

Minutes of the 17th Charter Revision Commission Government Committee Meeting
Monday, February 13, 2012

Present: Vincent J. Freccia; Susan Nabel; Dudley N. Williams, Jr. Rich Roseman. Josh Fedeli was excused.

Rosanne McManus of the Charter Revision Commission attended.

Invited Guests: Ted Jankowski, Director, Public Safety Health & Welfare; Anne Fountain, Director, Health Department; Ernie Orgera, Director of Operations; Patricia Parry, Member, Health Commission

Visitors: Frank Vartuli

The meeting was called to order at 6:38 p.m. by Chairman Freccia.

Agenda item 1: Invited guests Directors Jankowski, Fountain, Orgera and Ms. Parry addressed the Committee regarding Charges 105 and 106, with reference to C50-40-1; 5-30-8; and C 6-100-2C. In discussing the charge to “clarify who is responsible for oversight of issues related to environmental contamination and public health among the offices of Public Safety, Health and Welfare, the Health Commission and/or the Office of Operations,” Mr. Orgera led off the discussion with a history of the North Stamford water pollution discovery and remediation incidents of the past few years. Mr. Jankowski received agreement from the other invited guests when he said that the Director of PSHW has the ultimate oversight of contamination issues, and it is the appropriate role of that office to coordinate the Fire, Police, Health and Emergency Services response to those incidents. Ms. Parry concurred and indicated that she felt the appropriate role of the Health Commission is to be forward-looking and pro-active in terms of anticipating policy recommendations to address present and future contamination problems.

The Committee asked Director Orgera for his recommendations concerning how C5-30-8 might be worded to make the Environmental Protection Board function better and better align it with the Department of Operations.

The Committee agreed to recommend adding a sentence to C5-40-1 to make it explicit that the Director of Public Safety Health and Welfare is the ultimate leader in dealing with incidents of environmental contamination.

The minutes of the 1/31 meeting of the Government Committee were approved on a motion by Dudley Williams, seconded by Rich Roseman; The minutes of the 2/06 meeting were approved on a motion from Vincent Freccia seconded by Susan Nabel; Josh Fedeli was excused from the meeting.

The Committee adjourned from 7:23 p.m. to 7:48 p.m. for a brief dinner period. A review of the Committee’s position on various charges followed.

Charge 2: will be referred to the Commission attorney for technical wording; to indicate the rescheduled meeting should be held within the month, by resolution of the BOR.

Charge 4: the BOR should be permitted to skip a month by its resolution.
Charge 16: Committee recommended no change
Charge 84: Committee recommended no change by consensus
Charge 90: Ms. McManus will provide information at the next meeting
Charge 20: resolved with Finance Committee

President Skigen of the BOR joined the meeting in an informal discussion of various charges (32, 33, 34, 35) and Charter Provisions (C-1-90-1). President Skigen offered his opinion regarding the current size of the BOR; imposing term limits either on the office of the Mayor or on other elected offices; on the need for a clear process regarding impeachment to be outlined. He recommended that the Committee continue its deliberation on all points.

The next meeting of the Government committee was scheduled for February 20 at 6:00 p.m. The meeting adjourned at 9:16 p.m. on a motion by Rich Roseman, seconded by Dudley Williams.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Nabel