

CITY OF STAMFORD
Board of Ethics
Stamford Government Center
(Meeting held virtually via Zoom)
November 18, 2020

Minutes

Present Members:

Allan Lang, Chair
Thomas Hynes, Vice-Chair
Myrna Sessa, Member
Monica Smyth, Member
Christine Dzujna, Member
Benjamin Folkinshteyn, Member
Fred Springer, Alternate
Kevin Quinn, Alternate

Other:

Kimberly Hawreluk, Human Resources Processing Technician

The meeting was called to order by Chair Lang at 7:02 p.m.

1. Mr. Springer moved to accept the minutes of the August 19, 2020, Meeting of the Board of Ethics (“BOE”), seconded by Ms. Dzujna, unanimously passed.
2. Mr. Hynes moved to accept the minutes of the November 4, 2020, Special Meeting of the BOE, seconded by Mr. Springer, unanimously passed.
3. Chair Lang met several weeks ago with the Board of Representatives (“BOR”) President who expressed concerned that BOR members may have used (or might in the future use) the process of bringing complaints before the BOE as a punitive measure against other members of their board. He asked whether he could provide the BOE with a number of scenarios of possible violations of the code and have us opine and offer guidance as to whether they might be violations. He would then use our feedback to instruct BOR members. Chair Lang informed him that it was our practice not to render opinions based on hypotheticals that one might rely upon and that could be misleading and declined his request.
4. Chair Lang noted that Mr. Folkinshteyn shared with the BOE a Seton Hall Law Review guide on ethics in local governance. The BOE agreed that it is useful and a document the BOR might consider using as a resource guide as they revise the Code of Conduct. Chair Lang will offer it to the BOR President on an informal basis to use as he wishes. Mr. Hynes moved to accept this approach, Ms. Smyth seconded, Mr. Springer abstained, all others in favor. Motion passed.

5. Chair Lang submitted the BOE 2021 meeting schedule for review. Mr. Hynes moved to accept the proposed meeting dates subject to changing the January proposed date from the 20th to the 27th. Ms. Sessa seconded, unanimously passed.
6. At 7:25 p.m. the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine Dzujna, Secretary