



BOARD OF ETHICS
SHELTON, CT
REGULAR MEETING – DECEMBER 6, 2007

MINUTES

Call To Order/Pledge of Allegiance

Chairman Davis called the meeting of the Board of Ethics to order at 7:15 p.m. in Room 104 at Shelton City Hall. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Roll Call

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

1. Accept the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of November 1, 2007

Motion was made by Christine Robinson, seconded by Byron Peterson to accept the minutes of the Regular Meeting of November 1, 2007. Passed unanimously **3-0**.

2. Accept Correspondence of Alderman Finn of November 1, 2007

Christine Robinson moved to accept Alderman Finn's letter of November 1, 2007. Byron Peterson seconded. Passed unanimously **3-0**.

The letter is made part of the minutes.

3. Continued Discussion of Proposed Ethics Ordinance

The Clerk noted that all changes have been made to date in the proposed ordinances.

Mrs. Robinson said basically Attorney Welch has told us that the verbiage needs to be same from the ordinance to the questionnaire and the definitions need to be the same.

The Clerk noted that the immediate family has been changed in both the ordinance and the Disclosure Questionnaire to match each other.

Chairman Davis asked does Attorney Welch have a problem with Note D & E? The Clerk responded that I spoke with Attorney Welch and he wanted to make sure that the words reflect the same meaning in both documents. Mrs. Robinson said I don't see anything in D & E that affects it. Chairman Davis said I would assume Attorney Welch doesn't have a problem with D & E, but I am not 100% sure. Mrs. Robinson said I don't think he does, just wanted us to make sure the verbiage is the same.

The Board reviewed Note C. Mrs. Robinson said we are going to have to take everything that is in the questionnaire to make sure it is defined in the ordinance. They came from two different places, that is why we are having this difference in verbiage.

The Clerk noted I failed to make a change in the Confidentiality Agreement – fix the word therefore, **Confidential**. Six lines down.

Chairman Davis said in doing business, are we supposed to change it to “business?” Mrs. Robinson noted that it is written the same here in No. 1 as it is in the ordinance. No. 2 it mentions “business transactions.” Why don't we just say “any business”. Take out the word transaction because it is not mentioned in our ordinance. On Page 2 of the questionnaire, No. 2 it talks about business transaction. To me, it reads the same by just taking out the word “transaction.” It's either that or you are going to have to define

business transaction in the ordinance. I think that is what Attorney Welch means or how I am interpreting what he is saying. Chairman Davis noted it says transaction in No. 6 in the questionnaire also.

Chairman Davis said I don't think he likes our definition of doing business and financial interest. I wasn't thinking we needed to change the words in here. You can start picking apart a bunch of other words, too. Mr. Peterson said if we start tearing this apart, it will not make sense.

Chairman Davis said you are not really defining it. It's giving an idea of what possibly it could be. Any interest with monetary value, but these are some things you should think about. Mr. Peterson reiterated that the term should be defined and consistent in both the questionnaire and ordinance. Mrs. Robinson said there are no definitions in the questionnaire. I don't think the ordinance that has the definitions is going to be with the questionnaire on a yearly basis when this is done. The Clerk said I think in the ordinance it states the questionnaire is part of the ordinance. Section 7(c).

The Clerk remarked that Note E uses the word transactions.

Chairman Davis said in No. 11 it says to refer to the Shelton Code of Ethics and in order to answer those questions, you've had to have the policy. If you haven't read the Ordinance, you don't know the answer.

Chairman Davis said I don't think Attorney Welch was specific enough. He is reading this legally and I am reading this differently. Can we ask him to attend our meeting next month? I think it might be easier. Mr. Peterson agreed.

Mrs. Robinson suggested we ask Attorney Welch to write the questionnaire to the way that he legally feels matches the ordinance. That's all. Chairman Davis and Mr. Peterson agreed.

Mrs. Robinson said ask him to rewrite the Conflict of Interest and Disclosure Questionnaire to match the verbiage of the ordinance.

He knows the intent. Chairman Davis said how can we get the intent of our questions across? Is there anything wrong with the questions in the way they are formed that doesn't match with ordinance? This could just be a legal thing. There are certain words that mean certain things.

The Board would like Attorney Welch to attend next month's meeting to present it to us. If we have any quick questions, we can ask him at that time. Mr. Peterson said with Attorney Welch's attendance we can finish this in January and have it ready for the February Board of Aldermen meeting.

Mrs. Robinson noted we are done with the ordinance part.

Next Meeting

The Board agreed to meet at its next regular date of Thursday, January 3, 2008 at 7:00 p.m.

Adjournment

Christine Robinson moved to adjourn the meeting. Byron Peterson seconded. Motion passed unanimously **3-0**.

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Ethics adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cyndee Burke, Clerk

