

17TH CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION

FINANCIAL COMMITTEE

WWW.STAMFORDCHARTERREVISION.ORG

Donald B. Sherer, Chair

Members

JOANNA M. GWOZDZIOWSKI

DAVID LUCAS

ROSANNE MCMANUS

GEORGE SESSA

MINUTES OF MEETING

Wednesday, December 21, 2012

7:00 p.m. – Republican Caucus Room

4th Floor, Government Center

888 Washington Boulevard, Stamford, CT 06904-2152

In attendance were Chair Donald Sherer and Committee Members David Lucas, Rosanne McManus and Joanna Gwozdzowski (via telephone). Also in attendance was Charter Commission Member Dudley Williams; Charter Commission Nominee George Sessa; and guests Fred Flynn, outgoing Director of Administration.

Mr. Sherer called the meeting to order at 7:00. Fred Flynn was introduced. The committee asked Mr. Flynn to review his submissions to the Charter Committee for changes to the charter, and reasons behind his requests. The Committee also asked Mr. Flynn to comment on other change requests, which have to do with budgets, pensions and bonds.

The committee began the discussion with item number 36.

Mr. Flynn's comments are as noted below with the item number listed.

- 36 No downside, but should not be binding, too many changes.
- 37 Thinks it is a good idea, constructive, sees no downside, timing will be difficult though.
- 38 Thinks this is smart and a good idea.
- 39 Yes, very sympathetic, thinks we should do it.
- 41 Empower the Mayor, managers and governing boards to make the small changes. Both parts are smart, should set the dollar levels in the aggregate.
- 43 Yes the Mayor should be a voting member, he is CEO of the city.
- 45 Need to clarify the definition of Department. Transfers within the departments or offices is unclear. Recommends that the committee review this with Pete Privitera.
- 46A In the current environment, Mr. Flynn recommends one year only.
- 52 Pressure needs to be put on the contracts.
- 53 Mr. Flynn is an advocate for this; thinks they should have investigative powers.
- 54 Use draft; change to four months since three months is just impossible to do.
- 58 This is very important. Since we are a city with two fiscal boards requiring

approvals (Bd of Finance, Bd of Reps) it would be a huge time saver, and staff would be more productive if presentations could be joint. Presentations are the same, questions from both boards are the same.

A discussion was held with regard to the roles of the Board of Finance committees. The roles are very unclear, and the actions are not always of a fiduciary nature. Discussion was that the Board of Finance should only have fiduciary responsibilities.

There was a general conversation with regards to Pensions. Mr. Flynn thought there was grossly inadequate oversight and management of the Pension Plans.

From Mr. Flynn:

- The Director of Administration should be a voting member of each Pension board and should have oversight of each plan.
- The city has four pension plans, with four pension boards. Wording varies over all four plans. They should all be modernized and have some conformity. We should put wording in the charter to cover this.
- The plans should be uniform with high levels oversight for each plan.
- Set a minimum qualifications for the chairs of each board.
- Set norms on quality; have consistency in the language; review and include standard practices.

Mr. Sherer and the Committee thanked Mr. Flynn for his time and asked if he would be available to return if the committee felt it was necessary. Mr. Flynn said he would be available for one more meeting.

The Committee discussed the agenda for the following meeting, which will be held on January 5, 2012. All felt it important to interview Mr. Privitera. Ms. McManus motioned for adjournment, seconded by Mr. Lucas. The meeting was adjourned at (8:15 p.m.)

Submitted by,

Rosanne McManus

This meeting is on [video](#).