

CITY OF STAMFORD

Board of Ethics
Stamford Government Center
March 8, 2016

Present

Cheryl Bader, chair

Allan Lang, member

Sheldon Levine, member

Monica Smyth, member

Fred Springer, alternate

Adam Vandervoort, member

The meeting was called to order by Chair Bader at 7:15. The Board's designated room was locked so the Board relocated to a different, open room that unfortunately did not have video monitoring equipment.

1. Preliminary discussion about the lack of support to the Board from Stamford government ensued. To attempt to address this grave situation, the Board will renew its request that Kathryn Emmett (Corporation Counsel) attend our next meeting on April 4. Chair Bader will press Ms. Emmett and the Department of Human Resources to provide staff support to the Board so that the Board website can be corrected to reflect current membership, as well as meeting minutes, agendas and advisory opinions. Finally, Chair Bader will also reach out to Marty Levine, the Mayor's assistant, for help with this lack of support issue.

Chair Bader will also press Amy Livolsi (Corporation Counsel and Board liaison) for requested information on the ethics training curriculum provided to date to the Board of Representatives. The Board seeks this information in order to determine whether the training is consistent with the actual Stamford Code of Ethics.

2. The Board's February 1, 2016 minutes were approved as modified. There were two corrections:
 1. Fred Springer to be listed as an "alternate," not a "member"
 2. Language to be added to the end of the minutes to reflect a sentiment expressed at the February 1 meeting that there needs to be a dialogue between the Board and the rest of Stamford government regarding dissemination of advisory opinions. It was felt that the Board has no way of knowing whether its decision are percolating downward to all officers and employees of city government.
3. The Board reviewed a draft Advisory Opinion written in response to a request from Board of Representative member, Jonathon T. Hoch. The draft became final with a unanimous vote of the Board.
4. Advisory Opinion request from Jill Smyth was received by Chair Bader in mid-February. The Chair requested additional supporting documentation from Ms. Smyth. Ms. Smyth requested that her matter be tabled until the April 4 Board meeting.

5. Discussion. There was additional discussion on whether the Board should be more proactive in educating elected officials about adherence to the Code of Ethics. Chair Bader cautioned that we should not schedule such a meeting until we have a specific plan. Alternate Springer offered to sketch out a plan that could be discussed at the next meeting.

Adjournment

There being no further business, upon motion duly made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Monica Smyth, Acting Secretary