

CITY OF STAMFORD
Board of Ethics
Stamford Government Center
February 19, 2020
Minutes

Present

Thomas Hynes, Vice-Chair

Myrna Sessa, Member

Monica Smyth, Member

Christine Dzujna, Member

Kevin Quinn, Alternate

The meeting was called to order by Vice-Chair Hynes at 7:01 p.m.

1. A motion to modify the agenda was made by Mr. Hynes to begin the meeting with Geoff Alswanger's request for an advisory opinion, second by Ms. Smyth, passed unanimously.

Mr. Alswanger sought guidance from the Board on whether his newly accepted position as an elected member of the Board of Finance would present a conflict of interest with his role as a member of the Stamford Fire Commission. After making inquiries of Mr. Alswanger and lengthy discussion, the board agreed that because the Fire Commission's role is limited to addressing personnel matters (namely, the vetting and interviewing of Fire Department applicants, promoting Fire Department employees and staff, and the like) and because the Commission has no role or input regarding the Fire Department's budget, or in appointing the Fire Chief, no conflict of interest exists between these two positions. As moved by Ms. Smyth, second by Ms. Sessa and unanimously passed, it was agreed that Mr. Alswanger may continue to hold both positions and participate in all Board of Finance votes, and will recuse himself, or come back to the Board of Ethics for guidance, should any matter present itself that gives rise to a potential conflict. Mr. Alswanger waived his right to a written opinion, and the Board of Ethics hereby reconfirms its policy of issuing an oral opinion when a requestor requests an oral opinion. Therefore, an oral opinion was provided and is memorialized here. This opinion should only be relied on in this matter and is not intended to set precedent for any future advisory opinion requests or complaint.

2. Subject to a suggested edit, Mr. Hynes moved to accept the minutes of the December 23, 2019 Special Meeting of the Investigating Board of the Board of Ethics, second by Ms. Smyth, unanimously passed.
3. Subject to a suggested edit, Ms. Smyth moved to accept the minutes of the January 7, 2020 Special Meeting of the Investigating Board of the Board of Ethics, second by Ms. Sessa, unanimously passed.

4. Subject to noting that the Board would like items 5 and 6 to be reported on at the next meeting, Ms. Dzujna moved to accept the minutes of the January 15, 2020 Meeting of the Board of Ethics, second by Ms. Sessa, unanimously passed.
5. Subject to suggested edits, Ms. Sessa moved to accept the minutes of the January 15, 2020 Public Hearing of the Board of Ethics, second by Ms. Smyth, unanimously passed.
6. Subject to suggested edits, Ms. Dzujna moved to accept the minutes of the February 6, 2020 Public Hearing of the Board of Ethics, second by Ms. Smyth, unanimously passed.
7. At 7:30 p.m. adjournment was moved by Ms. Smyth, second by Mr. Hynes, unanimously passed.

Respectfully submitted.

Christine Dzujna, secretary