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City of Stamford Board of Ethics
Public Meeting
Stamford Government Center
18 June 2014
DRAFT Minutes

Present:

Cheryl Bader, chair
Clarence Grebey III, secretary
Allan Lang, alternate member
Daniel Sanchez, member (by phone)
Michael Thomas, alternate member
Adam Vandervoort, member
Richard Lyons II, Board of Education

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Bader at 7:10 p.m.

1. Approval of minutes of 28 May 2014

A motion to approve the minutes was made, seconded, and carried unanimously to approve the minutes.

2. Advisory Opinion for Richard Lyons II

The panel reviewed a letter from Mr. Lyons seeking an advisory opinion regarding a potential conflict of interest under Section 19-13 of the City Code of Ethics. Mr. Lyons also appeared before the panel to elaborate on his request. The matter concerns a potential employment opportunity for Mr. Lyons with a company that has a contract with the Board of Education for capital and operational construction programs. The contractor is expected to post a new job opening, at the request of the Board of Education, for a supervisor who would have oversight of the work it performs for the Board of Education. Mr. Lyons specifically cited a one-year prohibition in the City Code barring a former city employee or elected representative from appearing before the government body he or she sat on, in representation of the interests of another individual or entity.

Discussion followed and a motion to table the issue was proposed, pending the advice of Corporation Counsel and the receipt of the job description. The motion was carried, unanimously.

3. Advisory Opinion for the Hon. Joe Cappola

Discussion focused on the "material benefit" definition of Section 19-5. A motion was made, seconded, and carried, unanimously, to approve an advisory letter to Representative Cappola.

Representative Cappola sought an Advisory Opinion specific to Section 19-5 of the City's Code of Ethics regarding potential conflicts of interest that may arise as chairman of the Operations Committee and his spouse's part-time employment with the Zoning Board of Appeals Division. The Board concluded that under the definition of the Code, Representative Cappola's voting on matters broadly concerning the City's department of operations would confer no material benefits to him or his spouse, and, therefore, no conflict of interest exists.

4. Alternate Board Member Lang gave a report on his findings regarding the definition of "immediate family members" as it pertains to a conflict of interest under the City's current Code of Ethics.

5. New Business

- The Board continued discussion on its Annual Report to the City, which will be filed with the City Clerk and the Board of Representatives. Language recommending more specific definitions under Section 19-9 (b3) of the Code were added to the draft report.
- The Board discussed a number of issues that it plans to address to the Board of Representatives and Corporation Counsel concerning ambiguity or conflicting definitions in the current City Code as well as the rationale for changes in the Code from previous versions. Chairman Bader tasked Board Members panel to research specific items and to report back to the full Board in future meetings.
- The Board agreed to schedule regular meetings at 7:00 p.m. on the first Monday of every month unless otherwise noticed with the Town clerk. If there is no pending business to be considered, no meeting will take place. If the meeting date falls on a holiday, it will be rescheduled for the second Monday of that month.

The motion was made, seconded, and carried, unanimously, to adjourn the meeting at 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted

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Clarence Grebey III, Secretary