ETHICS COMMISION
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
FEBRUARY 1, 2022

Members Present: Marty Zeldis
Mark Burnham
Betsy Ritter
Olga Bush
Laurie Wolfley

Absent: Cindy Hersom, Alternate

1. CALL TO ORDER. The February 1, 2022 Special Meeting of the Ethics Commission was called to order at 7:01 p.m. by Chairman Zeldis.

2. APPROVAL OF NOVEMBER 22, 2021 MEETING MINUTES.

MOTION (2): Betsy Ritter moved to approve the November 22, 2021 Special Meeting, as presented. Seconded by Olga Bush. Ms. Wolfley abstained from voting. (3-0-1) Motion carried.

3. REVIEW OF CORRESPONDENCE. No correspondence was received.

4. PRESENT STATUS OF THE ETHICS COMMISSION. Ms. Zeldis reported he wishes to be sure the Ethics Commission knows its mission and is complying with it.

5. FILLING EXISTING VACANCIES. Chairman Zeldis reported at the November 22, 2021 meeting we discussed Mark Burnham and Olga Bush's terms' expiration dates. He was informed if an individual's term expires, they may continue on the Commission until a replacement is approved. We also had a member who needed to resign because he was voted to be a member of the RTM. This Commission may have no more than four members of each party.

6. MAKING CERTAIN THAT THE ETHICS RULES RELATIVE TO REGULAR MEETINGS AND COMPOSITION OF THE COMMISSION ARE BEING COMPLIED WITH. Mr. Zeldis stated when we have a complaint this Commission is very busy. We also may not have any complaints coming to us and we are inactive. Ms. Bush asked do you think we should cancel meetings when we do not have a complaint and meet only when we have a complaint? Ms. Zeldis felt we need to meet for our regular scheduled meeting dates. Ms. Wolfley added as a new member of the Ethics Commission she felt it was important to meet to develop a repour. Mr. Zeldis and Ms. Ritter agreed. Mr. Zeldis suggested inviting a department head to a meeting. Ms. Ritter suggested Planning & Zoning because it has a strict way of looking at conflict of interest matters. Ms. Wolfley felt some individuals are concerned about the Advisory Opinion. She wondered if it would make sense to invite them to learn more about it. Ms. Ritter and Mr. Zeldis agreed that any concerns should come to this Commission. The public could address their concerns at a regularly scheduled meeting of this Commission. Ms. Ritter asked would we have to worry about confidentiality? Mr. Zeldis felt this Commission always has to worry about confidentiality. Ms. Wolfley suggested a pre-meeting. Ms. Ritter felt if someone reports there is a conflict of interest, a suggestion should be made to file a complaint.

7. CHOOSING A NEW CHAIR. Chairman Zeldis informed Commission members he has been traveling a lot and has had medical issues, and he wishes to step down as Chairman of this Commission.

MOTION (2): Ms. Wolfley moved to nominate Ms. Ritter as Chairlady of the Ethics Commission. Seconded by Mr. Zeldis.

A vote was taken and Ms. Ritter was unanimously elected Chairlady of the Ethics Commission.

8. OLD BUSINESS. There was no discussion of old business.

9. NEW BUSINESS. There was no discussion of new business.

10. DATE FOR NEXT MEETING. The next regularly scheduled meeting of this Commission will be held on April 5, 2022 at 7 p.m. in the Louise Appleby Meeting Room.

11. ADJOURNMENT.

    MOTION (3): Ms. Wolfley moved to adjourn the February 1, 2022 Ethics Commission Special Meeting at 7:48 p.m. Seconded by Ms. Burnham. (5-0) unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Frances Ghersi, Recording Secretary