WEST SENECA COMMUNITY CENTER 1300 Union Road West Seneca, NY 14224

ETHICS BOARD PROCEEDINGS Meeting Minutes June 8, 2022

Chairperson Teager called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M.

ROLL CALL:

Members Present - Michael Teager, Chairperson

Teresa Funk, Vice-Chairperson

Anna Garvey

Lawrence Kavanaugh, Jr.

Jon Minear, Deputy Town Attorney

Absent - Amy Kobler, Town Clerk

Kayla Leonard

MINUTES TO BE APPROVED

Motion by Chairperson Teager, seconded by Mr. Kavanaugh, to approve Minutes of the May 11, 2022, meeting.

Ayes: All Noes: None Motion Carried

COMMUNICATIONS

Ethics Code Bylaws

Chairperson Teager stated bylaws created and adopted in 2015 were discovered but believed they were no longer valid after the current Ethics Code was adopted in 2019. Mr. Kavanaugh questioned if those bylaws should be amended. Ms. Funk stated she was unaware of the existence of bylaws.

Councilmember Kims, present at the meeting, stated she had written the bylaws and Ms. Carpenter was aware of them. Chairperson Teager stated his understanding was new bylaws needed to be established.

Deputy Town Attorney Minear questioned what the bylaws are referring to, for example, a previous code. Ms. Funk stated it is not the code, but bylaws on the operating procedure for the Ethics Board.

Chairperson Teager read Town Code 13-7.C: Rules and regulations. "The Board of Ethics shall promulgate its own rules and regulations as to its form and procedures and shall maintain appropriate records of its opinions and proceedings."

Mr. Minear stated in his opinion the bylaws are in effect until or unless something is drafted to take their place. Chairperson Teager stated several items in the bylaws are contradicted by the updated Ethics Code. Mr. Minear stated to resolve any contradiction, the law would trump the bylaws and the Ethics Board may amend the bylaws to be consistent with the code. Ms. Funk questioned if the bylaws would need Town Board approval. Mr. Minear stated they would not. Mr. Minear requested a copy of the existing bylaws.

Chairperson Teager stated the purpose of establishing bylaws is to provide guidance for the members, for example, when a complaint is filed. Mr. Minear stated the procedure should be kept general due to the confidential nature of complaints. Chairperson Teager agreed and the process he envisions will cover the transmittal of complaints from the Town Clerk's Office to the Ethics Board, excessive absences, and a recusal policy.

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Mr. Kavanaugh stated he has accumulated a binder of information on his own and suggested having something to pass along to new members. Mr. Minear agreed and would like the bylaws to be posted to the Ethics Board webpage. Chairperson Teager confirmed he will forward the existing bylaws to the members.

Chairperson Teager questioned Mr. Minear about attendance and quorums. Mr. Minear stated this would follow the Town Code and Town Board, for example the Town Board is five members, and a majority of the quorum is needed to pass an item. Chairperson Teager noted the 2015 bylaws state four members need to be in attendance and this would need to be revised.

Councilmember Kims stated the Ethics Board is doing a very good job, is consistent, and follows through on items.

Chairperson Teager stated the updated disclosure forms have been submitted to the Town Attorney to be put on a Town Board agenda.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion by Chairperson Teager, seconded by Ms. Garvey, to enter into executive session to review disclosure forms, as they pertain to past employment history, future employment plans, employment history of a corporation or limited liability company, and/or matters that may lead to the employment, demotion, discipline, suspension, dismissal, or removal of a particular person or business entity.

Ayes: All Noes: None Motion Carried

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Chairperson Teager, seconded by Ms. Garvey, to adjourn the meeting at 6:50 P.M.

Margaret A. Martin

Deputy Town Clerk/Secretary to the Ethics Board

margaret a. martin