

ETHICS COMMISSION

Special Meeting

Tuesday, February 9, 2010

Present: George Law (chairman), Jay Swanson, Terri Larson, Normand Emond

Not Present: Gerry Burke

1. Call to order

Chairman Law called the meeting to order at 7:22 p.m.

2. Approval of minutes for December 16, 2009 and January 10, 2010

Terri Larson moved approval of the minutes for 12-16-09, seconded by Normand Emond.
Vote unanimous, motion carried.

Normand Emond moved approval of the minutes for January 10, 2010, seconded by George Law.

AYES: Normand Emond, George Law.

NAYES: none

ABSTAIN: Terri Larson, Jay Swanson

3. Correspondence

4. Public comment none

5. Old business:

a. Complaint record form – tabled on 2/18/09

b. Review adopted forms – tabled on 3/18/09

6. New business

a. Discuss comments from Board of Selectmen regarding proposed changes to the Ethics Ordinance

Commission members will return in front of BOS to answer questions regarding proposed changes to the Ethics Ordinance on 2-17-2010.

b. Advisory Opinion request AO2010-01

Advisory opinion request from Carl Chudzik and John Anderson:

Does that fact that the attorneys selected to represent the Town and its boards and commissions (specifically including the ethics commission) are members of the political party Town Committee and contribute money to the Town Committee Candidates making the selection of such attorneys give the appearance of a conflict of interest and unnecessarily call into question the integrity of the town and the resulting opinions. It is “unnecessary” because there is no shortage of attorneys who do not fall within this category. Additionally, it is not in the Town’s best interest to have attorneys so selected continually recuse themselves, not only calling into question the integrity of the Town but the decision making ability of the Town officials.

Commission members discussed this question and its implications with regard to the Ethics Ordinance.

It is the consensus of the commission members that the actions of the BOS in selecting town attorneys to represent the town who are members of a political party committee and who contribute money to said committee violates sections 1-1 (b) and 1-7 (b) of the Ethics Ordinance.

8. Public comment: none

9. General discussion

The regular meeting of the Ethics Commission on 2-17-10 is cancelled so that commission members may attend the BOS meeting.

10. Executive Session

11. Adjournment

There was a motion to adjourn the meeting by Jay Swanson, seconded by Terri Larson. Vote unanimous, motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Laura Siena
Board Clerk