

Town Council on Ethics

Revised Minutes—Meeting of April 6, 2015

Minutes of the meeting of the Council on Ethics held at the Wilton Library, Rimer Room, on April 6, 2015.

Present: Julianne Higgins, Andrew Mais, Virginia Benin, Joshua Kammerman and William Lalor.

Chair Higgins called the meeting to order at 7:05. Virginia Benin agreed to be Secretary for the meeting.

A motion was made and duly seconded, and the agenda for the meeting as filed with the Town Clerk was unanimously adopted. Following another motion made and seconded, the minutes of the Special Meeting held on January 22, 2015 were adopted after specific attention was given to the proposed rewording of Paragraph (D)3 of the Code. The Board of Selectmen will be asked to consider adoption of the following language:

Paragraph (D)3 shall now read as follows: **The Council may request further information from the person making the request. It shall issue its advisory opinion by majority vote of the Council, provided the majority consists of at least three members eligible to vote. Such opinion shall be issued as soon as practicable. The opinion shall be in writing and delivered to the Town Clerk, who shall mail it to the person making the request. Advisory opinions shall be available to the public except as prohibited by law.**

The new members, Joshua Kammerman and William Lalor, were welcomed to the Council. Some discussion followed regarding the types of advisory opinions dealt with over previous years. The new members were given copies of advisory opinions previously issued. During this introduction, William Lalor requested that future meetings start at 7:30 p.m. due to his commuting schedule.

The next order of business was further consideration of another possible amendment to the Code originally discussed at the January 22 meeting. Such an amendment would allow the advisory opinion process to be confidential (unless waived by the requestor). Chair Higgins summarized for the new members prior discussion of the reasons for considering such an amendment. She indicated that, after said meeting, she consulted both Town Counsel and the State Information Officer for FOIA (Freedom of Information Act) about FOIA concerns and concluded that it would not be appropriate to close all advisory proceedings to the public. The matter was then deemed closed.

The next meeting was set for Tuesday October 6, 2015, at 7:30 p.m., at a location to be determined. Chair Higgins reminded the Council that elections would take place at that time.

The meeting was adjourned by motion duly made and seconded at 7:30 p.m.

Submitted,

/s/ Julianne Higgins

Julianne Higgins