



Legislative & Rules Committee – Board of Representatives

Eileen Heaphy, Chair

Elise Coleman, Vice Chair

Committee Report

Date: Tuesday, January 20, 2015

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Place: Republican Caucus Room, 4th Floor Government Center, 888 Washington Boulevard, Stamford, CT

The Legislative & Rules Committee met as indicated above. In attendance were Chair Heaphy, Vice Chair Coleman and Committee Member Reps. Nabel, Okun, Ryan Silver and Zelinsky. Absent or excused were Committee Member Reps. Day and Mitchell. Also present were Reps. Buckman, Di Costanzo, McMullen, McNeil and Watkins; Ernie Orgera, Director of Operations; Burt Rosenberg, Law Department; Thomas Turk and Tyler Theder, Operations Department. Chair of the Stamford Board of Ethics Cheryl Bader was also in attendance.

Chair Heaphy called the meeting to order at 7:08 p.m.

Item No.	Description	Committee Action
¹ 1. LR29.037	ORDINANCE <u>for publication</u> ; Regarding Regulation of Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System ("MS4"). 01/06/15 – Submitted by Mayor Martin	APPROVED 7-0-0

Mr. Rosenberg explained that this ordinance is the result of the City's permit which requires certain legislation on the part of the City. Stamford is the only City in the State which meets 3 criteria of DEEP, it: 1) has separate storm water ("MS4" and sewer systems, 2) has a population of over 100,000 and 3) discharges storm water into Long Island Sound. As a result Stamford is the only City to have an individual permit for storm water rather than a general permit. Under the permit, the City must establish legal authority under the ordinance to regulate pollutants in the storm water drainage system. The basic goal of the ordinance is to prevent the inadvertent inclusion of procedures in the storm water discharges.

In response to questions from the committee, Mr. Rosenberg, Mr. Orgera, Mr. Turk and Mr. Theder explained that:

- Pollutants does include leaves
- Most of the language comes from the permit or federal EPA legislation.
- The City does have the right to inspect outfalls which may require them to go onto private property
- The officials will discuss a carve-out for leaves that residents place on the street for City pick up with the State DEEP

¹ Video Time Stamp 00:00:40

- They have already begun to reach out to the public to inform them of the requirements of this ordinance

A motion to approve this ordinance for publication was made, seconded and approved by a vote of 7-0-0. (Reps. Heaphy, Coleman, Nabel, Okun, Ryan and Zelinsky in favor.)

- | | |
|--|------------------------------|
| ² 2. LR29.032 REVIEW; Policies and/or Procedures Regarding
Electronic/Telephonic Attendance at Meetings of
Boards and Commissions.
11/21/14 – Submitted by Mayor Martin
12/10/14 – Held by Committee | HELD IN
COMMITTEE |
|--|------------------------------|

Rep. Coleman, the chair of the subcommittee, handed out the [attached materials](#). She reported that there is no state statute which prohibits the use of electronic attendance, except that public hearings cannot be attended electronically. The press may also attend electronically. However, the CT General Assembly does not allow electronic attendance and if there is a reason for someone to call in, they cannot be counted towards a quorum. Different boards and commission handle this differently, some do not permit electronic attendance; some only permit attendance if everyone recognizes the person’s voice. The subcommittee will try to present a final report at the next meeting.

- | | |
|--|--|
| 3. LR29.034 REVIEW; All litigation settled by the City of Stamford
for the past 2 years and a summary of all pending
litigation, including the Board of Education.
12/03/14 – Submitted by Rep. Franzetti
12/08/14 – Held at Steering | HELD IN
COMMITTEE
7-0-0 |
|--|--|

Secondary Committee – Committee of the Whole

Chair Heaphy explained that Ms. Emmett was ill. A motion to hold this item was made, seconded and approved by unanimous vote (Reps. Heaphy, Coleman, Nabel, Okun, Ryan and Zelinsky in favor.)

- | | |
|---|--------------------|
| ³ 4. LR29.025 REVIEW; Annual Report of Board of Ethics.
06/26/14 – Submitted by President Skigen
07/14/14 – Placed on Pending Agenda | REPORT MADE |
|---|--------------------|

Ms. Bader reviewed the suggestions of the Board of Ethics that:

- The terms government and City should be defined in the Code. This has come up in terms of invitations to events which may be run by quasi-governmental entities or entities partnering with the government and could come up in terms of who is subject to the Code of Ethics
- A breach of confidentiality during the investigative process should itself be a violation of the Code of Ethics
- An attorney from Corporation Counsel’s office be assigned to the Board of Ethics
- It might be helpful to have a liaison to the Board of Representatives

² Video Time Stamp 00:49:57

³ Video Time Stamp 01:01:46

Chair Heaphy will begin to work on proposed revisions to the Code in response to these recommendations.

- ⁴6. LR29.038 REVIEW; Establishing a Policy for Private Donations **REPORT MADE to the City.**
01/07/15 – Submitted by Rep. Nabel

The Committee next considered LR29.038. Ms. Bader stated that this item had not come before the Ethics Board. Rep. Nabel stated that her primary concern is whether it is appropriate for a private donation to fund a position of public employment. Other members expressed concerns about donations for specific positions of employment, whether it is appropriate to receive donations from members of sitting boards and the need for a general policy on donations. Chair Heaphy stated that the Committee needs to determine the history of corporate donations, including prior donations of expertise, in order to avoid limiting successful donations. The Committee will work to develop a draft ordinance for private donations for public employment.

- ⁵5. [LR29.036](#) REVIEW; Proposed Changes to the Board of Representatives Rules of Order. **Held in Committee 6-0-0**
01/06/15 – Submitted by Rep. Buckman

Rep. Buckman reviewed his proposed changes. A motion to hold this item was made, seconded and approved by unanimous vote (Reps. (Reps. Heaphy, Coleman, Nabel, Okun and Ryan in favor.)

Chair Heaphy adjourned the meeting at 10:00 p.m.

This meeting is on [video](#).

⁴ Video Time Stamp 01:42:50

⁵ Video Time Stamp 02: 11:47