

CITY OF STAMFORD

Board of Ethics  
Stamford Government Center  
December 18, 2018

***Official Minutes***

Present

Cheryl Bader, chair  
Christine Dzujna, member  
Allan Lang, member  
John Morgan, member  
Myrna Sessa, member  
Monica Smyth, member

The meeting was called to order by Chair Bader at 7:36 p.m. in the Human Resources Conference Room.

1. Minutes of October 17, 2018 were accepted. Moved by Mr. Lang, second by Mr. Morgan.
2. 2019 Board of Ethics Meeting Schedule was approved.
3. Sam-Magliari Complaint-Stipulation Agreement. Mr. Morgan reported that the Investigating Panel (Mr. Morgan, Ms. Sessa and Ms. Smyth) reached a Stipulated Agreement with Respondent and her attorney to resolve the October 4, 2018 Probable Cause finding. This agreement obviated the need for a public hearing. The agreement came about after numerous meetings between Respondent and the Mayor's Office, as well as negotiations between Respondent's attorney and Mr. Morgan.

The Stipulated Agreement provides that whenever Respondent reviews applications from her husband's employer (where he is a principal), her review will be independently reviewed by an engineer of equal qualifications, and most likely the City Engineer, Respondent's supervisor. Further, Respondent's work will be periodically reviewed by an outside auditor to conduct random Project Assurance reviews. Lastly, signatories to the agreement include the Board of Ethics' chair, the three members of the Investigating Panel, Respondent, her attorney and the Director of Operations for the City of Stamford.

Ms. Bader was concerned that despite the agreement, the potential conflict of interest would still exist. But, the Investigating Panel countered that this was the best resolution under the Code and that the "review" of Respondent's work would prevent any conflict of interest.

Complainant did not attend today's meeting but did communicate with Mr. Morgan stating that he believed the Stipulated Agreement was inadequate.

After much discussion, Mr. Lang moved that the agreement be approved. Ms. Bader seconded approval adding a condition that after a reasonable period of time, the City Engineer report back to the Board on how the agreement has been effective in preventing any potential conflict of interest. Ms. Dzujna joined in Ms. Bader's vote. Thus the agreement was approved by the Board of Ethics.

Adjournment

There being no further business, upon motion duly made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Monica Smyth, Secretary