

To the Charter Revision Commission at its September 30, 2024 public hearing:

At the July 29 meeting of the Commission there was mention of a Town Manager system of government for Woodbury. There was also mention of a Town Administrator which sounds like "Town Manager Lite." (Just an aside: of the 37 Connecticut municipalities that have Town Managers or Administrators, 36 have oversight boards of 5 or more elected members. Most have 7 or 9)

Whether or not this Commission votes to recommend the Town Manager or Town Administrator form of government for Woodbury, it should recommend expansion of the Board of Selectmen to at least 5 members to give the people more representation on their governing body. More eyes, more ears, more voices, more shoulders to help govern for the future. As most Connecticut towns the approximate size of Woodbury (8/11) have recognized, it is something worth considering.

Our current selectmen are good people who do a creditable job, but they have businesses to run and other obligations that limit their ability to fully assist the First Selectman. Having two more good people on the Board would minimize the possibilities of missed or rejected grant applications, losing track of over \$1 million in bond money for roads, or ending a fiscal year with hundreds of thousands of dollars in outstanding purchase orders. It would enhance efforts to address positive issues like facility development, sidewalk expansion, and waste management.

There will be those who oppose moving from three Selectmen because "that's the way we've always done it." Maybe they are uncomfortable with change. Whatever the reason, this commission should be concerned with the future, not with the past.

Your commission requested and received information from the Chester Charter Revision Commission. In its final report that Commission called for increasing its Board of Selectmen from 3 to 5 because it "provides opportunity for wider range of expertise, ... increased skill sets and diversity of thinking." That coupled with giving people more representation on their governing body gives ample reason for recommending expansion of the Woodbury Board of Selectmen - at a reasonable cost of \$10,000 --for the future of the Town.

A five-member Board of Selectmen is now Section 3.1 of the Chester Charter as approved by the people of Chester. I hope your Commission lets the people of Woodbury decide if they want their governing body to move forward with 5 members. *- or remain static with 3.*

William A. Monti  
65 Woodbury Hill  
Woodbury, Ct 06798

**"Town Manager" governments in CT** near or less than Woodbury population 9862

Town	Population	# of selectmen/council members	
Avon	18,883	5	
Berlin	20,429	7	
Cheshire	29,261	9	(5 at large, 4 by district)
Coventry	12,308	7	
Cromwell	14,225	7	
East Hampton	12,217	7	
Enfield	42,141	9	
Farmington	26,712	7	
Glastonbury	35,159	9	
Groton	38,411	9	
Hebron	9,146	5	(selectmen)
Killingly	17,287	9	
Mansfield	25,892	9	
Marlborough	6,109	5	(selectmen)
Meriden	60,850	12	
Newington	30,536	9	(plus a liaison from bd of ed)
North Branford	13,544	9	
Norwich	40,125	7	(Mayor 4 yrs, 6 members 2 yrs)
Plainville	17,525	7	
Rocky Hill	20,845	9	
South Windsor	26,918	9	
Southington	43,501	9	
Tolland	14,563	7	
Watertown	22,105	9	
West Hartford	64,083	9	(since 1919)
Wethersfield	27,298	9	
Winchester	10,224	7	(selectmen)
Windham	24,425	11	
Windsor	29,492	9	

**Towns in CT with "Town Administrators"**

Bolton	4,834	7	(selectmen)
Columbia	5,268	5	(selectmen)
Darien	22,020	5	(selectmen) RTM 100 members
Ellington	16,967	7	(selectmen)
Putnam	9,312	7	(Mayor/selectmen)
Vernon	30,596	13	(Mayor/Council)
Weston	10,344	3	(selectmen)
Wilton	18,400	5	(selectmen)