

CITY OF STAMFORD
Board of Ethics
Stamford Government Center
(Meeting held virtually via Zoom)
August 19, 2020

Minutes

Present Members:

Allan Lang, Chair
Thomas Hynes, Vice-Chair
Benjamin Folkinshteyn, Member
Myrna Sessa, Member
Monica Smyth, Member
Kevin Quinn, Alternate
Fred Springer, Alternate

Other:

Stephen Conover, Attorney
Kimberly Hawreluk, Human Resources Processing Technician

The meeting was called to order by Chair Lang at 7:02 p.m. Mr. Lang welcomed Benjamin Folkinshteyn as a newly appointed Member of the Board.

1. Monica Smyth moved to accept the minutes subject to edits of the July 15, 2020 Meeting of the Board of Ethics (“BOE”), seconded by Thomas Hynes.

Votes In-Favor: 5-0

Abstentions: Benjamin Folkinshteyn and Fred Springer

2. Mr. Lang presented a DRAFT written Advisory Opinion to the Board for review based on Representative Philip Giordano’s request for a written Advisory Opinion at the July 15, 2020 meeting. A discussion began regarding necessary edits to the Advisory Opinion, in which Attorney, Stephen Conover provided consult. Mr. Lang will finalize the Advisory Opinion as agreed upon by the Board and send the document to Representative Philip Giordano.

Fred Springer moved to accept the Advisory Opinion subject to edits, seconded by Thomas Hynes.

Votes In-Favor: 5 - Thomas Hynes, Myrna Sessa, Fred Springer, Kevin Quinn, Benjamin Folkinshteyn

Votes Against: 1 - Monica Smyth

Abstentions: Allan Lang

3. Attorney, Stephen Conover presented two recommendations for Improvement to the Code of Ethics and provided consult to the Board. After some discussion, the Board came to a consensus that only the second recommendation would be forwarded to the Mayor and President of the Board of Representatives as an Addendum to the Annual Report.

Fred Springer moved to accept the second recommendation for improvement to the Code of Ethics and forward as stated above, seconded by Myrna Sessa, approved by unanimous consent.

Votes In-Favor: 7-0

4. Mr. Lang provided an update on communication he has had with Representative McMullen, who is Co-Chair of the Special Committee - Board of Representatives regarding the submitted suggestions to the Code of Ethics. Mr. Lang stated that he had received a response indicating that an initial meeting was held, but no further action has been taken and that there was nothing further to communicate at this time.
5. A motion to amend the agenda to add Security Issues was made by Thomas Hynes, seconded by Fred Springer, and approved by unanimous consent.
6. A motion to move to Executive Session in order to discuss security matters and protocol was made by Thomas Hynes, seconded by Fred Springer; approved by unanimous consent. The Board entered Executive Session at 8:13 p.m.

The Board returned from Executive Session at 8:48 p.m.

7. At 8:49 p.m. the meeting was adjourned

Respectfully submitted.

Kimberly Hawreluk, Administrative Assistant to the Board of Ethics