

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 April 24, 2012

The 17th Charter Revision Commission Public Safety & Health/Education/Ethics committee was called to order by Chair Jay Sandak at 7:02 on April 24, 2012. All committee members were in attendance: Jay Sandak, Clarence Grebey, Gail Okun, Robert Robins, and Michael Jachimczyk. Also in attendance were Commission members Rosanne McManus and George Sessa, and members of the fire companies.

A motion was made by Mr. Jachimczyk and seconded by Mrs. Okun to approve the minutes of 4/10/2012. The minutes were approved by the committee. A motion was made by Mr. Grebey and seconded by Mr. Jachimczyk to approve the minutes of 4/16/2012. The minutes were approved by the committee. A motion was made by Mr. Jachimczyk and seconded by Mr. Robins to approve the minutes of 4/17/2012. The minutes were approved by the committee.

Continued discussion of the fire service and the fire marshal followed. Mr. Sandak reviewed the progress made by the committee. The points made were as follows:

1. There shall be one fire department made up of career firefighters employed by the city and volunteer firefighters who belong to the volunteer companies.
2. There shall be a single chief who will be responsible for the allocation of resources for all service, the training of staff, and operating policies. There shall be an assistant chief for the career companies who will be responsible for the career personnel and an assistant chief for the volunteer companies who will be responsible for the volunteer personnel. The chief of the Stamford Fire Department shall be appointed by the Mayor. The assistant fire chief for the career companies shall be appointed by the chief. The assistant fire chief for the volunteer companies shall be appointed by the chief from a pool of candidates nominated by the volunteer chiefs.
3. The individual volunteer fire chiefs shall have primary responsibility for the fire service in their district - personnel and equipment.

4. There shall be a single fire marshal for the Stamford Fire Department.
5. There shall be a single Fire Commission for the Stamford Fire Department.

Both the career and volunteer assistant chiefs will be contract employees of the city. The individual volunteer fire chiefs would be subject to the supervision of the fire chief and would be primarily responsible for fire fighting services within their respective districts. These volunteer chiefs would be responsible for personnel, equipment and facilities owned by the companies. They would be responsible for all personnel assigned to their houses.

A break was taken to create a document summing up the deliberations of the committee.

There was a review of the Board of Education issues and other items. It was decided that all had been reported out previously except for items being reviewed by counsel.

A draft fire service proposal was generated to be presented to the full commission for discussion and was discussed by the committee. Discussion then followed on the Fire Commission. A vote was taken on whether to have a commission comprised of members from the general public. Mr. Sandak, Mr. Robins, Mr. Grebey, and Mr. Jachimczyk voted in favor and Mrs. Okun was opposed.

Mr. Robins moved and Mr. Jachimczyk seconded that the draft proposal be adopted by the committee for presentation. All committee members were in favor. The draft proposal was adopted. (a copy is attached to these minutes)

A motion was made by Mr. Jachimczyk and seconded by Mr. Grebey to adjourn at 8:53. It was approved by the committee.

Respectfully submitted,
Gail Okun

This meeting is on [video](#).

RECOMMENDATION OF THE COMMITTEE

April 24, 2012

DRAFT FIRE SERVICE PROPOSAL

The Stamford Charter is revised to reflect the following:

1. Fire Service for the City of Stamford shall be provided by the “Stamford Fire Department” which shall consist of both career firefighters who are employees of the City of Stamford and volunteer firefighters who are members of one or more of the duly established volunteer fire departments/companies operating within the boundaries of the City of Stamford according to state law.
2. There shall be a single chief of the Stamford Fire Department who shall be responsible for all firefighting services, allocation of human and physical resources, training of all personnel and establishment of all standard operating policies for the Stamford Fire Department. In addition there shall be an Assistant Chief for Career Services reporting directly to the Fire Chief who shall be responsible for all career firefighting services and personnel and an Assistant Chief for Volunteer Services reporting directly to the Fire Chief who shall have responsibility for all volunteer firefighting services and personnel. The Chief shall be appointed by the Mayor. The Assistant Chief for Career Services shall be appointed by the Fire Chief. The Assistant Chief for Volunteer Services shall be appointed by the Fire Chief from a pool of candidates approved by a majority vote of the volunteer chiefs of the volunteer departments/companies operating within the boundaries of the City of Stamford.
3. The volunteer Chiefs of the various departments/companies, shall, subject to the supervision and direction of the Fire Chief of the Stamford Fire Department, have primary responsibility for firefighting services within

their respective fire districts as defined on the Fire Service Map on file with the City Clerk and shall have primary responsibility for all personnel assigned to the volunteer departments/companies, and equipment and facilities owned by the respective volunteer fire departments/companies.

4. There shall be a single Fire Marshal for the entire City of Stamford.
5. The Fire Commission's duties shall apply to the entire Stamford Fire Department.