

1 **GREENBURGH CAMPAIGN FINANCE COMMISSION**
2 **MEETING MINUTES—MAY 23, 2000**
3 **(June 3, 2000 draft)**

4
5 Present:

6 Elizabeth Daniel, Andrew Goodman, Catherine Lederer-Plaskett, Claire Lee, Harriet Leib, Susan
7 Mancuso, Charlotte Schienberg, Francis Sheehan, Lester Steinman, Mary Tobias

8
9 Invited Guests:

10 Stephanie Bellino (Republican, 1997 Town Supervisor Candidate, 1999 Town Council Candidate)
11 Nancy Delahunt (Democrat, 1997 Town Council Candidate)
12 William Pohlmann (Chairman, Greenburgh GOP; 1999 Republican Town Supervisor Candidate)

13
14 Observers:

15 Ella Preiser (Council of Greenburgh Civic Associations)

16
17 Absent:

18 Erin Malloy, Rev. Wilbert Preston, Mike Reynolds, Sally Schaadt, Ervin Schliefer

19
20
21 The eighth meeting of the commission was called to order at 7:40 p.m., in room 103, at Rochambeau
22 School, 228 Fisher Avenue, White Plains. Copies of the April 25, 2000 and May 11, 2000 minutes,
23 which were distributed to members in advance of the meeting via e-mail, fax and personal delivery,
24 were available and distributed to everyone present.

25
26 Co-chair Harriet Leib said the commission had a full agenda, with three invited guests who recently
27 ran for elected office in the Town of Greenburgh. Their attendance and input is greatly appreciated.
28 Approval of the minutes was postponed. She welcomed the guests and invited everyone to introduce
29 him/herself. Following the introductions, she recognized Nancy Delahunt.

30
31 Nancy Delahunt, 1997 Democratic Primary Town Council candidate, thanked the commission for the
32 opportunity to present her views on campaign finance reform. She said that there are two aspects of a
33 campaign that need to be distinguished-- the financial aspect and the informational aspect. The town
34 has four information distribution channels-- the mailings the town sends out, the town's website, the
35 town-controlled cable access channels, and the town's public meetings. The order has not been
36 prioritized. Incumbents can use all these channels. They have access to them on a regular basis.
37 Access to each of these channels represents a financial benefit. Candidates who have to pay for their
38 access to the public incur financial cost that otherwise would not be incurred. Incumbents' abuse of
39 their access to these informational channels can be controlled and/or limited.

40
41 Ms. Delahunt, starting with town mailings, discussed her suggestions for controlling or limiting
42 "information channel" abuses. She said that only emergency mailings should be permitted in an
43 election year from June to the election. Also, there is no reason many of the mailings sent have to be
44 sent by an incumbent-candidate. Alternatively, instead of limiting incumbent mailings, they could be
45 controlled by giving "insurgents" equal space to respond to any incumbent-candidate commentary
46 contained in the mailings. The state and the county have regulations regarding mailings during
47 campaign periods. The commission should research the county's mailing restrictions and implement
48 them locally. The best way to manage mailings is by exception. The rules should be the rules,
49 defining the number and type of permissible mailings. Exceptions should only be allowed for
50 emergencies. If there are mailings that are routinely sent out during campaign season, they could be
51 examined to determine if they really need to go out at that time and, if so, whether a town department
52 could send them instead of an incumbent-candidate.

53
54 Ms. Delahunt next discussed the town's website. She said that fair access to the town's website should
55 be easy. All candidates should be allowed to put their issues on the town's website for anyone who has
56 web access to read. It's that easy. There is no reason it does not happen.
57

58 Ms. Delahunt said cable television access, the third information channel she identified, should be
59 standardized. Each candidate should be given a regular timeslot each week that is fixed. There should
60 be no schedule shifting, as was the case when she ran for office in 1997. She printed the date/time of
61 her taped segment on her palm cards and the show was switched after the cards were distributed. She
62 couldn't rely on the scheduling so she didn't include the cable show on palm cards thereafter.
63

64 Ms. Delahunt said the fourth informational channel, public meetings, is more difficult to deal with.
65 She said she doesn't know how to structure public meetings to make them fairer to insurgents. Special
66 meetings could be limited during the campaign season. Special meetings provide an easy means for
67 incumbents to gain increased visibility during a campaign. At regular meetings and special meetings,
68 equal time for other candidates to respond to political commentary should be allowed. The
69 commission needs to distinguish between what constitutes a normal board meeting and what is purely
70 political commentary. Candidates should be provided equal time to respond to political commentary,
71 but not routine town agenda business. During her campaign, the Town Board classified her work as
72 chair of the Conservation Advisory Council as political commentary for no apparent reason except to
73 obtain equal time. She suggests the same during Town Board meetings. She explained that during the
74 1997 campaign for Town Board there was a referendum on establishing a Greenways Fund, which was
75 supported by the Town Board and the town's Conservation Advisory Council (CAC), which she
76 chairs. The CAC was asked by the Town Board to help educate the public about the proposed
77 Greenways Fund. The CAC decided to put together a public access program explaining the fund, why
78 it was needed, how the percentage would be computed, etc. Very factual. She asked the town's cable
79 access committee if, because of her presence, the program would be considered political and was told
80 it would not be, provided it was informational in nature. After the CAC taped the show, the Town
81 Board pulled the tape, classified it as political commentary, insisted on equal time, and added their
82 own commentary to the tape. The incumbents' comments added nothing to the informational value of
83 the program and they even strayed from the Greenways Fund topic. She would have abstained from
84 appearing on the program, even though she is the CAC chair, had she known that performing her
85 duties as chair would be classified by the Town Board as political. Candidates should be given similar
86 equal time at Town Board meetings, she said.
87

88 Ms. Delahunt said that fairness of access prior to the primary becomes increasingly important when a
89 political party has been in power in a municipality for a long time. The primary becomes the venue for
90 issues to be discussed and debated. Unfortunately, the newspapers and the League of Women Voters
91 traditionally pay little attention to primaries, making insurgents' access to the public even more
92 difficult. She was surprised the League of Women Voters wouldn't hold a debate for the primary.
93 Primaries occur because of conflicts over issues. The public needs to hear those issues debated to
94 make an informed vote. She was fortunate the League of Conservation Voters sponsored a debate
95 because environmental issues were raised during the campaign. Planning issues can be fiscal-oriented
96 or conservation-oriented. She was concerned with the conservation aspects of planning, so the League
97 of Conservation Voters was interested enough to hold a debate. The incumbents did not attend the
98 debate. That was their choice. The important thing is that the public had an opportunity to hear from
99 the candidates who showed up.
100

101 Ms. Delahunt asked if anyone had a question.
102

103 Mary Tobias asked Ms. Delahunt if she could recall the cost of her mailings.
104

105 Ms. Delahunt said she was very limited financially, so mailings were very difficult. She had a very
106 spontaneous campaign so she was not able to do any bulk mailing, which requires some planning. She
107 did one very focused mailing by hand. Financial constraints caused her to distribute most of her
108 literature in person.
109

110 Mary Tobias asked Ms. Delahunt how she obtained campaign contributions.
111

112 Ms. Delahunt said she had to choose between getting information out and getting contributions in due
113 to the late start of her campaign. She footed the bill for most of her campaign and then sought
114 donations after the election.
115

116 Elizabeth Daniel asked Ms. Delahunt how long it took to get out a mailing.
117

118 Ms. Delahunt said that mailings are very time-consuming unless the candidate can afford to use a mail
119 clearinghouse. Even then, some scrubbing of the data may be necessary. Of the 50,000 voters in
120 Greenburgh, 23,000 are Democrats. 4,000 show up for primaries. There was no way she could send
121 mailings to 4,000 people. Voter data can be purchased from the Board of Elections and then scrubbed
122 to try to target those voters who will likely vote in the next primary. It is a very time-consuming task
123 for a candidate to scrub the data down to a number within budget. It is a matter of prioritizing the
124 voters within the available budget. It is very involved. She said Francis Sheehan would know better
125 what would be the costs associated with bulk mailings.
126

127 Co-chair Catherine Lederer-Plaskett asked Ms. Delahunt what happened when the incumbents choose
128 not to attend the League of Conservation Voters' debate. Was there an empty chair?
129

130 Ms. Delahunt said that the League of Conservation Voters still held the debate for the two candidates
131 who attended. Five questions were sent to candidates in advance. The incumbents choose not to
132 attend and respond. Therefore, she and another "insurgent" spoke for the entire time period.
133

134 Claire Lee asked Ms. Delahunt to comment further about the fourth issue-- public meetings.
135

136 Ms. Delahunt said that if incumbents follow a regular meeting agenda there is no problem. However,
137 when they deviate from the normal conduct of town business to make political speeches or engage in
138 campaign rhetoric then, in order to level the playing field, other candidates should be given a certain
139 amount of time at the meeting to respond.
140

141 Harriet Leib asked Ms. Delahunt if public financing could work in Greenburgh.
142

143 Ms. Delahunt responded to the question with a question, asking how it would be structured.
144

145 Harriet Leib said that was part of her question-- would public financing work and if so how.
146

147 Ms. Delahunt said that Maine has offered public financing for those who agree to certain limits. If a
148 candidate doesn't accept the public financing then he/she is not tied to the limits. She said it would be
149 fantastic if there was a spending limit imposed on local candidates because it would fix the resources
150 each candidate has. It would then be up to the creativity of each candidate to maximize the available
151 money. A creative candidate would likely also be creative in office and be fiscally conservative.
152

153 Catherine Lederer-Plaskett questioned the impact a spending cap would have on challengers who do
154 not have access to the town's website, the press, extensive visibility at town meetings, etc. Challengers
155 tend to have to pay for their access to the public through mailings, ads, etc.
156

157 Ms. Delahunt agreed that imposing spending caps would be a disadvantage to challengers if there
158 wasn't fair access to the four information channels. She then agreed spending caps do not even the

159 playing field-- they work against challengers who do not have the incumbents' access and name
160 recognition.

161
162 Charlotte Schienberg asked Ms. Delahunt how spending could be limited without tying it to some form
163 of public finance.

164
165 Ms. Delahunt said that some form of public financing would be needed.

166
167 Harriet Leib said the public financing would be the "carrot".

168
169 Mary Tobias asked Ms. Delahunt how important to her was local cable access television.

170
171 Ms. Delahunt said that there is a certain audience who watches cable access television. They are
172 interested in town activities because they watch Planning Board, Zoning Board of Appeals, and Town
173 Board meetings on cable. They are informed voters. She doesn't know if they all vote or what party
174 they belong to, which is an important issue for a primary election candidate. Cable access could be
175 very important. However, cable access is not as important as it could be in the Town of Greenburgh
176 because it is totally controlled by incumbents running for re-election, incumbents who have changed
177 schedules without notice, etc. It must be standardized and made fair so it is not misused.

178
179 Charlotte Schienberg asked Ms. Delahunt if more frequent debates would be helpful.

180
181 Ms. Delahunt responded, "absolutely".

182
183 Elizabeth Daniel asked Ms. Delahunt what are other ways to get known in the town other than fliers
184 and mailings.

185
186 Ms. Delahunt said that shaking hands is important, walking around and talking to people. People like
187 to meet candidates and size them up. They like to find out firsthand where candidates stand on the
188 issues. Mailings are also very valuable. If the town provided candidates free mailings, which she is
189 not advocating, it would be fantastic and incredibly valuable because of the time and expense a
190 candidate could save. It would free candidates to concentrate on personally meeting the public.
191 During her campaign the Austin Avenue (Sprain Road closing) issue was a major issue. The
192 Supervisor sent out special mailings to the residents explaining the Town Board's position. The mayor
193 of Ardsley also mailed out letters, to residents in the village. Challengers cannot afford to compete
194 with those mass mailings, even on a critical issue such as Austin Avenue. She considers the taxpayer-
195 financed mailings unethical, but that is politics, she said.

196
197 Susan Mancuso asked Ms. Delahunt for a practical example of how political speech could be separated
198 from non-political speech.

199
200 Ms. Delahunt said the short answer is to just give all candidates equal time, perhaps 30 minutes each
201 week at a fixed time period. She likened her proposed cable timeslot selection process to the Board of
202 Elections' practice of determining ballot positions by lot. She said the primary season is June, July,
203 August, and the first week of September and the general election season is September, October, and
204 the first week of November. If timeslots were determined by lot, candidates would know in advance
205 when their segments would air during the campaign season. Regarding what is political vs. non-
206 political requires a fair oversight board. The board should be similar to a 501-C3, a not-for-profit
207 organization. A not-for-profit organization is allowed a certain amount of political commentary and a
208 certain amount of educational commentary. If an oversight board had existed, it could have reviewed
209 her chairing the Conservation Advisory Council's program about the Greenways Fund and determined
210 if her comments were educational in nature. Instead, the incumbents running for re-election
211 determined the CAC's program was political and wanted equal time. She doesn't know why.

212 Something caused them to intervene. All of them walked in and taped their comments, which added
213 nothing.
214

215 Catherine Lederer-Plaskett thanked Ms. Delahunt and then asked Stephanie Bellino for her comments.
216

217 Stephanie Bellino, 1997 Republican Town Supervisor candidate and 1999 Town Council candidate,
218 said that she ran a full campaign against Paul Feiner in 1997, from March to November. She had a
219 committee, press secretary, treasurer, and a secretary who scanned the newspapers for possible
220 campaign locations, etc. She did not get involved with the financial aspects of the campaign because
221 she had a treasurer. Before continuing, she asked if the commission was considering a town-wide
222 proposal that would include both town and village elections, or would the commission's
223 recommendations be limited solely to elected town officials.
224

225 Harriet Leib said the recommendation would be limited to the election of town officials.
226

227 Catherine Lederer-Plaskett said village residents vote for town officials so they are involved.
228

229 Ms. Bellino agreed, adding that village residents also vote in village elections and their candidates may
230 feel slighted since they would be deprived of any matching funds collected. The taxes would be
231 increased and collected town-wide but used only for town elected offices, not village elected offices.
232

233 Harriet Leib said the villages did not invite the commission to consider their inclusion. The villages
234 could also adopt the recommendations if they like them.
235

236 Ms. Bellino said that incumbents have a great advantage. There were constant town-financed mailings
237 from Supervisor Feiner to civic associations and residents. For example, on average, leading up to the
238 general election, Supervisor Feiner mailed 5-7 taxpayer-financed letters monthly to residents on East
239 Hartsdale Avenue about issues the residents did not believe warranted a mass mailing. The
240 commission must look at the abuse of town mailings and stop it, not only for the primary election, but
241 also for the general election.
242

243 Lester Steinman asked Ms. Bellino if, setting aside her position as a candidate, the mailings contained
244 any information of value to the residents in the area.
245

246 Ms. Bellino said the mailings actually contained misinformation.
247

248 Lester Steinman said that he didn't ask about that and asked again if the mailings contained any
249 information, not already publicly known, about an issue of interest to residents in the area.
250

251 Ms. Bellino said she wanted to clarify her answer. Mailings were sent about the potential signing of a
252 lease for a store in the area. It was the fourth time there was the potential a lease would be signed, and
253 the renter had not yet signed the lease when the mailings were again sent. The mailing stated that the
254 supervisor was "hopeful" the lease would be signed.
255

256 Harriet Leib said the question is, were the supervisor's mailings mostly educational or were they
257 mostly political.
258

259 Ms. Bellino said they were redundant and political in nature.
260

261 Catherine Lederer-Plaskett asked if the mailings could have been sent from a town department other
262 than from the supervisor's office.
263

264 Ms. Bellino said the mailings could "absolutely" have come from another department. In fact, the
265 supervisor had created a Hartsdale Steering Committee, which could have sent the mailings.

266
267 Ms. Delahunt interjected and agreed with Ms. Bellino, stating that, during campaign season, mailings
268 that must be sent by the town should be sent by the individual departments most responsible.
269

270 Ms. Bellino said that Supervisor Feiner's taxpayer-funded mailings during campaign season were
271 particularly upsetting because they were targeted toward registered voters, not property owners or
272 residents. The election district of each recipient was even listed on the address label attached to the
273 town envelope. Both she and her husband are registered voters and, therefore, received the same
274 letters. She is the president of her neighborhood association and knows that her neighbors also
275 received identical mailings to their homes based on voter registration data. If the goal is to inform the
276 people living in the area, she said lists are available that show who is a property owner, tenant-owner,
277 absentee-owner, etc. Instead, the supervisor targets registered voters with town mailings.
278

279 Ms. Bellino said that she is in favor of changing the town's cable access control to one similar to
280 Mamaroneck's system, which is governed by an independent, not-for-profit organization. The town
281 uses the cable franchise fees to support their different agendas, while the town's cable access system
282 deteriorates. The residents suffer. The town's system must be fixed year-round, not just during
283 campaign season. Also, the town's system needs to be changed so that all of Greenburgh gets the local
284 cable access programs. There are sections of the town that do not get the local cable access programs.
285 For example, residents of the Village of Tarrytown do not get Town Board meetings. All communities
286 that vote for town officials should get the Town Board meetings and local access programs. The Town
287 Board meetings, also do not play in the village of Hastings-on-Hudson, she believes.
288

289 Ms. Delahunt commented that she believes that Hastings-on-Hudson does get the Town Board
290 meetings because when the meetings air they air on the same channel throughout Greenburgh.
291 However, the meetings may not be televised live elsewhere.
292

293 Ms. Bellino said there is no "dial democracy" (where viewers can phone in comments during televised
294 board meetings) when the meetings are not televised live. During April, May, June, July, August and
295 September, the Town Board does "road shows", holding all the official Town Board meetings in
296 various parks, firehouses, etc. The Town Board meetings are not televised during those months, which
297 are the months leading up to the election. There have been times when residents have watched the
298 board meetings at home, learned of a topic being discussed, and traveled to Town Hall to address the
299 Town Board on the issue. If they wanted they could call in if the "dial democracy" system was
300 working. The residents do not have that opportunity when the Town Board moves the meetings from
301 place to place and just tapes them.
302

303 Lester Steinman said that dial democracy is an extraordinary provision that few municipalities have.
304

305 Catherine Lederer-Plaskett said the point is that dial democracy used to work but now it doesn't.
306

307 Ms. Bellino said it is unconscionable to have the Town Board in control of cable access television, able
308 to review the challengers' tapes prior to taping their own campaign segments. A truly stand-alone
309 commission dealing with cable access would be welcomed. There is no reason candidates cannot be
310 given a fair opportunity to express their viewpoints. During the last election, Republicans were each
311 given a specific date to tape a 15 minute segment. They rushed and met the deadline. Two weeks later
312 their tapes were still not ready. The Republicans discovered that the incumbent-candidates used part of
313 a Town Board work session, two weeks after the Republicans' deadline, to tape their segments. The
314 Republicans had to wait until after the incumbents taped their segments to get the tapes.
315

316 Ms. Bellino said that she is sorry the commission is not more diverse-- only one Republican and one
317 Right-to-Life member are on the commission. To make matters worse, the Republican-appointee's

318 request to have a substitute-Republican fill in when she could not make the meetings due to work
319 schedule conflicts was denied. She hopes, if the work of the commission is to continue, that a more
320 diverse board be appointed.

321
322 Ms. Delahunt interjected that she shares that concern and stated that she was not aware of the
323 commission's lack of diversity.

324
325 Harriet Leib said that the commission also has a representative from the Liberal Party. The members
326 of the commission who are members of the League of Women Voters are non-partisan.

327
328 Ms. Bellino said she does not support the supervisor's proposal to have a voter's guide. There are
329 already voter guides that are well done, such as the one from the League of Women Voters. Another
330 pamphlet would be redundant, unless it is for a primary election.

331
332 Ms. Bellino said that, regarding establishing a threshold contribution amount for recusal on a
333 contributor's application, the amount should be the same as that required by election law for
334 disclosure. An official should not vote on a campaign contributor's application if the contribution was
335 more than \$99.

336
337 Catherine Lederer-Plaskett thanked Ms. Bellino for her comments and introduced William Pohlmann.

338
339 William Pohlmann, 1999 Republican Party Candidate for Town Supervisor, began by accusing the
340 League of Women Voters of being partisan because it advocates. He said there are two functions of
341 the League of Women Voters-- to inform and to advocate. The advocacy is political. He agrees that
342 the informational aspect, which is the League's main function, such as when it sponsors debates, is
343 non-political. Advocacy is political, he said.

344
345 Harriet Leib said she takes exception to Mr. Pohlmann's comments. The League of Women Voters is
346 not a partisan organization. When the League advocates, it advocates issues.

347
348 Catherine Lederer-Plaskett said that advocacy can take many forms. Advocating an issue does not
349 necessarily mean advocating for a political party. Democrats may support the League's position on
350 one issue and Republicans may support the League on another issue, or both parties may support the
351 League's position on an issue.

352
353 Harriet Leib agreed. The League, when it advocates, advocates particular issues. The League does not
354 get involved in party-politics. She suggested Mr. Pohlmann continue with his comments.

355
356 Mr. Pohlmann said he respects the League of Women Voters because the service it provides in
357 informing the public is crucial, but he has a problem with its advocacy because he generally is on the
358 other side of the League's position. It is a problem he has always had with the League.

359
360 Catherine Lederer-Plaskett suggested Mr. Pohlmann focus on the issues before the commission.

361
362 Mr. Pohlmann first discussed town mailings. He said there are 50,000 registered voters in Greenburgh.
363 A mailing costs about fifty cents, including printing, postage, etc. To mail to every registered voter
364 one time, therefore, costs \$25,000. There has been no campaign in recent years where a candidate
365 mailed to every registered voter. He certainly could not afford to send literature to every voter. It
366 should shock the public to learn that not every resident who can vote is informed of the issues
367 advocated by local candidates. However, Supervisor Feiner has the town budget to support mailings of
368 so-called "puff pieces". In response to Mr. Steinman question earlier to Ms. Bellino regarding the
369 informational value of the supervisor's mailings, Mr. Pohlmann said the most useful information in the
370 majority of his mailings is the supervisor's phone number. Most of the mailings contain information

371 that was also sent to the newspapers. It is difficult to stop the supervisor from sending mailings, but
372 the issue needs to be addressed.
373

374 Mr. Pohlmann next addressed candidate-access to town facilities. He said he was disadvantaged
375 during the last campaign because Supervisor Feiner was able to collect signatures at the town's parks,
376 parks that are closed to village residents. Since he (Mr. Pohlmann) lives in Ardsley, he is prohibited
377 from collecting signatures in the town's parks, even Anthony Veteran Park, which is located within the
378 borders of the Village of Ardsley. The incumbents sponsor events at the parks and then collect
379 signatures from those who attend. Part of the reason Supervisor Feiner had so many signatures from
380 non-Democrats on his petition, which he (Mr. Pohlmann) was able to challenge, was because they
381 were collected at the parks.
382

383 Lester Steinman and Elizabeth Daniel said they were unaware of the prohibition on village residents
384 using town parks.
385

386 Ms. Delahunt said that all candidates could be given access to town facilities to campaign and collect
387 signatures.
388

389 Mr. Pohlmann disagreed, stating that the residents attend the parks for recreational purposes and
390 should not be interrupted by political campaigning. He suggested that no candidate be allowed to
391 collect signatures at town facilities.
392

393 Catherine Lederer-Plaskett said another reason for prohibiting all candidates from campaigning on
394 town property is because the incumbents schedule events at the park during the signature collection
395 period, such as a senior's picnic, and then collect signatures at the event. Allowing campaigning on
396 town property definitely works to the advantage of incumbents.
397

398 Ms. Delahunt said that, as a candidate, she went to the town's senior center to talk to the seniors. She
399 was not collecting signatures at the time. She just wanted to talk to the seniors. Ms. Delahunt was
400 barred from entering the town's senior center by its director, even though her incumbent-opposition,
401 Diana Juettner and Timmy Weinberg, had been allowed in and, in fact, had just left the center. One of
402 the incumbents lives in Ardsley and yet was allowed in. Ms. Delahunt agreed that incumbents have an
403 unfair advantage of access to town facilities.
404

405 Mr. Pohlmann said that Supervisor Feiner's scheduling of a "puff piece" about the town in which he
406 (Supervisor Feiner) appeared on the eve of the election should shock every resident. It was
407 outrageous. The debate sponsored by the League of Women Voters was hardly played. The debate
408 should be played in a continuous loop around the clock each day, starting three days prior to the
409 election-- Saturday, Sunday and Monday.
410

411 Ms. Bellino interjected, stating that, for the recent Greenburgh Central School District #7 school board
412 election, incumbent Timmy Weinberg interviewed the school superintendent about the importance of
413 passing the school budget and those in opposition, whoever they may be, were not given equal time to
414 respond. The town controls all aspects of cable.
415

416 Mr. Pohlmann said that the Republicans have lost 110 consecutive town elections, as well as numerous
417 county and state elections, bringing the total to about 150 losses since 1973.
418

419 Several commission members, speaking concurrently, stated that it is not the task of the commission to
420 prevent Republican losses. It is the Republican Party's responsibility to try to win elections.
421

422 Mr. Pohlmann agreed, adding that the system is becoming a one party system. He wants a fair chance.
423

424 Mr. Pohlmann next discussed the town's Ethics Board. He suggested that every party that gets 10% of
425 the vote, or some other agreed upon percentage, be able to designate one member to the board. The
426 party chairs should make the designation, not the Town Board. Supervisor Feiner could likely find
427 someone enrolled in the Republican Party who supports him. Who represents a political party on a
428 board should be decided by the party. It is not currently done that way. Another method could be that
429 every political party on the local ballot be entitled to designate a representative and the Town Board
430 designate five additional members. A critical point is that some method of access to the Ethics Board
431 is needed other than through the Town Board. Residents must be able to ask the town's Ethics Board
432 to investigate ethics issues, and the Ethics Board must be able to act independent of a Town Board
433 request. Supervisor Feiner has taken \$400,000-\$500,000 from developers and their attorneys doing
434 business with the town. That should shock every resident. The Ethics Board needs to be strengthened.
435 He has filed charges and they have not even been considered. The charges were ignored.
436

437 Mr. Pohlmann next discussed cable access. He said the town's cable access stations must be made
438 available to all candidates for their programs and debates. He saw the 1998 Democratic Primary
439 debates sponsored by the Council of Greenburgh Civic Associations. They were professionally done,
440 well done and instructive. They were rarely played, perhaps twice. They should have been played
441 around the clock. The League of Women Voters debate should also have been played around the
442 clock. He doesn't need to raise much campaign money if he can get his message out through the
443 debates. He would like to see a bi-partisan cable board. By bi-partisan, he means party representatives
444 selected by the party chairs. It does not have to be limited to two political parties. The free access is
445 supposed to be equal but the Republicans have no say. Cable decisions are made by Alfreda Williams,
446 who frequently "shoots from the hip" to address cable issues.
447

448 Mr. Pohlmann said the town tried to limit candidates' ability to post political signs. Signs are the least
449 expensive means for a challenger to achieve name recognition in a campaign. Mr. Pohlmann said he
450 was the candidate for a major political party, the Republican Party, in the local election held last fall,
451 and yet at an earlier meeting a commission member asked who he was because she didn't know him.
452 Name recognition is obviously difficult for a challenger. He doesn't like political signs but they are
453 necessary. He said, "unfortunately, democracy has to be a little bit messy, so that people get
454 informed." Candidates must have a place to put up signs. The villages provide locations-- the town
455 should make 4-5 locations available as well.
456

457 Mr. Pohlmann next discussed newspaper coverage. He urged the commission to include in its report
458 the importance of newspaper coverage in local elections. The press has a significant responsibility in
459 making elections fair. For example, in the last election, The Rivertowns Enterprise endorsed
460 Supervisor Feiner even though he (Mr. Pohlmann) was never interviewed. The newspaper never even
461 printed Mr. Pohlmann's picture throughout the entire campaign. The newspapers should at least go
462 through the "charade" of interviewing opposition candidates before endorsing the incumbents, he said.
463

464 Catherine Lederer-Plaskett agreed with Mr. Pohlmann and asked if he had any other comments.
465

466 Mr. Pohlmann next addressed public financing. He said that he doesn't know how money would be
467 divided if public financing is provided. For example, if money is divided based on registration, the
468 Democrats would receive twice as much as Republicans. If the money is divided equally among all
469 political parties, it doesn't seem fair the Right-to-Life party would receive the same amount as the
470 Democratic and Republican parties. How the money would be divided is an issue that must be
471 addressed. The amount of money that would have to be collected from the taxpayers is also an issue.
472 Experts say that it takes about \$100,000 to run a competitive race against the incumbent-supervisor.
473 At a minimum, three mailings are required. Each mailing is \$25,000. With some television time and
474 other expenses, the cost is about \$100,000. He was only able to raise \$10,000.
475

476 Mr. Pohlmann said challengers have an uphill battle because they have to engage in a massive
477 educational effort to win. The incumbents don't have that problem. Every challenger he spoke with
478 experienced the same thing he found in the last election. When he was campaigning in the villages,
479 asking people to vote for him, he was told that they couldn't because they don't live in Greenburgh.
480 Many village residents do not pay attention to town candidates campaigning, thinking they don't vote
481 for town offices in their village election districts. However, when they get into the voting booth, they
482 vote for the names most familiar to them, which tend to be the incumbents. Challengers need to
483 educate the public about the elections. It is not in the incumbent's interest to do so.
484

485 Mr. Pohlmann said he doesn't want to be more divisive but Supervisor Feiner unfairly uses the town's
486 copy center and staff for campaigns. He said he wouldn't dwell on the issue at the present time.
487

488 Catherine Lederer-Plaskett asked if anyone has any questions.
489

490 Harriet Leib said that Mr. Pohlmann gave a very full presentation. She had one question. She asked
491 Mr. Pohlmann if a non-partisan board, instead of a bi-partisan board, would be acceptable to him.
492

493 Mr. Pohlmann said he doesn't know how a non-partisan board could be created.
494

495 Catherine Lederer-Plaskett said to Mr. Pohlmann that he made his opinion about the League of Women
496 Voters known earlier, but the League is non-partisan.
497

498 Mr. Pohlmann said that he applauds the League when they are doing the critical work of informing the
499 public. There is no greater responsibility than that. He then switched the discussion to civic
500 associations. He couldn't believe that not one civic association invited him to speak during the last
501 campaign. He said they are all Democrats. The Council of Greenburgh Civic Associations didn't even
502 bother to hold a debate after the Democratic primary.
503

504 Ella Preiser said the Council of Greenburgh Civic Associations (CGCA) did sponsor a primary debate
505 in 1998 for all parties having primaries. The Conservatives had a primary that year and Mr. Pohlmann
506 was invited to the debate. Unfortunately, the other person seeking the Conservative Party nomination
507 refused to attend. The CGCA followed the League of Women Voters' debate guidelines explicitly and
508 therefore could not have an "empty chair" debate. Mr. Pohlmann was invited but shut out for reasons
509 beyond the control of the CGCA. Regarding the general election, the CGCA tried to book Town Hall
510 for a debate but there were no dates available. If a debate is to be held, it should be televised and could
511 not be without Town Hall being available. The CGCA's inability to hold a general election debate had
512 nothing to do with party politics. Fortunately, the League of Women Voters was able to hold a debate
513 for the general election.
514

515 Harriet Leib said that all three speakers have given the commissioners plenty to consider. She told
516 them that the commission would be moving on to the next item on the agenda but they were welcome
517 to stay.
518

519 Ms. Delahunt asked what were the commission's timeframes and if there would be a public hearing.
520

521 Catherine Lederer-Plaskett said that the commission would hold a public hearing on Monday, June 5th,
522 at 7:30 p.m. Each subcommittee will put out its recommendations and solicit comment on those
523 recommendations at the hearing. No conclusions have yet been reached.
524

525 Mr. Pohlmann asked if the recommendations would be available in advance of the meetings.
526

527 Catherine Lederer-Plaskett said the recommendations would be submitted to the newspapers and they
528 can be requested.

529
530 Harriet Leib suggested moving on with the agenda.
531
532 Lester Steinman asked if there was an agenda for the meeting.
533
534 Harriet Leib said the agenda is the timetable distributed at an earlier meeting. She recognized the
535 Cable Subcommittee Chair, Claire Lee, to discuss the subcommittee's recommendations.
536
537 Claire Lee said the Cable Subcommittee's goal was equal access for all candidates. There are many
538 municipalities that have independent, not-for-profit volunteer boards that run cable access. Based on
539 the subcommittee's research, it is not unusual to have a cable board that is independent. Nearby
540 Larchmont/Mamaroneck has a great system. All the cable franchise fees go toward improving their
541 cable access. That is the fourth recommendation of the subcommittee-- the franchise fees received by
542 the town from the cable company should be used to improve Greenburgh's cable access system. In
543 addition, the subcommittee recommends all candidates receive a baseline amount of access and, if a
544 candidate signs on to campaign reforms, then that candidate should receive significantly more cable
545 access. The subcommittee also recommends that an oversight board be created to monitor candidates'
546 cable access during campaign season to make sure that the access a candidate is entitled to is received.
547
548 Harriet Leib asked if there were any comments.
549
550 Lester Steinman said he supports the subcommittee's recommendations.
551
552 Catherine Lederer-Plaskett said the recommendations were well written and its format could be used as
553 a model by the other subcommittees.
554
555 Harriet Leib asked if there were any objections to the commission approving the cable subcommittee's
556 recommendations. There were no objections.

557
558 The following recommendations were approved:
559

560 *CABLE SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS*

561
562 *To ensure fair and equal access to Greenburgh's Cable Access Channels, including access by*
563 *candidates for local town office, the following is recommended:*
564

- 565 ➤ *A baseline amount of equal access be established for all candidates*

566
567 *The amount of studio and air time provided candidates should not be less than that provided*
568 *any other Greenburgh host/producer. This baseline level of access should be provided a*
569 *candidate even if he/she decides to not participate in campaign finance reform initiatives. (The*
570 *initiatives are outlined elsewhere.)*
571

- 572 ➤ *A campaign oversight committee be formed*

573
574 *The committee should be created by the League of Women Voters or similar organization to*
575 *ensure candidates are being provided fair and equal baseline access during the campaign*
576 *session (June 1st to the date of the general election).*
577

- 578 ➤ *Increased cable access time be used as an incentive for candidates to sign on to local campaign*
579 *finance reform*

580
581 *Participating candidates should be entitled to have their shows aired on Saturdays and*
582 *Sundays in a continuous, non-stop, 24-hour loop with the shows/segments of all other*

583 *participating candidates. This air time would be in addition to the baseline access provided all*
584 *candidates.*

585
586 ➤ *An independent, non-profit cable access television board be created similar in structure and*
587 *powers as Larchmont/Mamaroneck's cable access board.*

588
589 *The board should oversee and manage all aspects of the Town of Greenburgh's cable access*
590 *system, including receipt and disbursement of cable franchise fees, which should be directed*
591 *toward improving the cable access system, as is the case in Larchmont/Mamaroneck.*
592

593 Catherine Lederer-Plaskett handed out Antenna Review Board (ARB) documents pertaining to the
594 ARB's desire to televise its meetings on the town's cable access station. She said their relevance may
595 not be immediately apparent but the issues contained therein have everything to do with the
596 commission's work. She is the chair of the ARB. There are four boards in the town with decision-
597 making powers-- the Town Board, the Planning Board, the Zoning Board of Appeals, and the Antenna
598 Review Board. All the other boards meet at night, have staff, and are televised live. The ARB does
599 not have staff and is not televised. Recently, in a 4/18/2000 letter, Supervisor Feiner chastised the
600 ARB for not informing the public enough about its meetings. He also said the ARB meetings should
601 be held at night, similar to the meetings of the Zoning and Planning Boards, and that neighbors in the
602 vicinity of proposed sites must be notified. The Town Board has refused the ARB's request for a
603 secretary and budget. After receiving the letter, as a means to keep the entire town aware of its work,
604 the ARB requested the ARB evening meetings be televised live, similar to the meetings of the Zoning
605 and Planning Boards.

606
607 Catherine Lederer-Plaskett said that Supervisor Feiner, by his response, believes speech at municipal
608 meetings should be regulated. In a letter to Town Clerk Alfreda Williams and Cable Access Director
609 George Malone, dated 5/12/2000, Supervisor Feiner stated that the ARB should not be given access to
610 the cable access station to televise its meetings. The ARB learned of the Supervisor's blockade
611 indirectly since he did not send a copy to the ARB. The ARB even wants to have dial democracy at its
612 meetings so residents can call in with questions about antennas in the town. The supervisor is opposed
613 to the ARB following the Town Board's meeting policies. Something is going on. It is censorship.
614 The only board that is not given television access is the one with members of which the Town Board is
615 not fond. The town is clearly using its control of cable access to censor one of its boards, a board with
616 members who are all strong community advocates supported by civic associations. She said the ARB
617 is continuing to pursue the issue. She said a likely cause of the censorship is one of its members,
618 Francis Sheehan, ran against the incumbents in the last election. It is clear from Supervisor Feiner's
619 letter that he recognizes that televised municipal meetings can have advantages to those appearing on
620 them, other than just conducting town business.

621
622 Harriet Leib asked Ms. Lederer-Plaskett to summarize the constructive issues.

623
624 Catherine Lederer-Plaskett said she is making two points. First, the Town Board engages in
625 censorship and, therefore, a recommendation regarding year-round re-structuring of cable access is
626 needed, not just during campaign season. Second, the equal time exception for Town Board members
627 speaking at Town Board meetings needs to be re-examined. If the Town Board members are exempt
628 from equal time regulations, then the members of the ARB and the Conservation Advisory Council
629 who happen to be candidates should also be exempt. Since they are not, according to the Town Board,
630 then the Town Board should not be exempt either, particularly the 30-minute supervisor announcement
631 part of the meeting.

632
633 Lester Steinman said that he recommends against amending the Cable Subcommittee's
634 recommendations. The issues raised by Catherine Lederer-Plaskett are very important and need to be

635 addressed but not by amending the recommendations. Most of the issues raised would be addressed by
636 establishing a non-partisan, not-for-profit cable organization.
637

638 Catherine Lederer-Plaskett said she is not asking the recommendations, which have already been
639 unanimously approved, be amended. She raised the issue solely to highlight the "equal time" issue and
640 the need to further consider it.
641

642 Harriet Leib agreed with Catherine Lederer-Plaskett and said she made her point clear.
643

644 Andrew Goodman asked who would draft the actual cable regulations.
645

646 Harriet Leib said the Cable Subcommittee considers cable issues.
647

648 Claire Lee said many municipalities already have regulations that can be used.
649

650 Andrew Goodman said the committee who is charged with actually drafting the new cable regulations,
651 putting pen to paper, would be the proper forum to address the issues raised by Catherine Lederer-
652 Plaskett. He doesn't think drafting the actual regulations is the charge of the commission.
653

654 Lester Steinman said he does not see the commission drafting detailed regulations because consensus
655 would never be reached. The recommendations are a great jumping off point. After further
656 discussion, the commission might want to elaborate on them.
657

658 Catherine Lederer-Plaskett said that the commission has been considering the recommendations, week
659 after week. The abbreviated recommendations are for the public hearing. She wants to come back
660 after the public hearing and develop more detailed recommendations.
661

662 Harriet Leib suggested waiting until the public hearing to determine what the next steps for the
663 commission will be. After the public hearing, the commission will decide what needs to be done. The
664 commission may not hear anything different at the hearing, but it is important that the meeting be held
665 and the commission listen to anyone who wants to speak.
666

667 Harriet Leib asked Ethics Subcommittee Chair Charlotte Schienberg to present the Ethics
668 Subcommittee recommendations. She read the subcommittee's recommendation in its entirety:
669

670 ETHICS SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

671 DRAFT
672

673 To establish strong public confidence in the performance of elected town officials in their assigned
674 responsibilities the following is recommended:
675

676 --- Establish a campaign reform oversight committee
677

678 The committee should consist of a nonpartisan or bipartisan panel and address ethical and
679 financial issues arising during political campaigns.
680

681 --- Eliminate conflicts of interest
682

683 Require an elected official to recuse him/herself under certain circumstances from voting on a
684 contributor's application.
685

686 --- Create a level playing field for candidates
687

688 Review the use of taxpayer-financed mailings by incumbents.
689

690 Disallow incumbent's name on public ads during proscribed campaign season.

691
692 Lester Steinman said the introduction to the recommendations is too broad. It should be clear that the
693 building of strong public confidence is in the context of campaign reform.

694
695 Francis Sheehan suggested changing the word "establish" to "promote", which does not imply that
696 total public confidence will result solely from the recommendations listed. The amendment was
697 unanimously approved.

698
699 Andrew Goodman asked what the term "address" means in the clause "address ethical and financial
700 issues". He asked if "address" means the committee will have determinative powers.

701
702 Catherine Lederer-Plaskett said the wording is intentionally somewhat ambiguous. All three
703 subcommittees have agreed that some type of campaign oversight board is needed. How that oversight
704 board is created, structured and empowered has not been determined. After the public hearing the
705 commission should be in a better position to answer those questions.

706
707 Lester Steinman, responding to Andrew Goodman's question, said that one of the issues discussed was
708 having the oversight board "address" campaign-related ethics complaints filed by the public. The
709 current system requires an ethics complaint to have the approval of the Town Board before the Ethics
710 Board can consider it, which has created some controversy. A proposed alternative is to have the
711 oversight board hear any campaign-related ethics complaints filed by the public and determine if the
712 charges had merit. If so, the oversight board would be able to forward the complaint to the Ethics
713 Board for consideration. This approach provides an alternative means of accessing the Ethics Board
714 without opening up the Ethics Board to everyone who wants to file a complaint. A consensus on the
715 proposal was not reached, but it was discussed as a means of "addressing" campaign-related ethics
716 complaints filed by the public.

717
718 Mary Tobias asked the purpose of the provision that prohibits an incumbent's name on public ads.

719
720 Lester Steinman said the provision is designed to address ads that indirectly promote an incumbent's
721 candidacy during election season. He gave the hypothetical example, "Hi, I'm Andy Spano,
722 Westchester County Executive, welcome to Westchester." Those types of taxpayer-financed ads at the
723 town level would be prohibited during the campaign season by the provision.

724
725 Harriet Leib said the county passed legislation that prohibits incumbents from sending taxpayer-
726 financed literature during the campaign season with their names on it.

727
728 Francis Sheehan suggested using the county's wording in the subcommittee recommendation. The
729 county does not limit the ad restriction solely to an incumbent's name.

730
731 Harriet Leib said she would include the wording from the county's legislation. She then asked if there
732 are any other changes. There were none. She then asked if there was any objection to accepting the
733 recommendations as amended. Hearing no objection, the following recommendations, re-formatted
734 similar to the cable subcommittee recommendations, were approved:

735
736 *ETHICS SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION*
737 *(approved by the commission)*
738

739 *To promote strong public confidence in the performance of elected town officials in their assigned*
740 *responsibilities the following is recommended:*

- 741
742 ➤ *Establish a campaign oversight committee*

743
744 *The committee should consist of a nonpartisan or bipartisan panel and address ethical and*
745 *financial issues arising during political campaigns.*

746
747 ➤ *Eliminate conflicts of interest*

748
749 *Elected officials should be required to recuse themselves under certain circumstances from*
750 *voting on a contributor's application.*

751
752 ➤ *Create a level playing field for candidates*

753
754 *Taxpayer-financed mailings by incumbents should be reviewed.*

755
756 *Incumbent's name, voice, or likeness in public (taxpayer-financed) ads should be disallowed*
757 *during the proscribed campaign season.*

758
759 Harriet Leib said the next subcommittee report is from the Public Finance Subcommittee. Before
760 recognizing Catherine Lederer-Plaskett for the subcommittee's report, she said that it appears that
761 public financing at this stage in Greenburgh is not the way to go. The incentive for participating in
762 local campaign reforms would be the increased cable access time recommended by the Cable
763 Subcommittee. Cable access would be the "nugget" to entice candidates to participate. Another
764 possible nugget would be for the oversight board to award "blue ribbons" to those candidates who
765 follow the rules. Another possibility is to have voluntary limits on contributions and spending. Those
766 are possibilities she sees at the present time.

767
768 Elizabeth Daniel agrees that Greenburgh is not ready to adopt traditional forms of public finance.
769 However, the commission does need to decide what candidates should agree to in order to get the extra
770 cable access time, the blue ribbon, or any other carrot.

771
772 Lester Steinman said it would be helpful to have a list of possible reform measures that the
773 commission could consider. He agrees with Harriet Leib-- Greenburgh is not ready for public
774 financing. However, the committee could develop a program that encourages reform measures without
775 spending taxpayer money. It could be a model for other communities.

776
777 Charlotte Schienberg agrees that a list of reform measures should be drafted. She supports a baseline
778 cable access for candidates who do not sign on to the reforms. She said cable access should be
779 available to everyone.

780
781 Claire Lee said that everyone has the right to use the cable access stations. Even if they do not get the
782 access they are entitled to, they do have a right to it.

783
784 Elizabeth Daniel said that candidates should get special treatment regarding cable access scheduling.
785 Candidates should not have to wait in line for a timeslot like everyone else. The election could be over
786 by the time a regular timeslot is available.

787
788 Catherine Lederer-Plaskett said there appears to be a consensus that public financing is not viable at
789 the present time in Greenburgh. She asked if the commission should raise public financing as an
790 option at the public hearing.

791
792 Harriet Leib said that all options should be presented, adding that she would be surprised if there was
793 support voiced at the public hearing for taxpayer-financed local campaigns.

794
795 Catherine Lederer-Plaskett agreed. She asked who wants to volunteer to prepare a list of reform
796 measures?

797

798 Lester Steinman volunteered Elizabeth Daniel.
799

800 Elizabeth Daniel said she would not be able to get to it before next Tuesday, May 30, due to workload
801 issues.
802

803 Harriet Leib suggested preparing the list before leaving the meeting to avoid another commission
804 meeting prior to the public hearing.
805

806 Catherine Lederer-Plaskett said the list should be as innocuous as possible so it initiates dialogue but
807 doesn't promise anything that can't be delivered.
808

809 Lester Steinman agreed. He suggested Elizabeth Daniel prepare the list using time-tested reform
810 measures that can be distributed at the meeting for discussion purposes. It doesn't have to be done
811 immediately.
812

813 Elizabeth Daniel said she could e-mail the list to commission members.
814

815 Catherine Lederer-Plaskett suggested a timeframe be established so all commission members could
816 respond and provide input as was the case with the Cable Subcommittee and Ethics Subcommittee
817 recommendations. Next Tuesday is fine. If anyone has any changes to the proposal they should e-mail
818 them as well. Any language changes will need to be worked out in advance of the public hearing so
819 copies can be made available to the public.
820

821 Elizabeth Daniel said she would draft a recommendation that is vague, for the purposes of eliciting
822 comment at the public hearing.
823

824 Francis Sheehan said the Cable Subcommittee had a mandate from the last commission meeting to
825 incorporate into its recommendation additional cable access time for candidates willing to accept local
826 campaign reform measures. The recommendation states that the reform measures are outlined
827 elsewhere. It was envisioned that the Public Finance Subcommittee would develop the reform
828 measures, such as increased disclosure, that candidates would have to comply with in order to obtain
829 the increased cable access and any other nugget or carrot the independent oversight board could offer.
830 He said the commission would truly have achieved its goal of local campaign finance reform if cable
831 access is made non-partisan so it can be used as an incentive for campaign reform, and candidates
832 signed on to the campaign finance reform measures Elizabeth Daniel will be drafting in order to obtain
833 the incentives offered. He suggested the non-taxpayer-financed campaign reform initiatives be
834 actively pursued.
835

836 Claire Lee said that, in addition to the incentives, a disincentive for not participating in the reform
837 measures can be used-- the shame factor. An important role of the oversight committee will be to
838 publicize who is and is not participating in the local reforms.
839

840 Nancy Delahunt apologized for interjecting. She said the discussion reminded her of another unfair
841 advantage incumbents had during her campaign. The incumbents listed their names in big bold letters
842 on the town's cable bulletin board for hours with nothing else showing, listing when they will be on.
843 The cable bulletin board is another area where incumbents can have an unfair advantage.
844

845 Catherine Lederer-Plaskett asked for help in organizing and publicizing the meeting. She said she
846 would notify the The Scarsdale Inquirer and the Rivertowns Enterprise.
847

848 Harriet Leib said she would notify the The Journal News.
849

850 Lester Steinman said he doesn't have time to do it, but a press release needs to be prepared and sent to
851 all the local news organizations.
852

853 Charlotte Schienberg said she happened to meet Tim Fleischer, the Westchester correspondent for
854 Eyewitness News. He just recently re-located to the county and dropped into the office. He asked her
855 to call him about anything interesting going on in the county. She will call him.
856

857 Harriet Leib asked if someone would prepare a flier?
858

859 Francis Sheehan volunteered to create a flier.
860

861 Harriet Leib asked if someone could post the notice on the web. She had a "Grassroots for
862 Greenburgh" card. She asked about posting it on the Grassroots website.
863

864 Elizabeth Daniel asked who operates the website.
865

866 Catherine Lederer-Plaskett said that website is a community-based website.
867

868 Francis Sheehan said the website posts community issues as well as copies of local newspaper articles
869 from The Journal News and the The Scarsdale Inquirer. They have permission from the newspapers to
870 post the articles.
871

872 Harriet Leib asked Francis Sheehan to handle the website posting and he agreed.
873

874 Elizabeth Daniel suggested posting the notice on the town's cable access station.
875

876 Harriet Leib said she spoke to Milton Hoffman as part of a committee that met with the editorial board
877 about countywide campaign finance reform. She told him she did not like his editorial about the
878 commission. She told him the commission was independent. She used the word "independent" three
879 times and even asked him if he noticed she used the word three times.
880

881 Catherine Lederer-Plaskett asked if the press notices would include the flier and the subcommittee
882 recommendations with the bullet points.
883

884 Harriet Leib said the press release would be a total package.
885

886 Catherine Lederer-Plaskett said the flier cannot have so much data it can't be read.
887

888 Lester Steinman said a flier is different from a press release. The flier should contain the date, time,
889 and place, etc. in big bold letters. It has to be readable so it can be posted. He can run off some of the
890 fliers.
891

892 Catherine Lederer-Plaskett said it is better to post the fliers rather than leaving paper that could fly
893 around.
894

895 Charlotte Schienberg said that there will be expenses involved with publicizing the hearing.
896

897 Harriet Leib said that Kathleen Rutherford gave the League some money but she (Ms. Leib) is not sure
898 it could be used for this purpose.
899

900 Harriet Leib prepared a "who does what" list. She asked Claire Lee to help her prepare the press
901 release.
902

903 Claire Lee agreed to help with the press release.
904

905 Harriet Leib read the list of responsibilities: Catherine Lederer-Plaskett will notify the The Scarsdale
906 Inquirer and the The Rivertowns Enterprise. Harriet Leib will prepare the press release and notify the
907 The Journal News. Charlotte Schienberg will notify The Eyewitness News. Francis Sheehan will
908 prepare the flier and post the information on the web. Claire Lee will help with the press release and
909 notify Cablevision's News12. Elizabeth Daniel will draft the Public Finance Subcommittee
910 recommendations.

911
912 Catherine Lederer-Plaskett asked Francis Sheehan if he could send the flier via e-mail so the members
913 can make their own copies and distribute them locally.

914
915 Francis Sheehan said he would send the flier via e-mail.

916
917 Harriet Leib assigned members who live in the town specific locales for flier distribution.

918
919 The meeting was adjourned at 9:21 p.m.

920
921

922 Respectfully submitted,

923 Francis Sheehan, Commission Secretary