

TOWN OF MANSFIELD
Ethics Board
Thursday, November 3, 2011
Audrey Beck Municipal Building, Conference Room B

Minutes

Members Present: Lena Barry, Saul Nesselroth, James Raynor, Win Smith, Nora Stevens (Chair)

Staff Present: Maria Capriola, Assistant to Town Manager

The meeting was called to order at 4:30pm.

I. APPROVAL OF 7/7/2011 MINUTES

Mr. Nesselroth made the motion, seconded by Mr. Raynor to adopt the minutes. The minutes were approved unanimously as presented.

Ms. Barry voted during the meeting of 11/3/11 since Mr. DeWolf was not able to attend the meeting.

II. CHAIR'S REPORT/DISCUSSION OF PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Smith made the motion, seconded by Mr. Raynor to allow 5 minutes per speaker during public comment. The motion passed unanimously. By consensus the Board agreed that they would determine whether or not to permit public comment on a meeting-by-meeting basis; should public comment become unruly it will be suspended.

III. UPDATE ON REVISIONS TO ETHICS CODE

Ms. Stevens provided an update on the revisions. She also reported on the rescission of the Public Works equipment use policy. Through consensus the Board agreed to submit the following recommendations to the Council for their 11/28 public hearing on the Ethics Code:

- Definition of financial interest – keep the word “trivial” in parenthesis after “de minimus.”
- The Board should review its rules of procedure and the Code as needed but no fewer than once every five years.
- 25-7B – The word “permanently” should be stricken.

Ms. Barry, with Ms. Capriola's assistance, will prepare these recommendations for submission to the Town Council.

IV. ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR NOVEMBER 2011 – OCTOBER 2012

a. Discussion of Alternates as Officers

Ms. Stevens researched this matter. Based on that research she has determined that as long as an alternate member regularly attends the Board's meetings, there does not appear to be a problem with an alternate serving as an officer of the Board.

b. Selection of Officers

Mr. Nesselroth made the motion, seconded by Mr. Raynor for Ms. Stevens to serve as Chair. The motion passed with Barry, Nesselroth, Raynor, and Smith voting in favor and Stevens abstaining.

Mr. Smith made the motion, seconded by Mr. Raynor for Mr. Nesselroth to serve as Vice Chair. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Raynor made the motion, seconded by Mr. Smith for Ms. Barry to serve as Secretary. The motion passed with Nesselroth, Raynor, Smith, and Stevens voting in favor and Barry abstaining.

V. 2012 REGULAR MEETING SCHEDULED

Through consensus, the Board agreed to meet quarterly in 2012, on the first Thursday of January, April, July and October at 5pm.

VI. COMMUNICATIONS

No action taken on any of the communications.

VII. EXECUTIVE SESSION – PENDING CLAIMS AND LITIGATION (FOI Complaint Docket #FIC 2011-178)

The executive session was not needed.

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Raynor made the motion, seconded by Mr. Nesselroth to add public comment to the agenda. The motion passed unanimously.

Mike Sikoski, Wildwood Road, spoke to his disagreements with the Personnel Committee's version of the draft Ethics Ordinance and other policy matters.

Ric Hossack, Middle Turnpike Road, spoke to his disagreements with the Personnel Committee's version of the draft Ethics Ordinance and training for the Ethics Board.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 5:03pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Maria E. Capriola, Assistant to Town Manager *on behalf of Lena Barry, Secretary*