

Town of Guilford
Board of Ethics
Special Meeting
APPROVED Minutes
April 7, 2016

Chairman Benson called the meeting to order at 5:05 PM

Present: Chairman Bud Benson, Commissioner Deborah Daddio & Commissioner Anthony Fappiano

Absent: Commissioner Ken Wilson & Commissioner Barbara Hemming

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Fappiano seconded by Commissioner Daddio the board voted to Approve the minutes from the December 15, 2016 meeting. Commissioner Fappiano abstained. The meeting of February 29 was also approved unanimously.

Old Business

- Bud shared a letter that was forwarded to Gloria Nemczuk.
- Following the case in Hartford with the issue before us is how do we protect folks who come to the BOE under the whistleblower, what would we do? At this point we don't have any direction. Chairman Benson will consult with the town attorney and provide answers to those questions at the next meeting. Commissioner Fappiano noted once we have these answers we might have into go to executive session, then to the Selectman and possibly update the Code of Ethics, Chairman Benson will know more once he and Pam Millman meet.

New Business

Bud shared a letter to The Local Newspaper Editor regarding a Town Official having an opinion on a controversial town issue. Commissioner Fappiano doesn't feel anything was done wrong on the Town Official's part. Commissioner Fappiano shared an example of an incident in Branford. Commissioner Daddio feels that this is what we are talking about and that there is a lot of gray area. Question remains were this Town Officials comments for person gain as well as professional. Commissioner Daddio elaborated on the potential problems. Discussion only with no conclusions.

Social Media

Chairman Benson spoke with First Selectmen Joseph Mazza, Town Attorney Pam Millman & Director of Human Resources Mitch Goldblatt who indicated in the past the town has not had a rule regarding personal use of Social Media. There is a policy regarding personal use of town computers.

Attorney Millman stated the town does not do anything regarding social media due to issues with freedom of speech. There are pros and cons to having social media.

There is no real role for the BOE to change our charter or code. If the town decides to adopt a policy the information that we reviewed should then be included in the charter or code.

Commissioner Fappiano feels BOE should be part of the conversation. Commissioner Fappiano feels there is a benefit to the town by boasting the positive aspects of Guilford. Chairman Benson asked if there are there any towns in the state with an established policy for use of social media. Commissioner Daddio replied Brookfield, Montville and Rocky Hill.

Chairman Benson asked if we should continue with the practice scenarios. Chairman Benson asked if anyone has any ideas that would be worthwhile having at a meeting. Commissioner Fappiano feels maybe we should advertise more, Chairman Benson feels we have done a good job in that area.

The next meeting will be held on June 9th, 5:00pm in the Selectmen's Meeting Room @ 31 Park Street.

With no further business to come before the Board, it was voted to adjourn the meeting of the Board of Ethics at 5:36 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,
Lisa Brewer
Secretary