Planning and Development Committee

MEETING MINUTES

Friday, March 15, 2019

10:30 AM in Room 1A of the LOB

The meeting was called to order at 10:40AM by Chairwoman, Rep. McCarthy Vahey C. 133.

The following committee members were present:

Senators: Bradley D. S23; Cassano S. S04; Champagne D. S35; Cohen C. S12; Fonfara J. S01; Somers H. S18

Representatives: Arnone T. 058; Baker A. 124; Carney D. 023; Conley C. 040; D'Agostino M. 091; Delnicki T. 014; Dubitsky D. 047; France M. 042; Gucker K. 138; Haines I. 034; Kokoruda N. 101; McCarthy Vahey C. 133; Michel D. 146; Rojas J. 009; Stafstrom S. 129; Zawistowski T. 061

Absent were:

Senators:

Representatives: Hall J. 007

Representative McCarthy Vahey convened the meeting and welcomed those in attendance. She then took a moment to acknowledge their friend and colleague Representative Ezekiel Santiago, who had passed away unexpectedly the previous night, saying she knew that everyone there had been the beneficiary of his warm smile and generous service to Bridgeport and the State, and asked to take a moment of silence.

She then turned the meeting over to her Co-Chair Sen. Cassano. He commented that they had an ambitious agenda, and would not be developing a consent calendar this
meeting. He then opened to comments from his Ranking Member Rep. Zawistowski. She commented to reiterate her feeling that this is a problem solving committee, and related that to some of the items on the agenda for this meeting that were very narrowly drafted to take care of very specific problems for towns that can’t be otherwise handled.

Sen. Cassano then entertained a motion for Final Action, Joint Favorable on item 1, S.B. No. 514 (COMM) AN ACT CONCERNING THE ASSESSMENT OF CERTAIN FEES BY BUILDING OFFICIALS, which was made by Rep. Zawistowski and seconded by Rep. McCarthy Vahey. Rep. Dubitsky commented that while he was originally in opposition to this bill, he sees that it has been written to be fairly limited and will give towns the ability to encourage people to get permits in advance, and will now be supporting it. Rep. Zawistowski commented that it had been discussed with the Legislative Commissioners’ Office (LCO) whether or not towns had the ability to do this on their own without state intervention, and they do not. A roll call vote was then held with all present voting yea.

Sen. Cassano announced that the votes would be held open until 3PM.

Sen. Cassano then entertained a motion for Final Action, Joint Favorable on item 2, H.B. No. 5127 (COMM) AN ACT CONCERNING THE ERECTION OF FENCES AND THE PLANTING OF HEDGES AND TREES THAT OBSTRUCT WATER VIEWS, which was made by Rep. Zawistowski and seconded by Rep. Dubitsky. Rep. Delnicki commented that while he had concerns previously, he has reconsidered based on the concept that people are paying higher property taxes due to views, and their property values could be adversely effected by obstructed views. Rep. Zawistowski commented to point out that a very similar bill had passed this committee in a recent year. A roll call vote was then held with all present voting yea.

Sen. Cassano then entertained a motion for Final Action, Joint Favorable on item 3, H.B. No. 5538 (COMM) AN ACT CONCERNING THE CONTINUATION OF RETIREMENT ALLOWANCES FOR CERTAIN RETIREES UPON SUBSEQUENT EMPLOYMENT BY A BOARD OF EDUCATION, which was made by Rep. McCarthy Vahey and seconded by Rep. Arnone. Rep. Zawistowski commented that this bill would allow Boards of Education to get more experienced personnel in for public safety. A roll call vote was then held with all present voting yea.

Sen. Cassano then entertained a motion for Final Action, Joint Favorable Substitute on item 4, Substitute for H.B. No. 5541 (COMM) AN ACT AUTHORIZING THE WAIVER OF CERTAIN PENALTIES RELATED TO A GRAND LIST EXEMPTION, which was made by Rep. Zawistowski and seconded by Rep. McCarthy Vahey. Rep. Zawistowski commented that this is an extremely narrowly written bill that would allow one of the town of Bloomfield’s major manufacturers to be eligible at the town’s option to have penalties waived on a late tax payment from the past year. She added that the only reason she has the bill is that one of the principle officers of the corporation lives in her district, but Rep. Gibson of Bloomfield is well aware of it, and it is permissive rather than a requirement, but is not something that the town can do without the state’s involvement. Sarah O’Connor from LCO commented to clarify the LCO number of the substitute language. A roll call vote was then held with all present voting yea.

Sen. Cassano then entertained a motion for Final Action, Joint Favorable Substitute on item 5, Substitute for H.B. No. 5886 (COMM) AN ACT CONCERNING THE USE OF LOCAL CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND GRANTS FOR THE REMOVAL OF CERTAIN TREES, which was made by Rep. McCarthy Vahey and seconded by Sen. Champagne. Rep. McCarthy Vahey commented to point out that this was fairly new substitute language that specifies that
the hazardous tree removal is non-utility related such that utilities still take care of their own work. A roll call vote was then held with all present voting yea.

Sen. Cassano then entertained a motion for Final Action, Joint Favorable on item 6, **H.B. No. 6122** (COMM) AN ACT CONCERNING BOARDS OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS ESTABLISHED BY SPECIAL ACT, which was made by Rep. Zawistowski and seconded by Rep. Arnone. Rep. Zawistowski commented that this bill applies to a town in her district but may apply to others in the state, and would allow a police commission that predated some state regulations to change the number of people on their commission to conform to state regulation without a charter revision, and stated that this is at the request of said town. A roll call vote was then held with all present voting yea.

Rep. McCarthy Vahey commented to note for the record that the committee had voted on Jan. 30th to draft Proposed S.B. No. 517 AN ACT EXTENDING THE MINORITY REPRESENTATION RULE TO FIRE DISTRICTS, but the committee subsequently decided not to pursue this topic and the bill was accordingly not drafted.

Sen. Cassano then entertained a motion on section IV, Bills to Vote to Draft, to Vote to Draft all items 1-3:

1. **H.B. No. 6040** (COMM) AN ACT REQUIRING THE INSPECTION OF CERTAIN RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS BY A HOME INSPECTOR AND AN ENGINEER PRIOR TO THE TRANSFER OF TITLE. (GL,PD)
2. **H.B. No. 6349** (COMM) AN ACT REQUIRING THE PROVISION OF INFORMATION CONCERNING CERTAIN INSURANCE POLICIES PRIOR TO THE ISSUANCE OF A CERTIFICATE OF OCCUPANCY.
3. **H.B. No. 6552** (COMM) AN ACT CONCERNING EXEMPTIONS FROM CERTAIN HISTORIC PRESERVATION REQUIREMENTS.

The motion was made by Rep. McCarthy Vahey and seconded by Rep. Delnicki. Rep. Zawistowski asked to confirm that H.B. 6552 would be receiving substitute language which would narrow the scope of the bill. Rep. McCarthy Vahey replied that yes, there would be much narrower language, and then commented that a while two of these bills being voted to draft were on the topic of crumbling concrete foundations from the joint Hearing with the Insurance Committee, some of the other proposed bills on that topic were not being voted to draft by this committee because they would be taken up by the Insurance Committee. Rep. Dubitsky commented to note that though he was voting to draft bills it did not necessarily reflect his intention to support them in the future after they had been drafted. The motion was then passed by voice vote.

Rep. McCarthy Vahey reiterated that the votes would be held open until 3PM.

A motion was duly made and seconded at 11:01AM to recess the meeting until 3PM, at which point it was promptly adjourned.