



BOARD OF ETHICS
SHELTON, CT
REGULAR MEETING – FEBRUARY 2, 2006

Call To Order/Pledge of Allegiance

Chairman Maria Davis called the meeting of the Board of Ethics to order at 7:25 p.m. in Room 104 at Shelton City Hall. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Roll Call

Maria Davis, Chairman – present
Byron Peterson – present
Christine Robinson – present

Agenda Items

1. Accept the Minutes of the Special Meeting of December 8, 2005

Christine Robinson moved to accept the minutes of the Special Meeting of the Board of Ethics of December 8, 2005. Byron Peterson seconded. Passed unanimously **3-0**.

2. Discussion of Proposed Ethics Ordinance

Chairman Davis passed out Stratford's revised Code of Ethics. She asked that everyone read it for next time. If you see something that you want, you can e-mail Cyndee and she can include that section, and we can decide at next month's meeting how we can incorporate it.

The Board of Ethics spent time reviewing the proposed ordinance, and there was much informal discussion. I have summarized the changes below:

Page 3 – 3.(1) Prohibited Activities – is similar to Hartford’s Code of Ethics (Page 11) Sec. 2-460(a). Replace with Hartford’s.

Page 5 - Item (8) is similar to Hartford’s Code of Ethics (Page 11) Section 2-460(b). Replace with Hartford’s.

Page 6 – add an Item (16) and use Hartford’s Code of Ethics Section 2-460(e) on Page 12.

Page 13 – Hartford Section 2-464 – Disclosure of financial interests; filing requirements. Add this to 8. Written disclosure of interest on Page 9. The Board reviewed the list of positions and adjusted them to match Shelton. Chairman Davis suggested that it needs some land use boards added to the list, specifically Planning & Zoning Commission. You don’t need Open Space Committee.

Mrs. Robinson suggested a form might be produced for a member to fill out regarding filing financial interests. Chairman Davis agreed once we work through the ordinance, we will create a form for filing. Mrs. Robinson expressed her concern that people will shy away from volunteering because too much personal information may need to be exposed. The information requested in this section is all a little vague.

Chairman Davis said she would try to find someone who has filled out a written disclosure of interest and get a copy of it as a sample to review. They can black out the name. She will try Waterbury or Hartford.

Chairman Davis said we don’t know exactly what the State is going to come out with in the order of a Code of Ethics and how it will work for state and municipalities.

Page 14 –Hartford Section 2-465 Duty to Disclose (a) & (b) should be moved as a new #9 on Page 10. Mrs. Robinson said this statement leaves you hanging and what are you going to do about it? Mr. Peterson stated you take action against an employee through a performance appraisal, but there is nothing here to indicate any kind of action for an

official. Chairman Davis suggested that if it is proven that they have knowledge, then that information can be turned over to the appropriate person/board and then they will deal with it.

Eliminate Section 2-466 of the Hartford Code of Ethics (all of Page 15)

Mrs. Robinson asked what is going on with the City Charter, are we going to vote? No one had an answer.

Motion:

Chris Robinson moved to take a short break. Maria Davis seconded. Passed unanimously **3-0**.

Meeting stopped at 8:15 p.m.

Motion:

Chris Robinson moved to reconvene the meeting. Mr. Peterson seconded. Passed unanimously **3-0**.

Meeting reconvened at 8:22 p.m.

Whistleblower Protection on Page 17 is made a new #10 – Whistleblower Protection on Page 10. Chairman Davis noted that in the paragraph it cites SS 31-51m and we want to make sure that is still appropriate. Chairman Davis asked the clerk to send a note to Attorney Welch if this is appropriate?

Distribution of the Code on Page 17 is made a new #11 – Distribution of the Code. Chairman Davis questions this section should it reflect the word ordinance or code? Mr. Peterson suggested it say Code of Ethics Ordinance.

Advisory Opinions follows as a new #12 – Advisory Opinions on Page 10.

Savings Clause (old #9) on Page 10 is now #13.

Amendments (old #10) on Page 10 is now #14.

Effective Date (old #11) on Page 10 is now #15.

Chairman Davis asked that this be the end the proposed ordinance.

Standards of Behavior. Mrs. Robinson said based on her notes, it said to insert these Standards into Page 1, #1 Declaration of Policy. I think it's a separate thing. The Board agreed and said make it a separate sheet entitled Standards of Behavior. Mr. Peterson said we can always make a recommendation that we might want to include it. Chairman Davis suggested this might be included in The Handbook.

Adjournment

The Board discussed the date of next month's meeting as Thursday, March 2, 2006. It looked good for all.

Motion:

Chris Robinson moved to adjourn the meeting. Byron Peterson seconded. Passed unanimously **3-0**.

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Ethics adjourned at 8:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cyndee Burke, Clerk