

ETHICS COMMISSION
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
NOVEMBER 22, 2021

Members Present: Marty Zeldis
Mark Burnham
Betsy Ritter
Olga Bush

Absent: Laurie Wolfley
Cindy Hersom, Alternate

Guest: Attorney Avena

RECEIVED FOR RECORDING
NOV 29 2021
2021 DEC -1 PM 2:22
TOWN CLERK

1. CALL TO ORDER. The November 22, 2021 Special Meeting of the Ethics Commission was called to order at 7:05 p.m. by Chairman Zeldis. Mr. Zeldis stated during Executive Sessions he would like the Recording Secretary to be able to join the Executive Session. Attorney Avena felt as long as the Recording Secretary keeps discussions confidential, this Commission can invite the Recording Secretary to join an Executive Session.

MOTION (1): Mr. Zeldis moved that with general advice and counsel from Attorney Avena the Recording Secretary may be invited to an Executive Session and able to take notes to be reduced to a written form and at all times be bound to confidentially whenever she records minutes and that they be distributed to only Commission members after the meeting. Seconded by Ms. Ritter. (4-0) Unanimous.

2. APPROVAL OF JUNE 29, 2021 MEETING MINUTES.

MOTION (2): Betsy Ritter moved to approve the June 29, 2021 Special Business Meeting, as presented. Seconded by Mark Burnham. Ms. Bush abstained from voting. (3-0-1) Motion carried.

3. REVIEW OF CORRESPONDENCE. No correspondence was received.
4. INTRODUCTION OF NEW RECORDING SECRETARY, FRANCES GHERSI. The new Recording Secretary was introduced to the Commission.
5. HOW IS THE NEW CODE WORKING? Mr. Zeldis asked Attorney Avena for input on the new code. Attorney Avena stated the entire new code has been approved. Ms. Ritter asked when it will be distributed? Attorney Avena stated the Town Clerk will distribute it. Attorney Avena was asked if he has received any feedback? He did not. Attorney Avena would like the new code to be placed on this Commission's website. He felt it should be accessible and agreed to have discussion with the Town Clerk.

Attorney Avena felt the Board of Education should also be aware of what the standards and care are.

6. THE AFFECT OF THE ADVISORY OPINION. Attorney Avena referred to the October 13, 2021 meeting of the Board of Finance. There is one item on the Advisory Opinion which stated it is necessary to abstain from voting if there is a conflict.

Betsy Ritter reported the Chairman of the Zoning Commission felt the Advisory Opinion was well done. She referred him to Attorney Avena. Attorney Avena did speak to him. He felt discussion with the Planning & Zoning Commission, Board of Finance and Board of Selectmen went well. They wish to be careful. He will have discussion with the Zoning Board of Appeals next week and the new RTM in December. Ms. Ritter stated she personally felt it was a good idea to also have discussion with the Superintendent of Schools. Attorney Avena stated he is available for discussion on the code. The Finance Director appreciates the efforts of this Commission. Ms. Ritter asked Attorney Avena if he had discussion with anyone who indicated that they felt the Advisory Opinion was an extension of the new ordinances? Attorney Avena stated some think it went too far. State Statutes are repeated in our code. He felt it was time to look at the State Statute. Ms. Ritter felt there was no reason a municipality's ordinances could not be stricter than the State Statutes They cannot be more permissive than the State Statutes. Attorney Avena stated legally if you have empowering statutes within the bound part, it is good to update.

7. ANY FEEDBACK RE ETHICS COMMISSION DECISION IN R.V.F. Attorney Avena asked if this Commission has heard from Attorney Reardon? He heard from him before the meeting. Attorney Avena informed him that he felt this Commission was diligent.
8. WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE RE THE RESIGNATION OF STEVE GARVIN? Mr. Zeldis reported Steve Garvin was elected to the RTM and has resigned from this Commission. The following members term of office will expire: Mark Burnham on February 7, 2022, Olga Bush on February 7, 2022 and Marty Zeldis on February 6, 2023. Attorney Avena will speak to the Town Clerk.
9. OLD BUSINESS. There was no discussion of Old Business.
10. NEW BUSINESS. A schedule of meeting dates for 2022 will be submitted on the first Tuesday in January, April, July and October.
11. DATE FOR NEXT MEETING. Chairman Zeldis informed the Commission we need to have a full Commission. He would like to schedule a meeting on January 4, 2022 at 7 p.m.
12. ADJOURNMENT.

MOTION (3): Mr. Burnham moved to adjourn the November 22, 2022 Ethics Commission Regular Meeting at 8:15 p.m. Seconded by Ms. Ritter. (4-0) unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Frances Gheri, Recording Secretary