

# CITY OF STAMFORD 19<sup>TH</sup> CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION

Members

*JEANETTE BILICZNIANSKI*

*CYNTHIA BOWSER*

*KAREN CAMPOREALE*

*SUE HALPERN*

*FRANCES LANE*

*MICHAEL LAROBINA*

Members

*STEVEN LOEB*

*ALEX MARTINEZ*

*J.R. MCMULLEN*

*SHELLEY MICHELSON*

*ANTHONY PRAMBERGER, JR.*

*CLEMON WILLIAMS*

Steven Kolenberg, Co-Chair  
Thomas Lombardo, Co-Chair  
Jackie Pioli, Clerk

## **MEETING REPORT** **Wednesday, November 9, 2022** **7:00 p.m.**

This meeting was held remotely at the above date and time. Present were Commissioners Bowser, Camporeale, Halpern, Kolenberg, Lane, Larobina, Lombardo, Martinez, McMullen, Michelson, Pioli, Pramberger and Williams. Additional guests: Attorneys Steve Mednick and Richard Roberts.

1. Co- Chair Kolenberg called the meeting to order at 7:03pm.
2. Co- Chair Kolenberg took attendance through those present on Zoom. A quorum was confirmed to proceed; Commissioner Jeanette Bilicznianski was not present at the time attendance was taken.
3. Commissioner Lane led the Pledge of Allegiance.
4. Communication and Correspondence: Co-Chair Kolenberg confirmed with commission that there was no additional communication or correspondence to share. Commissioner Jeanette Bilicznianski joined the meeting at 7:11pm.
5. Introduction of Outside Counsel: Co- Chair Kolenberg introduced Attorney Mednick and Attorney Roberts. Attorney provided the commission with a brief overview of the duties of the commission and the role he and Attorney Roberts will undertake in the process. There was a lengthy question and answer period. Please see the video at 00:02:45.
6. Land Use Committee Report: Commissioner Loeb stated the committee met with multiple city employees. We've also spent some time going over all the charges, and I can give you a sense of where I think the consensus is, although we haven't yet taken a formal vote. He stated that this would occur in the next one or two meetings and break down the charges. He reviewed in detail publication of notices, decisions of the Zoning Board and petitions. Please see the video at 01:20:40.
7. Finance Committee Report: Commissioner Shelley Michelson shared that Finance Committee met on October 27 and November 2 with meetings scheduled for

November 16 and December 7. The Committee has reviewed Charge #s 23, 36, 37, 38 and 39 and has felt that the sections require no change. Other charge numbers have been put to the interviewees and the Committee will discuss the variances of opinion and look for legal guidance on those and other charges at the conclusion of the interviews. Major items of interest/discussion have centered around biennial budgets, disclosure transparency of items relevant to tax rates, residents' budget participation, powers of the BOR and the BOF, and the seeming independence of the BOE from regular scrutiny and budgetary processes. At this juncture, although there are many items to continue to vet, it appears that the most relevant items for discussion include the seeming independence of the BOE from budgetary oversight, the need for more competent management of the pension assets via appointment of experienced and knowledgeable pension trustees and the "Safe Debt Limit" which results in severe underinvestment in capital improvements within the city. On December 7<sup>th</sup>, Ryan Fealey, Director of Finance for Stamford Public Schools will be interviewed. Please see the video at 01:38:28.

8. Appointed Board and Commissions Report: Commissioner Michael Larobina provided the committee report; the committee did not meet due to an error last month. The committee plans to meet on November 10, 2022. The following items will be discussed; creating a commission on disabilities, process of how people are appointed to boards and commissions. Please see the video at 01:48:45.
9. Elected Officials Committee report: Commissioner Anthony Pramberger, provided the committee report. The committee met with leadership of the Board of Education on October 19<sup>th</sup> and the current Mayor and three former Mayors on November 3<sup>rd</sup>. Topics discussed were legal representation, minority/ majority rules, term limits. The committee met with Mayor Simmons and three previous Mayors Martin, Pavia and Malloy. Topics discussed were a biannual budget, DEI cabinet level position, additional transition time between Mayor's and adding a city housing Department. Please see the video at 02:02:30 for additional comments from previous Mayors. A motion was made to remove items from the charge by Committee. This item will be held until the regular December meeting - four in favor, one abstention by Commissioner Pramberger.
10. City Departments Committee Report: Commissioner Williams stated the committee met with Director of Legal Affairs Doug Dalena and additional members of the law department. The committee reviewed all of the charges and how they are going to move forward. The next meeting is scheduled for November 15, 2022 with Mathew Quinones to review Charge 6A and 6B. Please see the video at 02:44:35.
11. New Business: The Chairs will review a process for bringing votes to the Regular meetings. Commissioner Michelson discussed the Town Clerk duties verses the city charter.
12. Old Business: No old business was discussed.
13. Acceptance of the minutes from October 12, 2022. Commissioner McMullen made the motion, seconded by Commissioner Martinez. It was approved unanimously.

14. Co-Chair Kolenberg adjourned the meeting at 10:06 pm. Commissioner Lane made the motion, seconded by Commissioner Martinez. It was approved unanimously.

*This meeting is available on [video](#).*