

# CITY OF STAMFORD 17<sup>TH</sup> CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION

Members

*JOSH FEDELI*

*VINCENT J. FRECCIA, III*

*CLARENCE R. GREBEY III*

*JOANNA M. GWOZDZIOWSKI*

*MICHAEL C. JACHIMCZYK*

*BRIAN S. KRIFTCHER*

*DAVID LUCAS*

Vincent J. Freccia, III, Co-Chair

Jay H. Sandak, Co-Chair

Susan A. Nabel, Clerk

Members

*ROSANNE MCMANUS*

*SUSAN A. NABEL*

*GAIL S. OKUN*

*ROBERT S. ROBINS*

*RICH ROSEMAN*

*JAY H. SANDAK*

*DONALD B. SHERER*

*DUDLEY N. WILLIAMS, JR.*

## MINUTES OF THE MEETING AND PUBLIC HEARING AGENDA

Monday, November 21, 2011  
7:00 p.m. – Legislative Chambers  
4<sup>th</sup> Floor, Government Center  
888 Washington Boulevard, Stamford, CT 06904-2152

The Charter Revision Commission met on Monday, November 21, 2011. Present were Co-Chairs Freccia and Sandak and Commission Members Grebey, Gwozdzowski, Jachimczyk, Kriftcher, Lucas, McManus, Nabel, Okun, Robins, Roseman, Sandak, Sherer and Williams. Also present were Clerk of the BOR Annie Summerville and BOR Members Taylor, DeLuca, Savage and Fedeli.

Co-Chair Sandak called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. Co-Chair Sandak explained that the Commission will allow four minutes for each speaker, and he asked that speakers fill out a form so that speakers can be contacted in the future for additional detail. Co-Chair Sandak opened the public hearing (see attached [speakers](#) list).

The individuals listed below spoke. (Forms, documents and exhibits submitted by each speaker are attached):

1. Mathew Maounis, volunteer fire fighter, spoke in favor of preserving the volunteer fire services ([form](#)).
2. Former Fire Chief McGrath spoke in favor of extending the Stamford Fire & Rescue division throughout Stamford so that there would ultimately be one chief and one district, while retaining the volunteers ([form](#)).
3. Susan Duarte spoke in favor of a single unified fire department with one chief ([form](#)).
4. Kathleen Murphy spoke in favor of 1) strengthening the internal audit function in the city; 2) improving the ethics ordinance; and 3) addressing structural costs such as OPEB (other post employment benefits) and pensions ([Memo](#)).

5. Lyda Ruijter stated that 1) the WPCA was too political and suffered from accountability issues; and 2) the City needs a department that will focus on air quality ([picture](#)).
6. Paul Newman, Stamford firefighter and member of the 16<sup>th</sup> Charter Revision Commission (and Chair of the Public Safety Committee of that Commission), spoke in favor of extending the fire district citywide and a single chief, while recognizing the volunteers as emergency response units within the single fire district ([form](#)).
7. Steve Gladstone, treasurer of the Stamford Volunteer Fire Department and President of the Glenbrook Fire Department, advised the Commissioners that 1) the volunteer companies own the buildings and equipment; and 2) the Stamford Fire Department union has designated the volunteers a “rival organization” ([form](#)).
8. Vincent Connor asked the Commission to consider reducing the size of the Board of Representatives, perhaps over an extended period of time. ([form](#)).

The public hearing was closed at 7:35 p.m.

Co-Chair Sandak announced that the next Regular Full Commission Meeting will be held on **Wednesday, November 30, 2011 at 7:00 p.m.**

Co-Chair Sandak stated that the Commission’s activities are not well covered by the local media. Commission members discussed ideas for generating media and public interest.

- Mr. Williams stated that meeting notices should be sent not only to the Stamford Advocate but to on-line media sources, and recommended a list of media sources be compiled.
- Mr. Williams suggested the two co-chairs write an op-ed piece for the Stamford Advocate.
- Co-chair Sandak stated that specific editors should be identified so that the Co-Chairs could meet with them to provide information on the Commission’s work. He added that at the end of the day the public will approve or disapprove of what the Commission does, and the more coverage and the more the Commission’s decisions are open to the public, the better the Commission’s chances of success.
- Co-Chair Sandak stated that the Commission has a budget, and perhaps later on in the process, funds may be available for media coverage.
- Commissioner Roseman stated that the Advocate is not the only media source today; the Commission should consider using social networking, perhaps setting up a Facebook page.
- Commissioner McManus added that some members could volunteer to do some PR work and/or writing.
- Commissioner Nabel stated that once committees are established, additional public hearings can be held by the committee chairs.

- Commissioner Fedeli suggested consideration be given to establishing a Communications Committee to be focused on this. Co-Chair Sandak asked that any member interested in serving on such a committee send him an email.

*(Note: On November 17, 2011, Mayor Pavia submitted correspondence addressing the charge (a copy of which was distributed to all commission members and is [attached](#)).*

Upon motion duly made by Commissioner Jachimczyk and seconded by Commissioner McManus, the minutes of 11/16/11 Commission Meeting were approved by unanimous voice vote (Co-Chair Sandak abstaining).

Upon motion duly made and seconded and approved by unanimous voice vote, the meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Submitted by,

Jay Sandak, Co-Chair

Vincent Freccia, Co-Chair

*This meeting is on [video](#).*