

ETHICS COMMISSION
Special Business Meeting
MINUTES
March 11, 2020

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Call to Order:

The March 11, 2020 Special Business Meeting of the Ethics Commission was called to order at 6:07 PM by Marty Zeldis, Chairman.

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

Absent: Cindy Hersom, Steve Garvin

Guest: Attorney Avena

Approval of Minutes:

O. Bush moved to approve the meeting minutes of the February 26, 2020 Special Meeting. L. Wolfley seconded. The minutes as written were accepted. (4,0,1)

Old Business:

Item 3a:

M. Zeldis, Chairman began the discussion with a brief explanation of the reason for this meeting. He explained it was to review the draft copy of the revised Code and to have Attorney Avena comment. He then explained the Attorney would clarify the step by step process of review and approval of the revision.

Attorney Avena began his discussion with a compliment to the commission for the work put into the newly revised Code of Ethics.

Attorney Avena began his advice related to a proposed change in section 2.50.020 subsection B sentence 5. The discussion included specific amounts for a nonpecuniary gift. Several amounts were suggested – zero, \$25.00 and \$50.00. The Attorney suggested an amount of \$50.00 due to the compatible nature with State statute.

He continued comment and discussion with 2.50.030 subsection A and B with emphasis on the impact of decisions involving immediate family and monetary gain or loss. The Attorney gave opinion on the definition of immediate family in the current code. He read a portion from the CT Statute 7-148h. The portion showed a contrast between the Town's definition and the State's description. Questions and concerns arose, further discussion ensued.

The newly devised code violation form was reviewed. Chmn. Zeldis explained the basis for creation of the form and its intended usage. Discussion ensued with an emphasis on mandatory

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vs optional usage along with the need for the Complainant to sign the form under oath. Changes to the form will be made as suggested.

2.50.070 subsections A, E and F were discussed with relevance to the publishing or announcing of a formal decision when the commission finds no probable cause. Commission decision with Attorney advisement created several changes. Changes will be made as suggested to 2.50.070 subsections A, E and F.

Item 3b and 3c:

Attorney Avena continued the meeting by explaining, in detail, the procedure of finalizing the code revisions and the process for approval and adoption. Comments and questions for advice continued the discussion.

Attorney Avena excused himself and M. Zeldis, Chairman, finished the meeting.

Date for the next Special Business Meeting - March 18th at 6PM.

Adjournment:

At 7:49 PM B. Ritter made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by L. Wolfley. Unanimous decision (5-0).

Respectfully submitted,

Stacey M. Tynan
Recording Secretary