

City of Reading Charter Board

October 1, 2013 – 7:00 pm

Penn Room

Members Present: Susan Gibson, Jerry Richter, Elizabeth Stanley

Board Solicitor: Eric Smith, Esq

Members of the Public: Mr. Don Spatz, Reading Eagle

I. Administration

- The Board's next meeting will be October 29, 2013, at 7:00 pm. Public notification will be coordinated through the City Clerk's office.
- The Chair announced there has been no new Right to Know requests.
- The 2013 Charter Board budget and September invoices were reviewed. Year to date total spent is \$160,254.51. General discussion followed regarding new procedures for review of bills from outside counsel. By common consensus, the Board will continue to allow review by the city legal department, Fred Lachat Esq., for compliance with city billing guidelines.
- The Chair noted that Mr. Fegley's appointment is final and contact information will be forthcoming from the City Clerk's office. Mr. Fegley will be notified of the next meeting. Mr. Anewalt's appointment remains pending dissolution of the Charter Review Commission.
- Charter Board minutes were reviewed for meeting of 9/3/13. A motion to accept minutes was made by Ms. Stanley, 2nd by Mr. Richter. The motion passed by unanimous verbal vote.
- The Board chair announced that an executive session was held 9/18/13 from 5:30 – 5:50 pm in Council Chambers to confer with counsel regarding recommendations to obtain special counsel for the Commonwealth Court Appeal of Investigation #32.
- The Board reviewed a final draft of the 2012 Annual Report. A motion was made to adopt and issue the report as drafted by Ms. Stanley, 2nd by Mr. Richter. The motion passed by unanimous verbal vote. The Annual Report will be posted for public access on the Charter Board section of the City website.
- Board Solicitor Eric Smith announced the Charter Annotation project is complete containing Advisory Opinions 1-33 and Investigations 1-31.

II. Education

- No current issues

III. Advisory

- No current Issues

IV. Enforcement

- The Board Chair announced an Executive Session to confer with counsel regarding pending litigation including the appeal of the Final Opinion and Order of Investigation #32, the Declaratory Judgment Action and Appeal of the Final Opinion and Order of Investigation #34 (Docket #1320083), and procedural matters regarding Investigations #38, #39 and 40.
- The Board entered executive session at 7:30 pm and exited executive session at 8:20 pm. After returning to public session an invitation for public comment was extended, no comment was offered. A motion was then made by Ms. Stanley, 2nd by Mr. Richter to retain attorney Kevin McKeon as special counsel to the Charter Board in matters pertaining to the local agency appeals of Investigations #32 and #34. The motion passed by unanimous verbal vote.
- The Board Chair additionally notes the following :
 - Agreement to terminate Investigation #38 was received from the Investigative Officer on or about September 30, 2013.

V. Closing

- Meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm.

Respectfully Submitted

Susan Gibson, Chair

City of Reading Charter Board