the non-political nature of the position of the Clerk-Treasurer in the Waite Hill Village government. If the amendment is passed, the Clerk-Treasurer would be employed by the Village for an indefinite period, and subject to the same management considerations as all of the other Village employees.

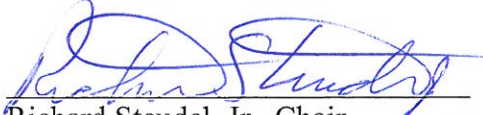
Elimination of Article V.a.


In 2003 the Charter Review Commission, at the request of the then Service Director, submitted to the voters a proposed Charter amendment that created the position of Service Director. Prior to 2003, the position of Service Director had been created by ordinance; the Village Council had the ability to alter the management structure by amending the ordinances to suit the management needs of the Village.

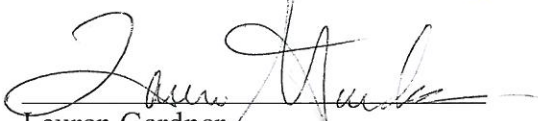
Having the Service Director as a Department level position position created by Charter imposes a management structure on the Village government that may not be consistent with the future management needs of the Village. The Commission proposes to repeal Article V.a. of the Charter to allow Council to alter the management structure of the Village as conditions require.

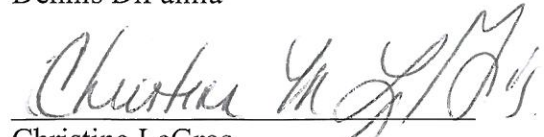
The members of the Commission would like to thank the Mayor and Council for the opportunity to serve the Village in this important activity of charter.

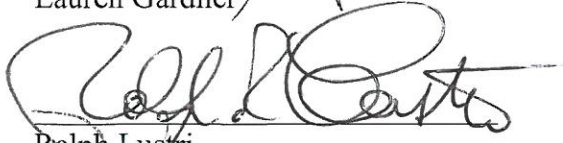
Signed:


Richard Steudel, Jr., Chair


Dennis DiPalma


Lauren Gardner


Christina LeGros


Ralph Lustrì


Denise Merritt


Clara Sherwin