

CITY OF STAMFORD 19TH CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION ELECTED OFFICIALS COMMITTEE

Anthony Pramberger, Jr., Chair

Members

Michael Larobina
Thomas Lombardo
J.R. McMullen
Jackie Pioli

Meeting Report

Thursday, February 2, 2023

1. The meeting was held via Zoom and was called to order at 7:03 pm.
2. Roll Call – present were committee members Larobina, Lombardo, McMullen and Pramberger; Pioli was excused. Also present were Commissioners Halpern and Lane, and Representatives Boeger and Matheny.
3. Ongoing review of the Committee’s remaining Charge Items
 - a. The committee discussed C5-20-3 – Board of Representatives (BOR) obtaining independent counsel. The Chair explained that the Charge Item related to this topic is assigned to the City Departments Committee, and that this committee is working in conjunction with Chair Williams’ committee.

Representative Boeger asked if he could speak to the committee, and he was allowed to do so. He spoke in favor of the BOR being able to secure independent counsel. He noted that ongoing counsel is needed by the BOR, possibly on a retainer basis, so the Board could use such counsel as needed. He noted that there is an inherent conflict of interest with the Corporation Counsel representing both the Executive and Legislative branches of city government. He also said that the Board requires legal advice to make certain decisions before the Board. Representative Matheny agreed with him. The committee had additional conversation on the topic; no vote was taken on the matter.

The Chair then shared the information from Ms. L. Berta regarding how monies are funded or appropriated for such counsel. The most likely source of funds would be from a contingency fund. The following amounts were recently set: FY19 Additional Appropriation \$75k; FY20 Adopted Budget \$175k; FY21 Adopted Budget \$119,400; FY22 Adopted Budget \$45k.

Mr. Lombardo shared that Representative Sherwood asked that she be allowed to speak to the committee before a decision is made. It was agreed that Mr. Lombardo would speak with Mr. Williams to see if Ms. Sherwood could speak at the February 7th City Departments Committee meeting and confirm same with Ms. Sherwood.

- b. The committee also discussed C2-10-4 – Absence of the Mayor - Assuring a seamless transition when the Mayor and BOR President are both simultaneously absent from Stamford. There was discussion around successful performance of duties during such an absence, and how emergency situations effect that ability. It was agreed that a change to update section C2-10-4 would be appropriate. It was agreed that Mr. Pramberger would draft such language and work with Mr. Larobina to have a proposal for the committee to review at its February 15th meeting.
4. The Meeting Notes of January 18, 2023 were approved as written, 4-0.
5. Upcoming meeting: February 15 (at this point in person; the committee reserved the right to change to a Zoom meeting depending on the agenda).
6. Unfinished Business - none
7. New Business - none
8. Adjournment took place at 7:55 pm.

This meeting is on [video](#)