

CITY OF STAMFORD
Board of Ethics
Stamford Government Center
(Meeting held virtually via Zoom)
February 16, 2022
Draft Minutes

This Meeting was recorded and the audio recording is available from the Board of Ethics and the City of Stamford. Such audio recording is intended to be the official public record of the Meeting and not these minutes, and such recording is incorporated into these minutes by reference and made a part hereof. These minutes summarize the proceedings and are not intended as verbatim notes.

Present Members:

Allan Lang, Chair
Myrna Sessa, Member
Monica Smyth, Member
Christine Dzujna, Member
Benjamin Folkinshteyn, Member
Kevin Quinn, Alternate

Other:

Stephen Conover, Counsel
Bonnie Kim Campbell, Board of Representatives Member
Kimberly Hawreluk, Human Resources Processing Technician
Various members of the public

The meeting was called to order by Chair Lang at 7:04 p.m.

1. Chairman Lang reported that Tom Hynes sent him a letter of resignation from the Board of Ethics ("BOE") citing personal reasons for stepping down. The BOE now has two vacancies.
2. Chairman Lang presented the November 17, 2021, BOE Meeting Draft Minutes for review and approval. Ms. Smyth moved to approve the minutes, Ms. Dzujna seconded, all others in favor. The motion passed unanimously.
3. Corporation Counsel, Amy LiVolsi, cancelled tonight's presentation to the BOE and will reschedule. LiVolsi did, however, contact Chairman Lang to clarify a position that had been raised earlier. Ms. LiVolsi confirmed that, per the Freedom of Information Act, the BOE is indeed allowed, as has been its practice, to have its investigations remain confidential until an actual finding of probable cause has been reached.

4. Representative Bonnie Kim Campbell appeared seeking an advisory opinion from the BOE. Representative Campbell is an Paraeducator in the Stamford school system and asked whether she should recuse herself from Board of Representative votes on issues related to the Board of Education, not only because of her employment, but also because she has an active Human Rights Commission complaint against the Board of Education raising certain ADA non-compliance claims. Representative Campbell asked whether she had to recuse herself from all Board of Education matters that might come before Board of Representatives, or only those matters related to para-education.

Representative Campbell also reported she recused herself from votes at last night's meeting of the Board of Representatives on CBBG proposals for the 45 agencies that asked for community block grant funds when she realized that her landlord was included on that list. She recused herself from the two votes related to his grant requests.

After some discussion, Chairman Lang noted that Representative Campbell's request is complicated because of the newly revised Code of Conduct and that the BOE will take the matter under advisement and prepare a written opinion that will be presented for a discussion and vote at the next BOE meeting. Representative Campbell noted that she will use her judgment in the meantime on Board of Education matters that may be brought before the Board of Representatives.

Upon a motion by Mr. Folkinshteyn to adjourn, which was seconded by Ms. Dzujna and carried unanimously, the Meeting was adjourned at 7:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine Dzujna, Secretary