

TOWN OF WEST SENECA
1250 Union Road
West Seneca, NY 14224

ETHICS BOARD
June 12, 2019

Chairperson Carpenter called the meeting to order at 6:00PM, which was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance, led by Amelia Greenan, Secretary to the Ethics Board.

ROLL CALL: Members Present – Amy Carpenter, Chairperson
Rodney Montgomery, Vice Chairperson
Teresa Funk
Jacqueline Felser, Town Clerk
Tina Hawthorne, Town Attorney
William Bauer
James Lazaros
Jon Minear, Deputy Town Attorney
Karl Spencer

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Chairperson Carpenter, seconded by Mr. Spencer, to approve the minutes from April 18, 2019.

Ayes: All

Noes: None

Motion Carried

OLD BUSINESS

Review of the Proposed Ethics Code

Chairperson Carpenter suggested reading through the proposed Ethics Code section by section. All unanimously agreed.

Deputy Town Attorney Jon Minear lead the discussion by pointing out changes to the Ethics Code since the last meeting.

Section 13-5 – Disclosure Statements (Refers to Exhibit A and Exhibit B)

Exhibit A – Annual Statement of Disclosure

- Intention is transparency
- All member in agreement

In place of #3, members agreed to change language to “Any and all Board Members, Commissioners or Committee Members, whether elected, appointed or volunteer”

Exhibit B - Independent Contractor Annual Statement of Disclosure

- is similar to Exhibit A, but refers to “independent contractors” rather than to employees and officers of the town
- No questions from members

Section 13-6 Whistleblower Policy

- Added "and the public" to Subsection A as a result of concern that if/when public persons attended meetings, they may discover there are issues and not have the ability to disclose information with the Whistle Blower Policy
- Added #2 under Subsection B, which included Exhibit C
 - Chairperson Carpenter asked if everyone is agreement with Exhibit C
 - All members verbally agreed

Section 13-7 Creation of Board of Ethics; Composition of Membership; Conditions of Membership.

- Discussion between the members regarding the staggering of term start and end dates for the members of the Ethics Board in order to maintain continuity and prevent the lost of experience and information
 - Final Arrangement: Mr. Bauer, Ms. Funk and Mr. Lazaros – terms expire in 2020
Chairperson Carpenter, Mr. Spencer, and Vice Chairperson Montgomery – terms will expire in 2022 (in respective order based on seat numbers)
 - All members verbally agreed
- All members verbally agreed to make Town Clerk an ex officio member of the Ethics Board

Chairperson Carpenter motioned for the board to officially vote on following discussed changes:

- 1) Disclosure Statements will be signed by "Any and all Board Members, Commissioners or Committee Members, whether elected, appointed or volunteer"
- 2) Regarding the composition of the Ethics Board, Town Clerk will become an ex-officio member of the Ethics Board and Ethics Board Members will transition according to seat numbers 1-6
- 3) In 2021, three members of the Ethics Board will be appointed. In 2022, two members will be appointed.

Motion by Chairperson Carpenter, seconded by Mr. Spencer.

Ayes: All

Noes: None

Motion Carried

West Seneca Town Councilman Gene Hart asked when the Ethics Board will be bringing the Ethics Code to the Town Board. A discussion followed. Conclusion is to schedule a public meeting after it is brought up and requested at a Town Board Meeting, at the direction of Town Attorney Tina Hawthorne.

The Ethics Board will go into Executive Session following the meeting, in order to discuss an Ethics Complaint.

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ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Chairperson Carpenter, seconded by Mr. Spencer, to adjourn the meeting at 6:22 P.M.

Ayes: All

Noes: None

Motion Carried



Amelia S. Greenan
Secretary to the Ethics Board