

28TH BOARD OF REPRESENTATIVES CITY OF STAMFORD

President
RANDALL M. SKIGEN
Clerk of the Board
ANNIE M. SUMMERVILLE

Majority Leader
ELAINE MITCHELL
Minority Leader
ROBERT "GABE" DELUCA

MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING

President Skigen called the meeting to order at 8:45 p.m. and read the Call of the Meeting into the record.

I, Randall M. Skigen, President of the 28th Board of Representatives of the City of Stamford, Connecticut, and pursuant to Section C2-10-4 of the Stamford Charter, hereby call a Special Meeting of said Board of Representatives at the following time and place:

Monday, June 25, 2012

8:00 p.m.
Legislative Chambers, 4th Floor
Government Center
888 Washington Boulevard
Stamford, CT 06904-2152

to consider and act upon the following:

Housing/Community Development/Social Services Committee

1. [HCD28.040](#) RESOLUTION; for **public hearing & final adoption**;
approving the Neighborhood Assistance Act.
04/16/12 – Submitted by Karen Cammarota
05/24/12 – Committee approved 5-0-0
06/04/12 – No action taken

and

Charter Committee

1. [C28.011](#) REVIEW; Draft Report of the 17th Charter Revision Commission.
05/07/12 – Submitted by President Skigen
05/30/12 – Report Made & Held in Committee
2. [C28.012](#) RESOLUTION; concerning Recommendations for

Changes to the Draft Report of the 17th Charter
Revision Commission.
05/07/12 – Submitted by President Skigen
05/30/12 – No action taken

INVOCATION: Led by Clerk of the Board Summerville

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG: Led by President Randall M. Skigen

ROLL CALL: Conducted by Clerk of the Board Annie M. Summerville. There were thirty members present and ten members excused (Reps. Adams, DePina, Fountain, Giraldo, Kaufman, Merritt, Raduazzo, Uva, White and Young.) (Note: Reps. McNeil and Lombardo were not included in Roll Call.)

**Housing/Community Development/
Social Services Committee**

Elaine Mitchell, Chair
Phil Giordano, Vice Chair

1. [HCD28.040](#) RESOLUTION; for **public hearing & final adoption**; **APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE**
approving the Neighborhood Assistance Act.
04/16/12 – Submitted by Karen Cammarota
05/24/12 – Committee approved 5-0-0
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Chair Mitchell reported that Item No. HCD28.040 did in fact require full Board approval at the Board's June 4, 2012 meeting. Upon motion duly made and seconded, the item was approved by unanimous voice vote.

Charter Committee: Mary Fedeli and John Mallozzi, Co-Chairs,

1. [C28.011](#) REVIEW; Draft Report of the 17th Charter Revision Commission. **REPORT MADE**
05/07/12 – Submitted by President Skigen
05/30/12 – Report Made & Held in Committee

Chair Fedeli read the Consent Items into the record. Requests to take Item Nos. 54, 65, 66, 70, 115 and 129 off the Consent Agenda were made. Chair Fedeli moved the Consent Agenda, consisting of Vote Nos. 96, 13, 1, 19, 35, 36, 40d, 9, 10, 14, 44, 45, 79, 50, 67, 99a, 138, 49, 50, 51, 142, 52, 67, 68, 121, 108, 88, 85, 61, 92, 71, 77, 95, 137, 100, 136, 139, 33, 34, 140, 116, 128, 109, 110b, 110c and 109a. Said motion was seconded and approved by voice vote (Rep. Franzetti abstaining on Vote Nos. 19 and

52; Rep. Coppola abstaining on Vote Nos. 116 and 128; Rep. Giordano abstaining on Vote No. 71.)

Vote No. 37: Rep. Day spoke about the massive costs that could be involved if construction projects were delayed unnecessarily. He noted that the people who really understand these projects are the city engineers and people in the administration who are executing the projects. Therefore, this responsibility belongs with the executive branch. Rep. Gabriele stated he is opposed to this recommendation because the Board of Finance members were elected to oversee these capital projects. If there are delays, the mayor can go to the members of the Board of Finance and explain why additional funds are needed.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the Item was approved by a machine vote of 20-10- (Reps. Coleman, Coppola, Day, DeLuca, Fedeli, Figueroa, Frazis, Giordano, Heaphy, Layton, Loglisci, Mallozzi, McGarry, McNeil, Mitchell, Savage, Skigen, Summerville, Wallace and Zelinsky in favor; Reps. Caterbone, Cerasoli, Franzetti, Gabriele, Lombardo, Pia, Rauh, Sklover, Taylor and Velishka opposed) (See [Vote Record No. 1294](#)).

Vote No. 40e: Rep. Taylor stated that in Stamford, the Board of Finance is elected and vested with their powers to be responsible for fiscal matters. If it is purely a fiscal body, these issues should really stay with them.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, Vote No. 40e was approved by a machine vote of 18-11-1 (Reps. Coleman, Day, DeLuca, Figueroa, Giordano, Heaphy, Layton, Loglisci, Lombardo, Mallozzi, McNeil, Mitchell, Savage, Skigen, Summerville, Velishka, Wallace and Zelinsky in favor; Reps. Caterbone, Cerasoli, Coppola, Fedeli, Franzetti, Frazis, Gabriele, McGarry, Pia, Sklover and Taylor opposed; Rep. Rauh abstaining.) (See [Vote Record No. 1295](#)).

Vote No. 41: No speakers. Upon motion duly made and seconded, the Item was approved by a machine vote of 16-14-0 (Reps. Coleman, Day, DeLuca, Figueroa, Giordano, Heaphy, Layton, Lombardo, Mallozzi, McNeil, Mitchell, Savage, Skigen, Summerville, Wallace and Zelinsky in favor; Reps. Caterbone, Cerasoli, Coppola, Fedeli, Franzetti, Frazis, Gabriele, Loglisci, McGarry, Pia, Rauh, Sklover, Taylor and Velishka opposed) (See [Vote Record No. 1296](#)).

Vote No. 54: Rep. Day stated that upon reflection, he is very concerned about this. The reason this is in the charge is to deal with mischief that arises between the party apparatuses and the administration about filling appointments. The problem is worse mischief could be created because we could end up with vacancies on important boards, which is a very serious problem. Most bylaws almost always allow members to remain seated until replaced as a safety valve to make sure that important functions don't go unfilled and government doesn't come to a stop. The potential for mischief exists from the consequences of having a hold over could be much less than that of having a vacancy. He feels that this is a very dangerous risk for many boards, including

the WPCA , Smith House and land use boards. Rep. Layton stated that six months is plenty of time to reappoint or find a replacement, and it is inappropriate to have someone serving indefinitely. Rep. Taylor suggested someone may want to send this back to the Commission to see if a compromise could not be worked out. Clerk Summerville stated that the Board needs to be very careful, adding that currently it is not easy to get people to fill a lot of these bods and commissions.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the Item was approved by a machine vote of 18-12-0 (Reps. Caterbone, Cerasoli, Coleman, Figueroa, Franzetti, Frazis, Giordano, Layton, Lombardo, Mallozzi, McGarry, Savage, Skigen, Sklover, Summerville, Taylor, Velishka and Zelinsky in favor; Reps. Coppola, Day, DeLuca, Fedeli, Gabriele, Heaphy, Loglisci, McNeil, Mitchell, Pia, Rauh and Wallace opposed) (See [Vote Record No. 1297](#)).

Vote No. 65: Rep. Rauh stated she is concerned that we have not separated the WPCA at all. Traditionally, the Director of Operations has served as the Chair of the WPCA Board. She added that her commends apply to Vote No. 66, also. Rep. Coppola stated that he agrees with Rep. Rauh, and he does not think this goes far enough at all. The Director of Operations is the Chair and the Vice Chair is the Director of Administration. This allows for too much influence.

President Skigen noted that the actual language actually helps to eliminate the murkiness in the structure of the WPCA by separating out those functions that the City performs for the WPCA. He added that if the Board rejects this change, the relationship (between the City and the WPCA) remains murky.

Rep. Day stated that the language is adequate.

Rep. Rauh stated that this is a part-way correction, and she doesn't believe making something less murky solves the problem of it being murky in the first place.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the Item was approved by a machine vote of 16-13-1 (Reps. Coleman, Day, DeLuca, Fedeli, Giordano, Heaphy, Layton, Loglisci, Lombardo, Mallozzi, Mitchell, Pia, Savage, Skigen, Wallace and Zelinsky in favor; Reps. Caterbone, Cerasoli, Coppola, Figueroa, Franzetti, Frazis, Gabriele, McGarry, McNeil, Rauh, Sklover, Taylor and Velishka opposed; Rep. Summerville abstaining) (See [Vote Record No. 1298](#)).

Vote No. 66: No speakers. Upon motion duly made and seconded, the Item was approved by a vote of 21-8-1 (Reps. Coleman, Day, DeLuca, Fedeli, Figueroa, Frazis, Giordano, Heaphy, Layton, Loglisci, Lombardo, Mallozzi, McNeil, Mitchell, Pia, Savage, Skigen, Summerville, Velishka, Wallace and Zelinsky in favor; Reps. Caterbone, Cerasoli, Coppola, Franzetti, McGarry, Rauh, Sklover and Taylor opposed; Rep. Gabriele abstaining) (See [Vote Record No. 1299](#)).

Vote No. 70: Rep. Heaphy stated that she was unsure if this encompassed just elected boards or if it included other elected offices, such as city committees, constables, etc. Rep. Zelinsky stated he was in favor of allowing the voters to decide whether someone should hold more than one office.

Co-Chair Mallozzi noted that the Commission was in favor of this because it did not want one person to amass too much power/influence.

Rep. Layton said he is in favor of more voices, not fewer.

Rep. Day stated that he agrees with Rep. Layton, but he did not believe the Commission wanted to include constables in the list. Rep. Day moved to send the item back to Committee for a clearer definition of "elective office." Clerk Summerville noted that the Commission did in fact discuss constables and meant to include them.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the Item was referred back to committee for further clarification of "elective office." The motion was approved by a vote of 24-5-1 (Reps. Cerasoli, Coleman, Coppola, Day, DeLuca, Fedeli, Figueroa, Franzetti, Frazis, Gabriele, Giordano, Heaphy, Layton, Lombardo, Mallozzi, McNeil, Pia, Rauh, Savage, Skigen, Sklover, Summerville, Taylor and Velishka in favor; Reps. Caterbone, McGarry, Mitchell, Wallace and Zelinsky opposed; Rep. Loglisci abstaining) (See [Vote Record No. 1300](#)).

Vote No. 115: Rep. Taylor stated that the Commission did a phenomenal job of vetting this out. She originally voted for this, but after the public hearing, she was disturbed that we are asking the citizens to vote on something that could result in a tax increase. However, that is not on the table at the same time. While the template could be workable, she does not believe it belongs in the charter. She added that the Board cannot ask people to vote on this. This is the same issue that the Board of Representatives has had with the Mayor's fire plan. The Board has asked for additional information and still cannot vote on the item at this time.

Rep. Heaphy stated that we should support this because we cannot go ahead with a combined department because the Charter does not speak about volunteers. While there may be costs, it will be up to the Board of Representatives to flesh out the plan. Without this change, the Board cannot go forward at all.

Rep. Day stated that the Commission spent a lot of time on this, and their attempt was not to map out a new fire service but to embody in the charter certain pillars of fire service that Stamford has. This recognizes the importance and value of the volunteers, and also recognizes that we have a city fire department. This positions the two in a way so that the Board of Representatives can deal with it going forward. This Board has not accomplished anything on this issue. The Mayor has proposed a plan that has not progressed for a variety of reasons. This will give the Board a foothold going forward. It would be wise to let the voters have a say on this matter.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the Item was approved by a vote of 21-5-4 (Reps. Coleman, Day, DeLuca, Fedeli, Figueroa, Giordano, Heaphy, Layton, Lombardo, Mallozzi, McGarry, McNeil, Mitchell, Rauh, Savage, Skigen, Sklover, Summerville, Velishka, Wallace and Zelinsky in favor; Reps. Caterbone, Cerasoli, Coppola, Frazis and Taylor opposed; Reps. Franzetti, Gabriele, Loglisci and Pia abstaining) (See [Vote Record No. 1301](#)).

Vote No. 129: No speakers. Upon motion duly made and seconded, the Item was approved by a machine vote of 21-4-5. (Reps. Coleman, Day, DeLuca, Fedeli, Figueroa, Giordano, Heaphy, Layton, Lombardo, Mallozzi, McGarry, McNeil, Mitchell, Rauh, Savage, Skigen, Sklover, Summerville, Velishka, Wallace and Zelinsky in favor; Reps. Caterbone, Cerasoli, Coppola and Frazis opposed; Reps. Franzetti, Gabriele, Loglisci, Pia and Taylor abstaining) (See [Vote Record No. 1301](#)).

President Skigen stated that this concludes the Committee's recommendations. President Skigen read the Vote Nos. that the Committee voted NOT to recommend:

Vote No. 74: Rep. Cerasoli stated that the Board has a conflict of interest in this matter, and the Board should not be making this decision. Rep. Sklover agreed. Rep. Zelinsky stated that several members spoke against this item at the public hearing, he is a long-time member of the Board, and the Board works fine. Rep. Sklover stated that he is not comfortable making this decision, and he is concerned with size, efficiency and in favor of letting the public decide.

Rep. Day stated that at the public hearing, two or three members spoke vehemently in favor of keeping 40 representatives as it allows them access to their representative. This access would suffer if the Board was reduced. He questioned the number when he joined the Board, but quickly learned that if you add up all the hours of deliberations that members give to every issue, it would essentially be cut at least in half by reducing its numbers. If the Board is in favor of openness and transparency, both will be cut in half.

Rep. Day went on to say that a lot of people feel erroneously that Board members are paid, and they may vote to reduce the size in order to save money. Instead, they will be forfeiting the public service members provide. People who have not researched the issue will think it must be a good idea or it wouldn't appear on the ballot. The Board needs to take the punishment of appearing to some that it is acting in its own self interest to preserve a system that has worked so well. He concluded by saying it would be a terrible mistake to put this on the ballot.

Rep. Loglisci stated that no one should have any guilt for bettering the lives of the citizens of Stamford. No one should feel obligated to put this on the ballot. Rep. Heaphy agreed, adding that she has never heard any member of the public complaint about the size of the board.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the recommendation to include this on the ballot FAILED by a vote of 7-23-0 (Reps. Caterbone, Cerasoli, Frazis, Gabriele, Mallozzi,

Sklover and Taylor in favor; Reps. Coleman, Coppola, Day, DeLuca, Fedeli, Figueroa, Franzetti, Giordano, Heaphy, Layton, Loglisci, Lombardo, McGarry, McNeil, Mitchell, Pia, Rauh, Savage, Skigen, Summerville, Velishka, Wallace and Zelinsky opposed) (See [Vote Record No. 1303](#)).

President Skigen read the Items that the Committee recommended be referred back to the Commission for further clarification: Item Nos. 131, 39, 1161 and 110. Upon motion duly made and seconded, these items were approved unanimously for referral to the Commission.

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| 2. C28.012 | RESOLUTION; concerning Recommendations for Changes to the Draft Report of the 17th Charter Revision Commission.
05/07/12 – Submitted by President Skigen
05/30/12 – No action taken
06/19/12 – Committee approved 7-0-0 | APPROVED BY
UNANIMOUS
VOICE VOTE |
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Chair Fedeli read the resolution into the record. Co-Chair Fedeli moved the resolution; said motion was seconded and approved by unanimous voice vote.

ADJOURNMENT:

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned at 10:35 P.M.

This meeting is on [video](#).