

**17TH CHARTER REVISION
COMMISSION
Public Safety &
Health/Education/Ethics Committee**

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Jay H. Sandak, Chair

Members

CLARENCE R. GREBEY, III

MICHAEL C. JACHIMCZYK

GAIL S. OKUN

ROBERT S. ROBINS

**MINUTES
JANUARY 31, 2012**

The meeting of the Public Safety & Health/Education/Ethics Committee was called to order by Chair Sandak at 7:00. All members of the committee were present: Clarence Grebey, Michael Jachimczyk, Gail Okun, Robert Robins and chair Sandak. Other commission members were in attendance: George Sessa, Vincent Freccia, Susan Nabel, and Roseanne McManus.

The minutes for 1/3/12 were approved. The minutes for 1/10/12, 1/17/12 and 1/24/12 were approved as amended by adding the names of the committee members in attendance.

Chair Sandak introduced the work session with Paul Flippen a representative from TriData, author of the 2008 Fire Service Study for the City of Stamford by focusing on what issues in the charter the team felt needed to be addressed and why. Mr. Flippen gave background on the various systems. He maintained that success with a unified system with volunteers and career firefighters is predicated on all in a community, as stake holders, being committed to make it work. All individuals would need to play a role in building the combined system He stated why he believes that such a unified system provides better protection as a whole when all are working together. Discussion focused on what in the charter makes it difficult to unify the volunteer departments with the career department. The question was raised whether the language in the charter was inhibiting fire service. It was noted that there has been no voice to dissolve the volunteer departments in this discussion. It was noted that going forward the Commission would need to focus on presenting the matters to the community, educating the public in regards to the discussions, needs presented, and decisions for change.

Chair Sandak noted that the next meeting would be Wednesday 2/8/12. The invited guests would be representatives from the Board of Education and the Superintendent's office. Going forward the committee would refocus on the Health matters presented.

Mr. Jachimczyk moved that the committee adjourn with a second by Mr. Grebey. It was approved at 8:45.

Respectfully submitted,

Gail Okun

