

**Town of Preston  
Ethics Commission  
Regular Meeting  
Teleconference  
Wednesday, January 13, 2021**

**1. Call to Order**

Chairman Podraza called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm

**2. Roll Call**

**Regular Member**

Hank Podraza – Chairman

Nancy Bartlett - Vice Chairman

Linda Christensen – Secretary

**Alternate**

Gale Ennis

**Also Present**

Ken Zachem, Selectman

Roberta Charpentier – Recording Secretary

**3. Review and acceptance of Minutes from the February 6, 2020 meeting.**

**A motion was made by Gale Ennis and seconded by Hank Podraza to accept the February 6, 2020 meeting minutes as presented.**

**Approved unanimously by all voting members. Motion carries.**

**4. New Business**

**A. Election of Officers**

**A motion was made by Linda Christensen and seconded by Nancy Bartlett to nominate Hank Podraza as Chairperson of the Ethics Commission.**

**Approved unanimously by all voting members. Motion carries**

**A motion was made by Hank Podraza and seconded by Linda Christensen to nominate Nancy Bartlett**

**as Vice Chairperson of the Ethics Commission.**

**Approved unanimously by all voting members. Motion carries.**

**A motion was made by Nancy Bartlett and seconded by Hank Podraza to nominate Linda Christensen as Secretary of the Ethics Commission.**

**Approved unanimously by all voting members. Motion carries.**

**B. Code Modification**

Hank Podraza explained that he and Jill Keith, Preston Town Clerk had a discussion regarding the request made by Commission that terms be extended for the members of the ethics commission.

The Code Book says terms shall be staggered so that terms of no more that 1 regular member shall expire in the same calendar year.

It was decided to combine this change with other changes in the future so that a modification would be

made to that paragraph when there was another modification needed in order to save on the reprinting of the Code Book.

Ethics Commission members decided to delete from the Code of Ethics book;

Section 4, A. Appointments, Paragraph 2, Regular Commission Members, the following sentence;

*Terms of office shall be staggered so that the terms of no more than one (1) regular member shall expire in the same calendar year.* And;

Paragraph 3 Alternate Commission Members the following sentence be also deleted; *Terms of office shall be staggered so that the term of no more than one (1) alternate member shall expire in the same calendar year.*

#### **Section 4**

#### **Town Ethics Commission**

#### **A. Appointments**

##### **1) The Commission**

*There shall be an Ethics Commission (the "Commission") consisting of three (3) regular members and three (3) alternate members.*

##### **2) Regular Commission Members**

*Regular members shall be appointed by unanimous vote of the Board of Selectmen for a term of three (3) years. ~~Terms of office shall be staggered so that the terms of no more than one (1) regular member shall expire in the same calendar year.~~ At the completion of an appointed term, that member can request to be reappointed for another three (3) year term. No more than two (2) of the regular members shall be members of the same political party. If a regular member resigns his/her position or if there is otherwise a vacancy on the Commission, an alternate member shall be appointed by the Board of Selectmen to fill the vacancy, provided that the person appointed shall be of the same political party as the regular member that resigned or has vacated the position, or be an unaffiliated voter, so that the political composition of the Commission remains the same.*

##### **3) Alternate Commission Members**

*The three (3) alternate members shall be appointed by unanimous vote of the Board of Selectmen for a term of three (3) years. No more than two (2) of the alternate members shall be members of the same political party. ~~Terms of office shall be staggered so that the term of no more than one (1) alternate member shall expire in the same calendar year.~~ At the completion of an appointed term, that member can request to be reappointed for another three (3) year term. Alternate members shall be expected to attend all Commission meetings and discussions, including executive sessions and closed confidential sessions, but shall not vote on pending issues unless a regular member recuses himself/herself or is absent at the time of the vote. When it is necessary for an alternate member to be seated at a meeting, preference will first be given to the longest serving alternate, thereafter on an alternating basis, providing the political composition of the Commission members acting on any item remains the same.*

**A motion was made by Hank Podraza and seconded by Linda Christensen to accept the modifications to the Ethics Code Book as discussed, and to incorporate these changes into the next modification of the Code Book.**

**Approved unanimously by all voting members. Motion carries.**

## **5. Correspondence**

### **2021-2022 commission budget**

Hank Podraza explained that the total of the budget is the same amount, just the number of categories (line items) have been reduced by combining some of them.

**A motion was made by Hank Podraza and seconded by Linda Christensen to accept the 2021-2022 budget as presented.**

**Approved unanimously by all voting members. Motion carries.**

Gale Ennis suggested that when planning the budget in 2022/2023, additional funds be added to allow the updating and printing of new Code books, after the modifications have been made.

## **6. Public Comment**

None

## **7. Adjournment**

**A motion was made Linda Christensen and seconded by Nancy Bartlett to adjourn the meeting at 6:01 pm.**

**Approved unanimously by all voting members. Motion carries.**

Respectfully submitted,



Preston Recording Secretary