

DRAFT MINUTES
Board of Ethics Meeting
June 9, 2016

Members Present: Chairman Arthur Benson, Commissioner Ken Wilson and Commissioner Deborah Daddio

Members Absent: Commissioner Anthony Fappiano; Commissioner Barbara Hemming

Chairman Benson called the meeting to order at 5:09 P.M.

Upon a motion made by Chairman Benson and seconded by Commissioner Daddio, the Board voted to approve the minutes from the April 7, 2016 meeting. Commissioner Wilson abstained.

Old Business

None

New Business

None

Discussion of Use of Social Media by Municipalities and Employees

Chairman Benson reported that Town Attorney Pam Millman responded to his inquiry about a Town social media policy. After consulting with outside counsel, they concluded that it would not be advisable to adopt such a policy due to First Amendment protected speech concerns. Commissioner Daddio inquired as to why the Police and Fire Departments, whose employees are similarly protected by the First Amendment, have implemented written social media policies. Chairman Benson made the distinction that police and fire personnel utilize social media as a part of information gathering in the performance of their job responsibilities. Commissioner Daddio raised the issue of Boards and Commissions utilizing Facebook and other social media to discuss ongoing matters before them prior to hearing all testimony and conducting an official vote. Commissioner Wilson noted that it is a sticky situation because of the use of personal Facebook pages for discussion as opposed to the Town's Facebook. Chairman Benson observed that there was potential for a breach of ethics even under those circumstances and the Board will continue to monitor future developments in this area.

Upon a motion by Commissioner Wilson, seconded by Chairman Benson, it was voted to enter Executive Session at 5:30 P.M. for further discussion of Whistleblower Rights and Issues.

Upon a motion by Commissioner Daddio, seconded by Commissioner Wilson, it was voted to exit executive session at 5:40 P.M.

Discussion of Miscellaneous Ethics Incidents

Chairman Benson provided Commissioners with copies of a recent Boston Globe story about a legislator accepting free goods and services, and there was a discussion of alleged ethics violations.

With no further business to come before the Board, it was voted to adjourn the meeting of the Board of Ethics at 5:55 P.M.