Members in attendance: Steve Marchese, Kelly Pappas, Roger Riggs, Paul Sheehan, Sally Willard, (Robert Hogan)

Members absent: Gary Gianino, Charles Murphy, Michael Runyan

Also present: Library Director Mike Wick, Town Appraiser/Assistant Assessor James Doherty

Chairman Kelly Pappas called the Government Review Committee to order at 6:30 pm in the Burlington Town Hall, main hearing room.

Minutes:

Motion to approve the minutes of February 5, 2018 as printed was made by Paul Sheehan, but not voted on.

Member Reports:

None.

Department Head Discussion:

- Library

Mr. Wick explained his responsibilities are to oversee the budget, manage/hire/fire employees, and deliver cultural, recreational, and educational services/programs to the town. He reports to the library trustees. The Library Trustees control the budget/discretionary fund, set policies, fire/hire library director, and set the hours of operation. It is important to maintain the MBLC (Mass Board of Library Commissioner) certification, because it allows Burlington residents to borrow resources from other libraries.

Mr. Wick oversees 32 employees, and 13 of those are non-union. When hiring an employee he works with Human Resources for processing benefits, payroll, and CORI checks.

Mr. Wick noted that appointed trustees sometimes have a political motive, where as the elected trustees typically have the best interest of the library in mind. A recent positive change was having the facilities department oversee the library.
Robert Hogan arrived to the meeting at 6:45pm.

- Appraiser/Assessor

Mr. Doherty reports to a three member elected board. When he was hired, he was interviewed by: Paul Sheehan (Board of Assessor Member), Board of Assessors Chairman, Robert Mercier (Town Administrator), Paul Sagarino (Town Accountant), and Joanne Faust (Human Resources Director).

Mr. Doherty noted he has experience being appointed and elected to this position. In a community that did appointments there were ethical problems that arose, and in a community that had the position as elected, there was more community involvement. He gets concerned when there are too many appointed officials.

Mr. Doherty recommended Burlington hire a maps person. There is mapping software, and some departments have their own GIS maps, but it should be consolidated.

Mr. Doherty does not support consolidating finance/accounting into a CFO. The separation, and town meeting is good. He recommended the committee look at town administrator vs. town manager.

Town Treasurer Retirement:

Brian Curtain is retiring April 2019. Robert Hogan updated the committee that the Board of Selectmen will discuss putting a placeholder for Town Meeting to make the position appointed. He will distribute information from the Department of Revenue to the BOS.

Robert Hogan offered his opinion that operational positions should be appointed and policy maker positions should be elected. And supports a town manager.

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:45pm was made by Paul Sheehan.

PASSED: 6-0-0

Next meeting:
Wednesday, March 21 at 4:30pm
Burlington Town Hall, Main Hearing Room.

Minutes respectfully submitted by:
Noelle Judd, Recording Clerk