



CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION

MEETING

Tuesday, January 25, 2005

The meeting for the Charter Revision Commission was called to order by Steve Bellis at 7:23 P.M. in Room 104 at Shelton City Hall.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Attending: Steve Bellis
Joseph Konner
Ann Dougherty
Charles Carroll

Absent: Paul DiMauro
Michael Davis
Sue Coyle
Irene Smith
Gary Cahill
Bob Lally

Steve Bellis: We'll start with the public portion. Is there anyone from the public that would like to give any remarks, please step up. Seeing none, we'll move on.

Mr. Scinto, did you want to speak? I didn't see you back there.

Bob Scinto: I was advised last week when you were discussing zoning issues, I couldn't make it so I thought I'd just drop by tonight, and basically if there's any questions or any comments or anything you wanted me to address, I thought I would just comment on anything you might have had any concerns with, that I might be able to shed some light to the subject.

Steve Bellis: We had Mr. Cribbins speak and he made a few points and I don't think there were any questions that we had. He covered what he thought were pertinent.

Ann Dougherty: I think he mentioned four things, if I could remember them, I think he mentioned term limits, he thought that he liked keeping the alternates, so he didn't want term limits. I think that was one issue. I think another issue was 4-year terms instead of 2, minority representation

*Steve Bellis: Which we had
Ann Dougherty: and staggered 4-year terms*

Bob Scinto: You know I think that one of the secrets to that Commission has been this longevity of the members on it. I go back to 1978, with Stevenson, Nippy Russell and they served with no other agenda but to see that, and they had a history. I think with the zoning what is most important is that you have a history of the town, why things were done, why they weren't done. So I think all those things are good and I'm sorry I missed the meeting, but I appreciate the couple of minutes to talk and I wish you luck in your Charter. Thank you.

Steve Bellis: Thank you very much.

Joe Konner: Steve, I think we should make this official and I would like to nominate you as Temporary Chair for this evening. So to make it official, I would like to nominate Steve Bellis as Temporary Chairman for this evening.

Charles Carroll: I second it

Steve Bellis: All in favor

Passed unanimously

Steve Bellis: We don't have all of our members here tonight, so we weren't going to take any official voting action tonight anyway, everything is being recorded for those of you that have come before, there are minutes that are taken as well, and we had invited some guests and we'd like to hear from those people, but let me officially close the public portion unless someone else would like to speak in the public portion.

The public portion concluded at 7:39 P.M.

The Board of Ethics was invited to this evening's meeting. Byron Peterson and Christine Robinson attended.

Steve Bellis: For the record, if you don't mind stating your names and addresses.

Christine Robinson: Christine Robinson, 7 Shady Brook Lane

Byron Peterson: Byron Peterson, 141 Princeton.

Steve Bellis: As you know we are trying to go through the Charter and make recommendations if we think they are necessary and one of the issues that have come up is the Board of Ethics. A couple of things actually that have come up. One is how many members you feel should be on the Board of Ethics, whether it be 3, 5, 7 or any number, and then the second issue was I think people have talked about whether that's

something that should be appointed, whether you should be appointed or whether you should be elected at large at a City election and we don't know what, we just want some candid feedback from you. If it's working well we're not here to change things but if you think something can be corrected or can work better then we'd like to hear about it. I don't know who would like to start.

Byron Peterson: As to the number I really don't have an opinion, I've attended a program in the City of Milford which they had just started there. I had an opportunity to talk with the State Attorney and asked him what is the, what can I say, the optimum number, and he really couldn't give me an answer. He said that it kind of depends on the City, 2, 5 or 7, it really depends on the municipality. As far as how is it working, the three of us do not have a problem. We all have to be there. That's worked well. A larger committee would just mean, work as you are doing tonight, where some members are missing but you have a plurality. That would be the benefit of a larger group as it should.

Steve Bellis: So three works fine

Christine Robinson: It has, but keep in mind also it's just not the three we have to concern ourselves with, if we need our attorney, that's number 4, not for voting, but to get his input, and a clerk. So it's 5 people's schedules that you are trying to get together. OK, so yes the three are what's needed and we usually, I have not been on the Board a year yet, it's just been under a year, and we're able to do it, to get together with the three people, can we always get the clerk and the attorney? No.

Steve Bellis: I know what that's like.

Christine Robinson: That's what tape recorders are for.

Steve Bellis: How about the second issue, do you have a feeling or have you thought about it?

Byron Peterson: I haven't thought about it, I guess the question that I raise, what would be the benefit of having it either elected or appointed because you do have appointed Boards. The only concern I would raise is what's the intent of wanting it to be elected versus being appointed. Really, that would be the concern, and if it is a concern, how do you run? I'm an ethical individual, vote for me. I don't know. Ethics is not something you can legislate, it's something you bring to the game, integrity.

Steve Bellis: Do you feel the same way?

Christine Robinson: Yes, I don't know what it would gain by having elected over appointed, you know, all it can do is, and my only thing that I can express to you is, in the short time that I've been there, eleven months, it's been working for us. I can't speak for what's happen prior to that time, three individuals that have come together

that didn't know each other prior to this time and we've sat and we've talked and we respect each others opinions, and we listen and we meet.

Steve Bellis: We don't have any agenda

Byron and Christine: No

Steve Bellis: We're just trying to, and in the last two Charters we have not tried to change that from an elected position to appointed or visa versa, but there has been some talk in the community about discussing it and that's why we've asked you here. Sometimes there's a conflict, you don't know when it's going to come up, sometimes there's a point that can be made that if the people that appointed you would have to be looked at, can you be fair and objective. I wonder if you could comment on that.

Byron Peterson: Well you have to remember that in our case, we are presented to the Board of Aldermen, so they have to approve us, it's not one person appointing and having no control over it, so you do have others to say good idea or not a good idea, that's the safeguard built here in Shelton, that the appointment would not happen without approval of the Aldermen.

Christine Robinson: And it wasn't just that they gave a name, you know we had to put together a resume, and that resume was presented to the Board of Aldermen, and the Board of Aldermen had to decide yea or nay, so yes it was appointed but then with the understanding that the Board of Aldermen approved or disapproved

Byron Peterson: The other thing you need to look at too is will you get people to participate if they have to go through the electoral process and I'll be honest, I'm not that involved in politics in the city of Shelton. I came into this state as an Independent, was a Democrat, now a Republican. Party doesn't mean anything to me, I look at the integrity of the individual and that's how I vote. I was approached if I would consider this and it took me five months to decide if I wanted to get into politics and I said no I'm not getting into politics, well this is an appointed position it's not politics. I kind of laughed about it and the reason why I was asked is because I happen to be the Ethics Officer for a major corporation and I said if you're interested in me bringing my professional expertise to the Board, I'd be willing to do that, but for political gain forget it. No we'd like your expertise, that's the reason I decided to do it, if it was a political thing, I wouldn't run, I don't like to get involved in that.

Steve Bellis: Do you feel the same way?

Christine Robinson: Yes

Ann Dougherty: Steve, just to open it up a little bit, if a real hot political issue came up, and the pressure on three people, for instance just theoretically, if a Republican had one view and a Democrat had one view, and that would put the whole decision on the Independent person so in the back of my mind, I did some reading and I'm thinking maybe five people or seven people might take some pressure off so that it

would be just not one person who make the total decision. And you said you're happy with three. I don't know if you've been involved in any hot issues, but sometimes these hot issues can be political and all this pressure on one person and that's why I tend to lean more towards five or seven to help the situation

Christine Robinson: So if you had 2 Republicans and 2 Democrats and 1 Independent, you'd still have the one person. I don't get it.

Ann Dougherty: Because you would need a majority, if you want 2-2-1, so someone would have to be open minded and sway, and that's what we're supposed to do, we're supposed to be open-minded about things

Christine Robinson: I think the little bit that the three of us have been together, obviously Byron has been on the Committee a little bit longer than I have, I have to honestly say we have been very respectful of each others opinions so much so that maybe things go a little slower than one person would have wanted them to go from the point of view that we are so respectful of each others point of view to make sure that we are not leading something out, with 3 at this point, 3 very different individuals, no commonality at all except for the fact that we live in the City of Shelton.

Ann Dougherty: We have to think of the next ten years

Christine Robinson: Absolutely, I will share with you, as we both said our biggest challenge is getting together. We have the dates set aside but sometimes our business relationships prevent us from getting together on that particular day and we try to hold the date open but sometimes it's just physically impossible and so we have to set a special day aside and call another meeting at a different time, as close to that timeframe as possible.

Ann Dougherty: How do you feel about staggered terms, do you think all three should be appointed at one time or when 1 goes

Byron Peterson: I think the staggered is good because it gives you some continuity at least among the members, because when I came on the Board, I had to rely on 1 individual's point on what happened

Ann Dougherty: And I guess a new Code of Ethics is being drawn up by the Corporation Counsel

Christine Robinson: So we heard

Joe Konner: Have you seen it, it's just a draft for discussion purposes, but I'm curious on whether or not you've had an opportunity to look at it.

Byron Peterson: We haven't

Steve Bellis: Do you mind if we give it to you and see if you have any comments on it

Christine Robinson: You could give it to us, we individually would look at it on our own, but it would probably be best to be addressed to the Ethics Committee and mailed to City Hall and then we will then get it because it's best we all get it at the same time and since the Chairman of the Committee is not here, it's not fair that we get it and

Steve Bellis: I don't mean right now

Christine Robinson: No, it's no problem at all, send it to us

Inaudible

Christine Robinson: These are our opinions, they are not the opinions of the Committee, because the Committee is not here, but if you wanted us to discuss specific things as a Committee then we would have to put it on our agenda to discuss these questions as a Committee and as a Committee get back to you

Joe Konner: I'd like to pursue that just a little bit too, you have a set of existing and an ordinance now, and a set up existing rules which you're going to make a judgment when you review a particular case, do you feel with what you're working with is sufficient, does it need more improvement, where can it be improved, and the things you say might be lacking in your experience with your company for example, or the things in the existing guidelines are perhaps need to be embellished a little bit or expanded to cover different situations?

Byron Peterson: Well, I think one thing that helps is having the attorney there because we've been able to look at the state and understand what our roles have been. But one of the things I've had members of the City, Aldermen (inaudible), a lot of people are not aware of the advisory portion of it, that they can come to the Ethics Board and ask for advice, what ifs and what are your thoughts. But these three or four did come to us and ask our opinions, I think I might have a conflict, what do you suggest. And that's one of the roles that should be advertised more and help people understand, but there are portions of it that I would question. From my experience in the industry, I would raise the question as to defining what is a significant gift. In my organization we have a dollar value, it so happens also the same with the conflict of interest across worldwide and I know that was a concern, someone made me aware, presented an ethics definition for members of the community back in March of last year and some of the things that came up were could we be more specific about gift

Inaudible

Ann Dougherty: They defined gift in the beginning and then they go on

Joe Konner: The proposed ordinance starts to get, and that's why I think Steve is on the track when he says, I'd like you guys to take a look at this as a Committee.

Christine Robinson: That's fine, like I said, as we tell everybody the same thing, please just you know send us the appropriate number of copies, if you can, otherwise we'd have to make copies, and just send it directly to City Hall, to the Ethics Committee and Maria Davis is the Chairperson and she will ensure that it will get to us.

Steve Bellis: And we're just looking for your comments

Christine Robinson: And that's fine, and then we'd be able to sit and review it together and discuss it and make our suggestions or recommendations as a Committee and then get back to you in writing as a Committee.

Joe Konner: And I don't want to step on the two Aldermen that are working very hard to put this thing together too, I think they should be advised what our request is as well. Let John and Jack Finn know that.

Ann Dougherty: So Mr. Chairman can we keep 5.4 as an open item?

Steve Bellis: Sure

Ann Dougherty: In case these people bring back some ideas

Steve Bellis: That's no problem. Let me think if there is something else, we talked about most of the items in here. Staggered two-year terms, is that alright with the both of you

Byron & Christine: yes

Steve Bellis: I think that basically covers it. Again the Charter is just a guideline, the ordinance is much more specific

Christine: Sure

Steve Bellis: Well if there is anything else that you would like to add please feel free otherwise we appreciate you coming.

Christine: We'd be willing to look at it as a Committee, not a problem

Ann Dougherty: Do you meet regularly, or do you meet when an issue comes up?

Byron Peterson: No we have a first Thursday of every month is our meeting date, if there is nothing on the agenda then the meeting is cancelled.

Christine Robinson: And if that date is not suitable for the members of the Committee or due to some conflict then we will schedule a special meeting. Usually we have been sticking to either the week before or the week after or the week of, not to go too far out

from what the normal time-frame is, not to make something extend out 6 weeks, or 8 weeks or something like that, we try to keep it to an every 4 week or as close to that as possible.

Ann Dougherty: Well, thanks for all your work. Again I still have this idea about 5 people, or 7 people to making it easier for you guys.

Byron Peterson: And again, as you see it works fine, there can be pros and cons from both sides

Christine Robinson: I understand what you're saying, of course you understand where we're coming from too

Joe Konner: Good luck if your come across any hot buttons

Christine Robinson: Thank you

Steve Bellis: Thank you very much for coming

Christine Robinson: Your welcome, Bye

Steve Bellis: We've also invited the representative of the Officers' Council and representative of board of Fire Commissioners, they're patiently waiting in the front row. Gentlemen would you like to come up here or would you like to stay where you are? You're welcome to pull some chairs.

Steve Bellis: Did we finally get it right, for a third time?

Bob Araujo: We're going to change it a forth time.

Steve Bellis: Just for the record I'm going to ask if you would give us your name.

Bruce Kosowsky

Merle Chase

Bob Araujo, Chairman of the Board of Fire Commissioners

Jim Tortora

Soren Ibsen

Steve Bellis: Thanks for coming, and I know that you guys have been helpful all along. You've had a chance to look at our draft and why don't you start if you have some suggestions or changes.

Jim Tortora: *On behalf of the Officers' Council we submitted, I believe you have copies*

Ann Dougherty: *Draft 4*

Steve Bellis: *I believe it is*

Jim Tortora: *At our last meeting, kind of what we feel is final, looking for your input on our proposal if there is any.*

Steve Bellis: *Draft 4, is that what we're on?*

Joe Konner: *Yes, I've got their proposal as well*

Ann Dougherty: *But there was an earlier proposal as well*

Jim Tortora: *2005 it should be dated as*

Bruce Kosowsky: *Just for the record, as a member of the Board of Fire Commissioners, I've never seen this proposal. I've been a member of the Board of Fire Commissioners for eleven consecutive terms.*

Steve Bellis: *And why is that? Why hasn't he seen it?*

Bob Araujo: *Well this is a, first of all you're soliciting input which is great of the various members of the Fire Department. I think when you're done with your research and you're done with your proposal, I get to send it to the Board of the Officers' Council would make a lot of sense so that we see what the final draft is. So what I ask is that after you wrestle through back and forth with the plus' and minus' that you could send it to us or we'll get together in a joint meeting or whatever to review that so that there is no concern who hasn't seen it or has seen it, and what's the final final version.*

Jim Tortora: *If I may Mr. Chairman*

Steve Bellis: *Yes*

Jim Tortora: *As Chairman of the Charter Revision Subcommittee of the Officers' Council, we have been meeting as you all know constantly. With this review committee and ours, we've been back and forth, the Board of Fire Commissioners has appointed two people to work with us and we haven't heard from them. They know when our meetings were, we've submitted a proposal all along and that proposal is what's in front of you right now on behalf of the membership that we feel that the Officers' Council represents.*

Steve Bellis: *Who are the members?*

Jim Tortora: The Officers' Council?

Steve Bellis: No, that you just eluded to?

Joe Konner: From the Commissioners, you said there were two people from the Commissioners that were signed up

Jim Tortora: Oh, I'm sorry, Commissioner Kosowsky and Commissioner Chase I believe. I was at their meeting when they appointed them and they had no questions for me as Chairman of that Committee so I don't know where

Ann Dougherty: Has this gentleman seen the draft?

Merle Chase: No I have not

Jim Tortora: All the Fire Companies

Ann Dougherty: So the Council hasn't seen it but the Commissioners have?

Jim Tortora: No, the Council has seen it

Bob Araujo: And the Commissioners have not.

Jim Tortora: It was sent to all Companies via fax, I don't know what the Captains did with it

Bruce Kosowsky: Was it sent to the Board of Fire Commissioners office?

Jim Tortora: No

Bruce Kosowsky: We just recently decided to, I and Commissioner Chase to come here to the Charter Revision Commission from the Board of Fire Commissioners after we received communication from the Board. Because the way I look at it is that the Board of Fire Commissioners has a Charter section and the Officers' Council has a Charter section, so I don't see it as my position to tell them how they should run their organization nor is it their position to tell us how we should run our organization.

Inaudible

Bruce Kosowsky: Again I don't have any problems working together and I'm not sure if we have to look at the Officers' Council minutes of their meeting to see how many times their committee reported back to them to see if the Officers' Council actually voted on that. I'm not sure I had the opportunity to look at the Officers' Council minutes to see if they actually voted on that changes that they think should be in there.

Jim Tortora: Mr. Chairman if I may, I report on every Officers' Council meeting and the Board of Fire Commissioners knows that I'm reporting because I have it right here in writing that they're after my resignation, one of them, because I am working on the Charter pertaining to the equality of all the Fire Commissioners, I have it right here in writing if you want to see it, so they can't tell me what's going on, they're just a little perturbed because we're doing something to the Fire Department without their input. Ok, their input is coming too late. I believe they submitted something to your Revision Committee last year that coat-tailed what we already had submitted. We've come this far working together with this Committee and that's what, if the Board of Fire Commissioners wants to take it and try to decipher from it then that's fine. Our job was to work with the Charter Revision Committee to benefit the Fire Department and the Charter Revision. Our members have 20+ years in the Fire Department. We're not here to fight with them, we're not here to tell them what to do. What we did with the Board of Fire Commissioners and the Officers' Council was to take any problems in the past and in the future to better it so we can all work together with operations and administration to work hand in hand and there would be no problems. That was our job and that's what we've come to do. That's what we've come here for today. Their lack of input shouldn't have

Inaudible

Jim Tortora: Well we're done

Bob Araujo: OK, and what I'm asking is that when we're done with this review, then we see a copy, or we have a copy or we have a joint meeting so that we can resolve the issues, and then we avoid the concern, and certainly I think the two members that are here may have some input as we go through this as well.

Steve Bellis: I'm looking at the January 19, 2005 is that what you have?

Jim Tortora: yes

Steve Bellis: And the red?

Jim Tortora: Let me explain why it's red. There's no change

Ann Dougherty: I have a January 25th

Steve Bellis: That's what I'm trying to figure out, which is which. No, I'm talking about their proposal

Joe Konner: Their proposal of January 19. Has that been incorporated into the draft of January 19th Sophia?

Sophia Belade: No

Jim Tortora: It's our proposal of January 19th.

Joe Konner: There's our draft and then there is Jim's draft. We're on Jim's draft of the 19th.

Jim Tortora: There's really no changes of what we submitted back last year, except what's in red and bold. What's in red, the Committee wanted clarification on language, I didn't want to make it sound like, the problem is that all the Board of Fire Commissioners in the old Charter say that they are all equal in rank

Steve Bellis: Where are we now?

Jim Tortora: I'm right here

Steve Bellis: Ok, so just to make the reference so that she can keep the record straight. We're under 6.9.3.2 correct?

Jim Tortora: Correct

Steve Bellis: And on the bottom of that paragraph 2, go ahead

Jim Tortora: Let's start with paragraph 2, the old Charter said that without the word Company the Commissioners would all be equal in rank. And the Committee felt that why if there is 5 people in rank, they why have a Chairman. The four Company Commissioners are equal in rank and the Chairman is the head Chairman, votes as a Chairman, not equal as the others, the red is highlighted because we need or would like to have the language changed, or if it sounds right what is in red as far as saying the Chairman or those working underneath the direction of or shall be, do you get the concept?

Steve Bellis: Yes I do.

Jim Tortora: A Chairman, four people below him that are equal. Not five people that are equal. Because why do you have Chairman if five people are equal? Because the Chairman is appointed by the Mayor.

Bruce Kosowsky: Inaudible, 1967 there was no Board of Fire Commissioners, people worked very hard to put a Board of Fire Commissioners back in the 70's and one of the things that they wanted to ensure of the rest of the volunteer fire companies that all companies had an equal share in the Fire Department. That when the Commissioners all decided to, when they decided to have Fire Commissioners they wanted to ensure that every fire company plus the Chairman were all equal. Because if you look at your Section 5, by what they are proposing there, it wouldn't gain anything because in Section 5 the provisions, the Boards and the Commissions have the obligation to come with the rules and the regulations throughout the Board. So you can make rules and

regulations that wouldn't basically give the Chairman any more power or any less power.

Steve Bellis: I don't think it can be in violation or contradict the Charter itself with

Bruce Kosowsky: But right now why make a change, this is my point in other words, the way it is right now, if the Chairman, he runs the meeting, if someone on one of the Commissioners votes, makes a motion, seconds it, whatever, the Board votes and it's approved by the Full Board. And as far as the, it doesn't make any sense to me, and the other side of it is that the internal workings of the Board, ok, we all work together and all take a responsibility for a certain item, but not one person can run the whole Fire Department. It's very difficult. So we all take a responsibility as one Commissioner doing different jobs. That's the way we run today. Because you have to keep in mind

Steve Bellis: I'm just looking at this language here, that's all I'm focusing on, and I think he's just clarifying, that's all I think that is

Bruce Kosowsky: The Chairman is like a super vote, I guess

Jim Tortora: No, No, what we're trying to say that the Commission should have someone to be responsible and be the Director. I don't think you can have 5 guys be equal in rank, why have a Chairman? What's the Chairman's position?

Steve Bellis: Well the Chairman presides at the meeting.

Bruce Kosowsky: That's it, so that's what I was saying, you see what they're trying to do there is that they are trying to make the Chairman somewhere, you may not have a Chairman there all the time. That's another thing in the language you wanted to correct, where it says shall be present at all meetings, we don't want that there any longer, we need to get rid of that so that if you can have a Vice Chairman. We're allowed to have a Vice Chairman if we so deem to vote for a Vice

Inaudible

Steve Bellis: (inaudible), because I see later on where it talks about where it breaks a tie, go ahead

Jim Tortora: Yes, that's the next sentence, "the Chairman or designated Company Commissioner shall preside at all meetings of the Board of Fire Commissioners", because the old language was "the Chairman shall preside", now if he's not there, you can't have a legal meeting

Steve Bellis: That's right

Jim Tortora: I think we've discussed this last time with the Revision Committee.

Steve Bellis: We did

Jim Tortora: And the Chairman shall vote, everything else is basically the same what we submitted before.

Ann Dougherty: How is the designated Commissioner chosen, by a simple majority

Jim Tortora: Our of the other four, or the Chairman can call before a meeting and say I won't be there so the Chair will be Commissioner Chase or Commissioner Kosowsky

Ann Dougherty: So then the Chairman could appoint

Jim Tortora: That evening sure

Ann Dougherty: So is it that way or is it they'll take a vote and whoever get the most votes

Jim Tortora: However they want to do it, maybe they should have their own by-laws to figure out how they want to do that

Bob Araujo: If you remain silent in the Charter, you allow the flexibility of the organization, and generically you allow the flexibility of the organization, by vote policy whatever so

Ann Dougherty: That's correct, but how flexible should the Charter be?

Bob Araujo: I guess it has to be somewhat flexible to allow for

Inaudible

Jim Tortora: But the language was if it sounded right and our contention was again that you don't have per se five bosses, there's five equal people to say five different decisions in one day. The other four equal in rank, the decision has to be made whether it's on a mercy basis or not, they should be able to call the Commissioner Chairman, and he should be able to direct and say well we can do it this way, we shouldn't do that, or we shouldn't do this, let's have a meeting or something. There's got to be someone that's responsible to be the head of it. The Chairman's job shouldn't just be to preside at the meetings. Should the secretary, the mechanic, the Fire Marshall or the Fire Chief or whoever it is underneath him have five bosses? If one guy doesn't like what the other guy did because he changed his mind and ordered the guy to do something else? And that can go all the way down the line, you have five different orders in five minutes.

Charles Carroll: Doesn't the order come from the group or the Fire Commissioners?

Bruce Kosowsky: *Yes*

Charles Carroll: *So what, the elected Chairman, but in the end 3-2 or 4-1 or whatever it is, that's what the rule is.*

Jim Tortora: *that's fine, but what about the day-to-day administration and operation? There's five different people equal in rank. And we've had that problem of someone telling one thing and someone else telling them to do this. (inaudible) That's another issue. Now the Commissioners are doing day-to-day operations so we don't know, that's what this is trying to define. And the bottom line here is that the Board of Fire Commissioners shall handle day-to-day administration operations and the Fire Chief shall handle day-to-day operational, which is fire suppression. The Board of Fire Commissioners will handle administration which is the budget, policy making from the Officers' Council and those related items.*

Charles Carroll: *And that happens on a daily basis?*

Jim Tortora: *Just about*

Charles Carroll: *And the Board of Fire Commissioners have to make a decision every day?*

Jim Tortora: *No, it could happen that way. It is happening that way. Not as much as the day-to-day but it's*

Charles Carroll: *My next question is what do we need a Fire Chief for?*

Inaudible

Jim Tortora: *That's what we're trying to clarify.*

Charles Carroll: *I would think that the Board of Fire Commissioners would set policy and that the Fire Chief ran the day-to-day operations of the Fire Department.*

Steve Bellis: *That's how we thought it was going to be.*

Jim Tortora: *It's not working that way.*

Joe Konner: *Why?*

Charles Carroll: *Yes, why?*

Jim Tortora: *Because you have to ask them. They're making decisions that a Chief should be making, whether to take out of service or which truck goes where, they're doing that now. I don't know why they're not allowing the Chief any input, I don't know why*

Joe Konner: *How do you explain that Bob?*

Bob Araujo: *By policy at this time, the Chief has no physical authority, obviously the Board doesn't, the only one that does is the Board of Aldermen. If there is a procurement issue, let's take tires, the Chief cannot purchase tires, he cannot bid tires, there is a standard bid, it goes through the Board, the Board procures that, the Board procures the purchase order, the administrative part of the office prepares the purchase order, submits the purchase order, it's identified what budget line item, when it comes times for a transfer, let's say there's not enough money in the tire account, there's not a tire account, but if there's not enough money in that account and the money has to be transferred, it's this Board that has to make that transfer. So it sounds as though a simple task, turns into I now have to make sure I fund it, and make sure that I can procure it, and now I have to make sure that I have the right money in the right account to do that.*

Joe Konner: *What's the Fire Chief's responsibility in all this?*

Bob Araujo: *Fire Chief's responsibility is certainly obviously is operational from a fire standpoint, from a staffing standpoint, from a location of vehicles and a movement of vehicles standpoint. Any administration of that*

Joe Konner: *And a Fire Chief is a full-time position?*

Bob Araujo: *The Fire Chief is not a full-time position. It's a stipend position*

Bruce Kosowsky: *You have to look at it as the Fire Department is administrated by a part-time secretary and a part-time records keeper. The Board of Fire Commissioners does not get any pay. The whole Fire Department administration is basically are two part-time salaries. We don't have cars, we pay for our own phones, we don't have gasoline to burn up, ok? We don't get high salaries, we administrate the Fire Department for free. And with that method, the Board has worked out over the years and meant to do that, and we keep contact with all of us continuously, transfers and you were an Alderman, whenever there's money to be*

Bob Araujo: *Another, a major fire occurs. We lose a couple of lengths of hose, we ruin a ladder, it happens, we lose a couple of pieces of equipment all that has to be replaced and procured*

Ann Dougherty: *And does the Officers' Council report to the Fire Chief, do they advise the Fire Chief, the Officers' Council?*

Bob Araujo: *The Officers' Council is basically an organization that recommends policy to the Board and creates their own standard operation procedures.*

Joe Konner: *Operational procedures?*

Bob Araujo: *Operational procedures. So let's go back to the example, we have a piece of equipment that has been taken out of service for whatever reason, it has been ruined, that has to be re-procured, that has to be put back in a rapid and timely manner to ensure that this equipment is in fact in service. Now the Chief obviously wants to make sure that that piece of equipment is in service and fully operational. But there is that tire procurement cycle and if necessary you have to go to the Board of A&T or the Board of Aldermen for additional funding. We've had aerial devices that have been out of service, have had major repairs. 30. \$40,000.00, \$50,000.00 repairs and had to go and have that money transferred with special appropriations*

Ann Dougherty: *I'm just trying to settle in my mind, I'm sorry. What's the difference between the Council and the Commissioners? Is there a definitive difference?*

Bob Araujo: *Yes, the Council, the intent of the Officers' Council is to bring the Officers, the operational Officers together with the Chief Officers and review operational issues, create standard operating procedures and recommend policy, and that's really what it is meant to do, it's to understand and resolve the operational issues.*

Ann Dougherty: *Operational?*

Bob Araujo: *Operational*

Ann Dougherty: *Operational, that's the key word. And what about the Commissioners?*

Bob Araujo: *The Board of Fire Commissioners is the administrative side*

Ann Dougherty: *Operational and administrative, got it.*

Bob Araujo: *That's what Fire Marshal Tortora was talking about the administrative and the operational side. That's where those two are.*

Jim Tortora: *And that's what we're trying to decipher here, because it's not happening that way, and it hasn't happened for a long time.*

Joe Konner: *That was my questions, does the language in your proposal satisfy both your goals, I mean the one goal?*

Jim Tortora: *On behalf of the Officers' Council it does, yes.*

Steve Bellis: *Wait, what language are we talking about so I'm clear. Are we talking about*

Inaudible

Joe Konner: The proposal

Steve Bellis: Oh, ok

Jim Tortora: The Officers' Council, yes. The Officers' Council approves this proposal

Joe Konner: And you, and the Commissioners haven't reviewed this proposal?

Merle Chase and Bruce Kosowsky: No we have not.

Steve Bellis: Never saw it?

Jim Tortora: Not the newest one.

Steve Bellis: Not the newest one.

Joe Konner: But the newest one is not very much different than what was submitted last time.

Inaudible

Jim Tortora: Submitted back 6 months ago, the Board submitted almost the same thing

Steve Bellis: And just so I'm clear so we can get the Commissioner perspective, and I know you've only seen that sentence for what not a very long time, you haven't seen this before?

Bruce Kosowsky: No

Steve Bellis: But you have a problem with it, it sounds like or what you're telling us tonight.

Bruce Kosowsky: Well my concern is that we received a letter from the Charter Revision Commission for the Commission, we didn't receive a letter to say that we should go to the Officers' Council meeting for part of the Charter.

Steve Bellis: Alright, but just take this part

Bruce Kowosky: But that's what I'm saying, the Officers' Council, what changes has it made for the Officers' Council? You're doing Officers' Council tonight and the Board of Fire Commissioners, what changes did the Officers' Council do to their part of the Charter? Because they're the ones that have had difficulties over the years having meetings, no quorums, they've been through all that stuff. What changes have they done

Jim Tortora: We've had no difficulties, we went through the Fire Department portion of the Charter, on behalf of the membership and this is what we have.

Inaudible

Steve Bellis: Do you, as Commissioners, the two of you, have a problem with the way 6.9.3.2. is written?

Merle Chase: In the proposal?

Steve Bellis: In the proposal

Bruce Kosowsky: I haven't seen the proposal, what we voted on, our Board, the Board of Fire Commissioners, is that we go back to the Charter that was before 1994.

Steve Bellis: Ok

Bruce Kosowsky: Ok, which basically stated, I believe in '94 you added Mayor and approval of all appointments, so eliminate that and to make a change that the Chairman does not have the shall preside at every meeting. The Chairman should be there somewhere like that or maybe there and that would give us the latitude so we could go under Section 5, I believe it's general duties or general, Vice Chairman, ok. We couldn't understand why the Chairman had to be there at every meeting, there could be times he may not be there.

Inaudible

Joe Konner: designate someone else to take his place though, so the Chairman doesn't have to be there

Bruce Kosowsky: Well we didn't see that, at our meeting we voted to send you a letter what our changes were to the Charter.

Steve Bellis: Do we have that letter?

Bruce Kosowsky: I'm just explaining what we voted on at our meeting and what we talked about at our meeting. We didn't discuss any other changes but those two things, that's what we voted on at our meeting. We did not take any considerations on the Officers' Council

Steve Bellis: I know that

Jim Tortora: You didn't have to because it's already in there, if they have submitted the same thing then we would have done it, but they know that the issue was coming up. They knew about it back in October. Like I said, it was mentioned at a meeting, where they called for my resignation

Inaudible

Steve Bellis: Let me ask the two Commissioners again, what is the objectionable part, if I can show you the sentence that they added? It's in red. I believe it says that the Company's Commissioners should be under the direction of the Chairman of the Board of Fire Commissioners.

Merle Chase: Well I have a problem with that because we've been elected by our individual companies. We report back to our companies, we represent their views and expectations of our decisions within the Board. So now you're saying that the Chairman is going to be giving us the commands and directions, so is there any need for votes, or just allowing the one individual in the appointed position to make the decisions?

Joe Konner: No, it doesn't say that. It says the Chairman or the designated Company Commissioner shall preside at all meetings, the Chair shall have no vote in any matter before the Board except in the event of a tie. I mean it doesn't give him the hammer, are you acting together as group, you're acting together as a group of people working together. I mean that's the way I read it.

Charles Carroll: The Chairman should only carry out the policy of the other Commissioners, you can't change it

Ann Dougherty: But in that red sentence there, it says under the direction, I think that's a key word

Jim Tortora: It doesn't have to be that, we're just looking for should it be shall be responsible through the Chairman. That's what input we're looking for from your Committee.

Bruce Kosowsky: The other thing I've noticed, even if minor, is a chance that there is always (inaudible) unless the Mayor appoints.

Steve Bellis: What was that again?

Bruce Kosowsky: I said, you always have to remember that there is in most cases, one Fire Company has two Commissioners

Joe Konner: Are you telling me, are you sitting here and telling me that there is so much divisiveness between the Companies, the Fire Companies in here, that that would make a difference? I thought that the Fire Department acted as, for the benefit in the entire town.

Merle Chase: We do

Joe Konner: I mean, then how come , why would it concern you that two of them came from one company

Bruce Kosowsky: Well not just two from the Copmapny, but you could appoint somebody that's not a fireman. Ok, so now we're going to work under a direction of a non-fireman. Ok?

Steve Bellis: But why would a Company do that?

Charles Carroll: Only the direction that the Coiuncil , or the Board of Fire Commissioners gave. The five people sitting there.

Bruce Kosowsky: That's not what that says, it says direction, well he might say I don't want you to write any purchase orders

Joe Konner: No, because he doesn't vote

Bruce Kosowsky: It can happen

Charles Carroll: It can't happen, it can happen with a Board of five people, but the five people decide, but he can't change the rules

Joe Konner: If you have five members

Charles Carroll: (inaudible) only the Chairman changes the rules

Bob Araujo: The Mayor appoints him

Bruce Kosowsky: He's appointed

Charles Carroll: Well I don't see in the Charter that he has any more power than any other Commissioner

Steve Bellis: He has less, he can't vote

Joe Konner: He can't vote except in the event of a tie

Bruce Kosowsky: So what's wrong with the present language?

Inaudible

Steve Bellis: If I'm wrong, then that's because I don't know enough about the Fire Department, I think what I'm hearing is that, and I don't know who it is, it doesn't matter, that there is four Commissioners and each one is going off on their separate ways giving orders and not acting as a group, is that the problem?

Bruce Kosowsky, Merle chase, Bob Araujo: No

Steve Bellis: That's not a problem?

Jim Tortora: Acting on their own, yes it's happened. That's what we're trying to clarify.

Inaudible

Jim Tortora: Somebody needs to be responsible.

Bruce Kosowsky: (inaudible) act on their own that are not members of the Fire Commissioners, that happens. We have people that do things that are, that don't follow the command side of it

Steve Bellis: The way I think of it, and it could be in theory is, the four people vote, if it's 4 to nothing, or 3-1, or no tie, the Chairman doesn't even have any say and then the policy is dictated

Bruce Kosowsky: Well we let the Chairman have a voice

Steve Bellis: Oh no, I understand, but I'm talking about a vote

Bruce Kosowsky: On a vote

Steve Bellis: Under the new, under the latest draft

Bruce Kosowsky: Very seldom does a vote get voted down, since I've been on the Board

Inaudible

Bruce Kosowsky: It's usually a unanimous decision, the only time you might get into any issues is where a vote can count, is maybe some of the policies, maybe he doesn't like some of the policies he might get voted down, but for most of the cases I've been around, very seldom do you see too many votes get voted down

Inaudible

Charles Carroll: (insuadible) the Charter change if the Chairman doesn't have a vote?

Inaudible

Charles Carroll: The Chairman has nop vote?

Inaudible

Bruce Kosowsky: *That's what we're saying, we don't think that should be a change. He should have a right to vote*

Jim Tortora: *We're talking about the proposal*

Charles Carroll: *But somebody said he has no right to vote. So it's the proposal?*

Steve Bellis: *In the proposal, he has no right to vote unless it's a tie.*

Charles Carroll: *Why would we want*

Joe Konner: *Well Bob says if you get two guys from the same company (inaudible)*

Steve Bellis: *Let's hear from this gentleman, he hasn't spoken yet. What's your response?*

Soren Ibsen: *I've been a member of the Fire Department for the past sixteen years, and I've been Assistant Chief for four and a half of those sixteen years, I'm no longer Assistant Chief now but I've gone through the Company Chairs and what have you, I think part of the issue is that the Commissioners meet once or twice a month, they vote on certain policies or things, and buying things and they do that, but during the month each Commissioner has some duties that they look after some administrative details of the Fire Department individually, and maybe we're not all clear as members or as Officers, or as whatever who is in charge of what and what decisions or authorities they can have during the month without taking a vote. I know, the Commisisoner from Company 5 is my Company, he looks at the radio issues, so if there is a problem with the radios, somebody will call him and somebody looks at the trucks and what have you, but I think that kind of gets, might get skewed a little bit where guys are you know making decisions that they shouldn't be making, and that's where the confusion comes in. Do we have to clarify that in the Charter or do they just have to clears up their by-laws or working rules and how they do things, so we're all, we all know and sometimes that overflows into the operational thing. I mean there is a fine line*

Charles Carroll: *So the Commissioners are on their own and they have no respect for the whole group*

Jim Tortora: *It's happened, yes.*

Charles Carroll: *Somebody said earlier, you have four people that*

Soren Ibsen: *It has happened in past Boards, I wouldn't say, I think the current Commission is heading in the right direction, but we're somewhat concerned who's going to be there two years from now and they're all off doing their own thing again. And is there any, and that has happened in the past. I'm not saying the recent past, but you know where it could for example the mechanic is, there might be one Commissioner in charge of trucks along with the chief. Ok you're, these are the trucks*

you have to work on this week, and another Commissioner, well I have a problem with my truck, and calls the city mechanic and says come down here and I want you to work on my truck today because the blinker doesn't work. I'm just throwing that out there.

Joe Konner: That's not an operational issue?

Soren Ibsen: Some of it is, if they have to procure parts. I'm not

Inaudible

Joe Konner: Here's the problem I don't understand the lineation between where the administrative function seizes and where does the operational function pick up. You described purchasing as for example something that administratively performed by the Board of Commissioners. But some of the cases that they're talking about is on the line of what the Fire Chief should be doing.

Bob Araujo: Let me enhance I think what Soren was talking about and let's use the radio for example. First of all, every Board member does have an assignment, has an area that they are assigned, and that they are responsible for and that they look after with the Chief or with whatever organization runs that. If at midnight our radio systems go down and we have redundant systems and we have phone lines all over, the phone line goes down, our radio system goes down, our communications go down we can't alert the Fire Department. It's as simple as that. Commissioner Kosowsky happens to be the person who has that assignment, he will make the necessary arrangements and I will be notified and some of the Board members will be notified and we have to make an emergency procurement, we make an emergency procurement. And we do that immediately because we're putting, and certainly the Fire Chief is involved because the Fire Chief has to, be or his designee, has to be available to bring in whatever resources he needs to make sure that the City is protected. So it's not done in a vacuum, and if it's done in a vacuum then certainly we as a Board sit down or I, as the Chairman, will sit down and understand why it's done in the vacuum. I'm not saying that we're perfect because we're not, but we try, we try, we work hard not to have that happen. I know that it's happened in the past, but I'm not telling you it's all milk and cookies.

Ann Dougherty: Do you have some kind of flow chart that would delineate each groups charge

Bob Araujo: we don't have one created and I think that's an outstanding idea

Ann Dougherty: Pardon

Bruce Kosowsky: We have a table of organization in the Fire Department

Bob Araujo: But process

Inaudible

Ann Dougherty: Then you can see when someone has stepped on someone else's toes.

Bob Araujo: I think that's an outstanding suggestion.

Jim Tortora: To answer your question, the present Charter now does not delineate between the Chief being in charge of operations and the Fire Commissioners being in charge of administration, all this says is the Board of Fire Companies shall be the Chief Administrative by their fire department. That's it, no words

Inaudible

Bob Araujo: Wait a minute, it is written in the policies. The Board of Fire Commissioners establishes the policies of the Fire Department, if we decide that the Fire Chief has a certain administrative responsibility and an Assistant Deputy or whatever you want to call it, has full operational responsibility, you can change that in your policy. I'm not saying that's what we're going to do, but it's written in the policy. It's not just hap-hazard. There's a series of policies that detail and delineate those activities of those various appointed positions that are detailed in the Charter.

Inaudible

Ann Dougherty: You know, I think that if your two groups meet, and then someone gets back to us and lets us know where your issues are then we could have something to decide

Steve Bellis: Well I think that they've come a long way from the initial Charter, with making corrections and getting it

Ann Dougherty: But if they so sit down together

Steve Bellis: I have no problem with that, it sounds to me that the one sticky point is and I understand, is that not only do the Fire Commissioners get together and vote and make policy, it has to be carried out, but they're also individually in areas of expertise where you have to rely on them individually from time to time

Joe Konner: And that may of course administration who has the administrative duties.

Steve Bellis: It sounds like it

Joe Konner: I mean, that's what I understand

Steve Bellis: that's what I'm hearing. Is that fair?

Bruce Kosowsky: *No, because the power entities is described in the Charter. The Board of Fire Commissioners is the Board, the Fire Chief, the Assistants and Deputies defined by the Board of Fire Commissioners, so he has the operational side, it's in his job description. His job description defines exactly what he's supposed to do*

Steve Bellis: *His is, we know that*

Bruce Kosowsky: *You know, we do that in his job description , we do it with the Assistant Chiefs, I don't see what they're talking about*

Inaudible

Bruce Kosowsky: *If you have an issue with the fire trucks, the Chief of the Fire Department came to the Board and said I can't do anymore I need your help, so the Board of Fire Commissioners got involved and got the problem fixed. That's what our job is. The trucks got into a position, it might have been an issue that might had to be taken further, so we met, we met with everybody that we were supposed to meet with and it got fixed.*

Inaudible

Joe Konner: *It sounds ok to me*

Bruce Kosowsky: *Right, I don't know where the problems are and where this operational issue, in all the years that I've been on the Board of Fire Commissioners, I've never seen a Fire Commissioner walk up at a fire scene*

Steve Bellis: *No, I don't think they mean that*

Bruce Kosowsky: *Well that's what they're talking about operational. What operational issue is there, that you don't want to follow a policy maybe? You don't want to follow the vehicle policy, that seems to be a big problem in this town.*

Jim Tortora: *I don't know what he's talking about*

Inaudible

Bruce Kosowsky: *No, I'm just saying the Board says policies period. If people don't want to follow them, and they want to change the authority of what the Board is, well that's another issue.*

Jim Tortora: *Our contention is not to change the authority of the Board, it was to give someone on the Board responsibility*

Bruce Kosowsky: *We have*

Inaudible

Jim Tortora: Can any of those four people go out and purchase something without a purchase order because they think it's an emergency?

NO

Jim Tortora: Are they all equal in rank or should they call the Chairman and say listen I need a p.o. for whatever, who's going to sign this?

Inaudible

Bruce Kosowsky: First of all, if you read the purchasing Charter thing, no person is allowed to put the City into anything as far as purchasing

Jim Tortora: And you can't tell me that that hasn't happened.

Bruce Kosowsky: What we do is we talk amongst ourselves and say we need to put in an emergency purchase order and we'll contact the purchasing agent and tell them what our problem is and put it through the system

Inaudible

Jim Tortora: Commissioner, that's not my point

Bruce Kosowsky: We do not do anything that obligates the City unless it's absolutely necessary, and I'll give you an example, didn't we just have a storm, a pretty good size storm correct? Well our storm watch account is out of money, although everyone was allowed to work and we'll have to go and transfer money, go to Board of A&T and transfer money out of our budget to make it go in there and pay everyone for being here. So I don't know, is that an operational issue because they had people on stand-by, are we crossing the operational side there?

Steve Bellis: It's hard to tell

Inaudible

Bruce Kosowsky: The Charter is very specific about that, the department head which is the Board of Fire Commissioners the way it's in the Charter is responsible for through the Charter for all finances. That means all budgets come through the Board of Fire Commissioners.

Inaudible

Steve Bellis: We're a Charter Revision Commission, we're looking at, we don't look at individuals because we don't know if they're going to be there, so I'm trying to look at

a blank face and look at the organizational part and that's what we try to do. Because we don't know if eight years the same group will be here. And we're just trying to make it so that there's less points of conflict and more continuity, that's our goal to have it work better.

Bruce Kosowsky: There is no conflict though. I don't know where the conflict is coming from because there isn't from our Board.

Steve Bellis: That's what we have to listen and weigh. Nothing works perfectly

Bruce Kosowsky: If you want to go back to conflict, I've worked with three different Mayors. Three different administrations we never had any conflict.

Inaudible

Bruce Kosowsky: Somebody explain to me conflict

Joe Konner: Steve, we got a proposal from the Officers' Council, they haven't looked at it. You're going to go back and you're going to review what they've given to us?

Steve bellis: It sounds like they're

Inaudible

Steve Bellis: Direction, it was a suggestion, and I don't want them to be crucified for that because we asked them to come up with something

Inaudible

Steve Bellis: Do hang them out to dry because they came up with those words, they're helping us. We may not use those exact words. But what we're trying to get a handle on is (inaudible), the lines get blurred a little bit and I guess that's what we're talking about.

Bruce Kosowsky: You have to always keep in mind is that we're trying to keep a volunteer Fire Department in the City of Shelton. What's the best way of doing that?

Steve Bellis: That's our goal

Inaudible

Bruce Kosowsky: You really have to think about that because the job that you give the Board of Fire Commissioners, there's even an ordinance on it, that we maintain the records of all firefighters, think about that, what department in the City of Shelton is the size of ours, no full-time people and yet we have to keep all the records of all the firefighters. It's required. We have no choice, even our apparatus, so if you look at

the Board to what we've been working with for all these years, without any full-time help, strictly part-time. We had a full-time person, trying to get another one, seem s like it's not getting anywhere, but if you look at what we've done, the Board over the years, to keep the fire department going, on the staff that we have

Inaudible

Steve Bellis: I think Joe's suggestion is a good one, why don't. Look guys, we appreciate very much what you have and if the Commissioners want to review what they have, they have every opportunity to get back to us. If you don't like a certain sentence or language feel free to include your own and then we'll wrestle with it. That's all we're trying to do. I know you said that you guys voted, I couldn't find it, Could you find it Sophia?

Sophia Belade: That's the only thing I have

Bob Araujo: There was a September – August correspondence

Sophia Belade: There is nothing attached to it

Bruce Kosowsky: There should be copies of our minutes

Merle Chase: Last week.

Steve Bellis: We don't have it. We weren't sure what you were referring to. You had a meeting recently and they voted on keeping the Charter language going back to the way it was when?

Bruce Kosowsky: Prior to '94

Steve Bellis: Without any changes?

Bruce Kosowsky: Just eliminate the word shall, on the meeting side make that either may

Steve Bellis: You didn't get into the Officers' Council?

Inaudible

Bruce Kosowsky: Why would we?

Inaudible

Steve Bellis: Well the Charter has one section called the Fire Department so I'd like to handle that as one whole unit, not keep splintering it off.

Bruce Kosowsky: I think this is the first time that we received a letter, we received one letter in the beginning that you were going to meet, and then you just sent us another letter

Steve Bellis: Listen, I think I know where you guys are coming from but if you could look this over and then you're going to get back to us, and then I understand your position where we have to kind of wrestle with that and we have no problem doing that. We're not making any decisions tonight. We still want input.

Inaudible

Bruce Kosowsky: What else do you need from us?

Joe Konner: I would suggest this and do it or if you don't want to do it, but take into consideration of some points that these guys have raised and do it with an open mind. And remember what your goal is to making an efficient fire department for the City of Shelton, and that's all we're saying. See if you can't get over whatever, you say you don't see a problem, but obviously there's a problem, you know, because there's two sides. I think you guys need to get together, sit down with open minds and see what you can do and then come up with a proposal. There's a basis to start with. Just take a look at it with an open mind.

Inaudible

Bruce Kosowsky: Well I come from the old school, if it's not broken don't fix it. I don't see where the problems are.

Inaudible

Steve Bellis: Thank you very much.

There could be no action taken on accepting the minutes from January 18. In regards to the Board of Ethics, the Commission will wait to hear back from them once they have had a chance to review the proposed ordinance from the Board of Aldermen. A copy of the proposal will be sent to each of the three members.

In regards to the Fire Department, a memo will be sent to the Board of Fire Commissioners along with a copy of the proposal from the Officers' Council. They will meet amongst themselves and then advise the Charter Revision Commission as to what the resolution will be.

There are still open items in these section that will have to be addressed at a later time. Many of the open items are due to reviewing other chapters of the Charter as well as awaiting responses from Corporation Counsel and upcoming guests.

A consensus will be taken at a later date, once the guests have spoken with the Charter Revision Commission and what their suggestions might be. We will be postponing any consensus until sometime in February. The consensus will be to accept the proposed and reviewed changes from Chapters 1-7.18 including any open items that might not be closed.

Our guests for the next meeting will be a representative from the Board of Education and the Administrative Assistant of the City of Shelton. That meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 8, 2005 in Room 104 of Shelton City Hall.

ADJOURNMENT

Joe Konner motioned to adjourn. Ann Dougherty second the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Steve Bellis adjourned the meeting of the Charter Revision Commission at 8:47 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Sophia V. Belade

Sophia V. Belade

Clerk-Charter Revision Commission

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