

CITY OF STAMFORD
Board of Ethics
Stamford Government Center
(Meeting held virtually via Zoom)
April 27, 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
Christine Dzujna, Member
Benjamin Folkinshteyn, Member
Myrna Sessa, Member
Monica Smyth, Member
Kevin Quinn, Alternate
Fred Springer, Alternate

Other:

Stephen Conover, Counsel
Kimberly Hawreluk, Human Resources Processing Technician
Various members of the public

The meeting was called to order by Chair Lang at 7:03 p.m.

1. Chairman Lang presented the March 23, 2022, Board of Ethics (“BOE”) Meeting Draft Minutes for review and approval. Ms. Smyth moved to approve the minutes, Mr. Springer seconded, Ms. Sessa abstained because she did not attend the March meeting, all others in favor. The motion passed.
2. Chairman Lang noted that the BOE may, but is not required, to nominate a Vice Chair to fill the role vacated by Mr. Hynes. The consensus was that the role should be filled. Ms. Smyth nominated Mr. Springer, Ms. Sessa seconded, all others in favor. The motion passed.
3. Mr. Lang presented the draft advisory opinion prepared by Mr. Folkinshteyn on behalf of Representative Kim Campbell. After discussion, a vote was taken to approve the substance of the opinion subject to several minor changes, e.g., adding a disclaimer that others should not rely on the Campbell opinion for guidance in any other matter. Once revised, Chairman Lang will conduct a final editorial review before the opinion is finalized and submitted to Representative Campbell. Mr. Springer moved to approve the opinion, Ms. Smyth seconded, all others in favor. The motion passed.

4. Chairman Lang presented the draft advisory opinion he prepared for Representative Cara Gilbride. Chairman Lang reported that Representative Gilbride affirmatively requested a written advisory opinion.

After discussion, it was agreed that the BOE does not have sufficient information on how the Board of Representatives grant voting process works. Specifically, it is not clear how much discretion Ms. Gilbride, or any other Representative, has to award grants to specific recipients.

Since her question cannot be answered as submitted, Chairman Lang will ask Representative Gilbride to re-submit her request with additional information that would allow the BOE to better understand the grant process so that it can issue an appropriate opinion (this would effectively re-start the clock with regard to the BOE's obligation to issue an opinion).

5. The City Law Department provided Mr. Conover with the "Guidance Concerning Gifts" document so that the BOE could use it as a resource if it wishes in assessing conflicts of interest related to gift giving. The Law Department intends to use the document to help those who train employees and officers of the City better understand their gifting obligations under the Code.

Chairman Lang adjourned the meeting at 8:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine Dzujna, Secretary