

CITY OF STAMFORD
Board of Ethics
Stamford Government Center

April 17, 2024

DRAFT Minutes

Hybrid Meeting: In-person & Zoom Meeting
Location: Democratic Caucus Room, 4th FL
Government Center
888 Washington, Boulevard
Stamford, CT 06901

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:

Fred Springer, Chair (*In-Person*)
Monica Smyth, Member (*Remote*)
Christine Dzujna, Member (*Remote*)
Benjamin Folkinshteyn, Member (*Remote*)
Dennis Torres, Member (*Remote*)
Ira Stechel, Member (*In-Person*)
Laura Indellicati, Member (*Remote*)
Kevin Quinn, Alternate (*In-Person*)

Other:

Stephen Conover, Counsel (*Remote*)
Kimberly Hawreluk, Human Resources & Benefits Assistant (*In-Person*)
Sharona Cowan, Stamford Director of Housing Services (*Remote*)
Various members of the public

The meeting was called to order by Chair Springer at 7:04 p.m.

1. Chair Springer presented the March 20, 2024, Board of Ethics (“BOE”) Meeting Draft Minutes for review and approval. Mr. Quinn moved to approve the minutes, Mr. Folkinshteyn seconded, Mr. Torres and Mr. Springer abstained, all others in favor. The motion passed.

2. Chair Springer introduced Sharona Cowan and asked that she share her request for an advisory opinion as detailed in the Meeting Agenda.

Questions were asked of Ms. Cowan, and she was advised that the BOE would prepare an advisory opinion for her. Discussions among the BOE members ensued and, after a straw poll was taken, the majority agreed that Ms. Cowan's ability to mediate a fair rent complaint and potentially affect its outcome constituted an official action per Code section 19-4 A. Therefore, the BOE agreed to advise her that it would be best if she recused herself in the future from handling any complaint involving NNI. Additionally, she will be advised to recuse herself from any vote before the Affordable Housing Trust Fund regarding a request for funding from NNI. Mr. Torres and Ms. Smyth volunteered to draft the advisory opinion.

3. Chair Springer reminded the BOE members that the board's annual report is due in June. After discussion, it was agreed that Mr. Folkinshteyn and Ms. Dzujna will prepare suggested Code revisions to include in the report for consideration by the recipients.

Mr. Folkinshteyn moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 p.m., Ms. Dzujna seconded, all others in favor. The motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine Dzujna, Secretary