

CITY OF STAMFORD

Board of Ethics
Stamford Government Center
(Meeting held virtually via Zoom)
December 21, 2022

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
Fred Springer, Vice Chair
Myrna Sessa, Member
Monica Smyth, Member
Christine Dzujna, Member
Laura Indellicati, Member
Kevin Quinn, 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 7:01 p.m.

1. Chairman Lang presented the November 16, 2022, Board of Ethics (the "BOE") Meeting Draft Minutes for review and approval. Ms. Smyth moved to approve the minutes, Ms. Sessa seconded, Mr. Springer abstained, all others in favor. The motion passed.
2. Chairman Lang presented for review the draft advisory opinion prepared for Board of Education Member Fritz G. Chery. Subject to one typo correction, Ms. Smyth moved to approve the draft opinion, Ms. Dzujna seconded, Mr. Springer abstained, all others in favor. The motion passed.
3. Chairman Lang presented for review the draft advisory opinion prepared for Board of Representative member Representative Ashley Ley. Discussion ensued and suggested changes were submitted for consideration. Ms. Sessa will edit the opinion in line with the suggestions and the BOE will review the new version at the next meeting.

4. Mr. Springer requested the addition of an item to the agenda and requested feedback on the role of a BOE investigating committee when an ethics complaint filed includes allegations that are unclear and only infer potential violations of the Code of Ethics (the "Code"). Mr. Conover noted that the extent of an investigation is up to each investigating committee to decide and referred the BOE to Code section 19-14 D.(2)(a). When the details provided in a complaint are insufficient to support the allegations made, the investigating committee has to decide whether to collect additional information that might assist in determining whether a Code violation has occurred. The committee is not required to go out and find evidence. Mr. Conover noted that there are two key questions for an investigating committee to consider: 1) if the allegations in the complaint were true, would there be a violation of the code?, and 2) has sufficient evidence been provided to support the allegations? Mr. Conover offered to provide further guidance to the current investigating committee on their role and responsibilities as needed.

Chairman Lang adjourned the meeting at 7:56 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine Dzujna, Secretary