

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 May 1, 2012

The 17th Charter Revision Commission Public Safety & Health/Education/Ethics Committee was called to order by Chair Jay Sandak at 7:00 on May 1, 2012. Present were Committee Members Okun, Sandak, Grebey, Jachimczyk and Commission Member Fedeli. Members of the fire service were also in attendance.

A motion was made by Mr. Jachimczyk, seconded by Mr. Robins to accept the minutes of 4/24. Discussion followed. A motion was made by Mr. Grebey, seconded by Mr. Jachimczyk to amend the minutes as follows: in item 2 add a pool of "a minimum of three candidates". On item 3 add responsibility for the fire service "subject to direction and supervision of the fire chief". In item 4 change it to say a single fire marshal for the "City of" Stamford." In the Draft Fire Service Proposal in item 2 add "operating policies and rules and regulations" for the Stamford Fire Department. The motion was approved by Okun, Sandak, Grebey, Jachimczyk and Robins.

Discussion followed on Board of Education issues. The issue of non-partisan elections was presented. A motion was made by Mr. Grebey, seconded by Ms. Okun, to acknowledge that this was an issue of merit that the city should address but that it should be taken up at a later date. Discussion followed. Mr. Grebey moved the question, seconded by Ms. Okun and all committee members approved the motion.

On the issue of the language in the existing Charter entitled "Elimination of Superseding Ordinance" presented in the preliminary report to the full commission on 3/7/2012 #2. Mr. Robins moved, and Mr. Jachimczyk seconded that it be approved. All committee members voted to approve the motion.

Discussion followed on the issue of unaffiliated voters' involvement in local government. A motion was made by Mr. Grebey, seconded by Ms. Okun to table the

matter. Further discussion followed and Mr. Grebey moved the question, seconded by Ms. Okun. Okun, Sandak, Grebey and Jachimczyk voted to table and Mr. Robins was opposed.

Discussion followed on the fire service issues and the Draft Fire Service Proposal presented by the committee to the Commission. It was noted that the two goals of the committee were to establish a single company with a single chief and preserve the volunteer fire companies. It was presented that the Fire Chief will become the ultimate authority over the Fire Department. It was discussed that the goal was for the career and volunteer fire fighters to put what was best for the city in the forefront. Acknowledging that the present system was not working the goal was to create a unified system. Discussion followed on the role of the Fire Commission. A motion was made by Mr. Jachimczyk, seconded by Mr. Grebey to amend the language of C 5-40-3 item d to say that there shall be a single Fire Department comprised of career and volunteer fire fighters, under a single chief responsible for all firefighting services, allocation of human and physical resources, training of all personnel and establishment of all standard operating policies and rules and regulations of the Stamford Fire Department. The motion was approved by all committee members.

A motion was made by Mr. Grebey and seconded by Mr. Robins to adjourn the meeting at 9:05. The motion was approved by all committee members.

Respectfully submitted,

Gail Okun

This meeting is on [video](#).