

City of Stamford Board of Ethics
Public Meeting
Stamford Government Center
May 11, 2017
Minutes

Present:

Cheryl Bader
Allan Lang
John Morgan
Monica Smyth
Adam Vandervoort

The meeting was called to order by Ms. Bader at 7:05 p.m. Ms. Bader served as chair of the meeting and Mr. Vandervoort served as secretary.

1. Introduction of John Morgan

Ms. Bader introduced the Board's newest member, Mr. John Morgan. The Board welcomed Mr. Morgan and thanked him for his willingness to serve the people of Stamford.

2. Approval of Prior Minutes

The Board reviewed the previously distributed minutes of its prior meetings, as follows: March 8, 2016; June 20, 2016; September 12, 2016; and March 13, 2017. Mr. Vandervoort and Morgan abstained from the vote, as neither were present for these previous meetings. Upon motion duly made and seconded, the remaining members present voted unanimously to approve and adopt said minutes.

3. Advisory Opinions in General

Upon inquiry by Mr. Morgan, the Board discussed the precedential value (if any) of advisory opinions and the different philosophies regarding the issue. The general sense of the Board was that it does not view advisory opinions as creating a body of "law" upon which the public may rely, as reflected in the disclaimer instructing same that is included in such opinions.

4. Ethics Training

The Board discussed the previously distributed copies of the City of Stamford's ethics training materials for municipal workers and the frequency of required training. The Board's general sense was that it needed all materials and additional information about the City's program before reaching any conclusion as to the adequacy of the substance or the training process.

5. Advisory Opinion for Mr. Jonathan Jacobson

Following discussion, upon motion duly made and seconded, the Board voted to approve and adopt (with certain minor amendment) the previously distributed form of advisory opinion for Mr. Jonathan Jacobson. Mr. Vandervoort and Morgan abstained from the vote, as neither was present when the

matter was initially presented to the Board; the remaining members present voted unanimously to approve and adopt the opinion.

6. Meeting Schedule

Following discussion, on motion duly made and seconded, the Board voted unanimously to change the day of its regular, recurring meetings to the third Monday in each month, beginning in September 2017.

7. Adjournment

There being no further business, upon motion duly made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Adam Vandervoort".

Adam Vandervoort, Secretary