

Albany County Charter Review Commission
August 14, 2013
Room 620 Albany County Office Building

Members Present:

Jacob M. Crawford
Henry M. Greenburg
Patrick O. Dalzell
Robert Batson
Ami Schnauber
Mike J. Elemendorf
Bob Carlson
Paul Weafer

Others:

Carina Comiskey
Patrick Collins
Arnis Zigler

Mr. Greenberg called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Mr. Crawford made a motion to approve minutes from the Commission's July 10, 2013 meeting, which motion was seconded by Mr. Batson and unanimously approved.

Mr. Dalzell made a motion to approve minutes from the Commission's July 25, 2013 meeting, subject to the suggested changes. Mr. Greenberg seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

The Commission interviewed Charles Burke, the Director of the Veterans Services Bureau, which is not established by the County Charter. Director Burke provided the Commission with a general overview of the Veterans Services Bureau and the services that it provides. The Commission asked Director questions regarding the relationship between the Veterans Services Bureau and the Department of Social Services. Director Burke did not recommend any substantive changes in the Charter regarding the Veterans Services Bureau.

The Commission interviewed David Friedfel, the Commissioner of the Department of Management and Budget, for the second time, regarding Article 5 of the Charter, which establishes that department. Mr. Friedfel identified specific issues in the current Charter affecting his Department and proposed potential amendments to the Charter. Such issues included the County's budget, grant application and contract approval processes. Mr. Greenberg requested that Mr. Friedfel provide the Commission with further support for each of his proposed

amendments, to which Friedfel assented, stating that he would subsequently submit a memorandum.

Mr. Batson reported on his review of the Department of General Services and the Department of Public Works.

Mr. Greenberg reported on his review of the Department of Residential Health Care Facilities.

Mr. Greenberg presented drafts of Article 16, Article 17 and Article 18 of the Charter, to the Commission, which included proposed amendments. The Commission discussed Mr. Greenberg's proposed amendments and recognized them as a starting point in crafting proposed changes to the Charter.

Mr. Carlson agreed to provide the Commission with a report at its next meeting on the Veterans Services Bureau.

The Commission scheduled its next meeting for Wednesday, August 28, 2013, at 6:30 p.m.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Mr. Crawford, which motion was seconded by Mr. Batson and unanimously approved.