



Town of Preston Ethics Commission

Minutes of Regular Meeting

Date: Wednesday, June 11, 2008

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Place: Preston Library Community Room

Attendees: Sylvia Carver, Charles Fessenden, Norman Gauthier, Robert Payette,
Hank Podraza, Jason Albrecht, and Bill Legler
(J. Albrecht left the meeting at 7:45 p.m.)

Guests: Chester Sajkowicz

1. Meeting called to order by R. Payette at 7:05 p.m.
2. Minutes of May 14, 2008 regular meeting were accepted by unanimous consent. Minutes of June 4, 2008 special meeting were accepted by unanimous consent with the following correction: Item #7, correct spelling of the word "counsel".
3. Review Correspondence: No new correspondence was received since the June 4, 2008 meeting. N. Gauthier reported that the letter notifying the parties of the July 16 hearing was sent to the complainant and respondent by certified mail. J. Albrecht reported that he delivered a copy of the letter to the respondent.
4. R. Payette reported that he and N. Gauthier met with the First Selectman on June 4 to discuss providing legal counsel to the Commission. On June 5, N. Gauthier met with B. Chudwick and M. Ritter of Shipman & Goodwin to discuss the need for legal counsel to support the hearing scheduled for July 16. A copy of N. Gauthier's meeting notes is attached as part of these minutes.
5. The members discussed what kind of record would be required for the July 16 hearing. Audio recording, minutes taking, and professional stenographer with transcript were all discussed. R. Payette and N. Gauthier were assigned the task of consulting with counsel to determine the legal requirements and the cost impact of each. R. Payette would choose the most cost effective method of satisfying the Commission's requirements.
6. N. Gauthier distributed draft copies of Hearing Procedures provided by M. Ritter. S. Carver made a motion to adopt the Hearing Procedures for the Commission's use. Seconded by C. Fessenden. In favor: S. Carver, C. Fessenden, N. Gauthier, R. Payette, and H. Podraza.
Opposed: None
7. The regular meeting scheduled for July 9 was canceled and replaced with a special meeting on July 14 or 15 (to be determined by availability of legal counsel) to review the procedures and protocol for the July 16 hearing.
8. Public Comment: None
9. The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Submitted,

/s/ Norman J. Gauthier
Norman J. Gauthier
Secretary

Town of Preston Ethics Commission

Meeting Notes
June 5, 2008
Preston Town Hall

Attendees;
Bruce Chudwick
Matt Ritter
Norman Gauthier

Notes by N. Gauthier,

1. Shipman & Goodwin is a designated Town legal counsel and provides legal counsel to the Board of Selectmen and other Town agencies as requested. By direction of the Board of Selectmen, they will provide counsel to the Ethics Commission unless there is some conflict-of-interest. (e.g. Ethics issue involves a Selectman.)
2. For Ethics Commission complaint 2008-01 they **will not provide counsel to the respondent** and will provide counsel to the Commission.
3. Counsel will be provided by Matt Ritter with B. Chudwick as back-up.
4. NG provided copies of various documents related to C2008-01 to M. Ritter for review.
5. NG provided a copy of the draft Hearing Procedures to M. Ritter with a request for comments before the Commission regular meeting on June 11. The Commission plans to adopt the Hearing Procedures at the June 11 regular meeting.
6. Discussed having counsel present at the July 16, 2008 hearing. This will be followed up by confirmation from Commission Chair Bob Payette.
7. Discussed having counsel present at the July 9 regular meeting of the Commission to provide guidance on procedure and protocol for the July 16 hearing. This will be followed up by confirmation from Commission Chair Bob Payette.