

TOWN OF GREENWICH

BOARD OF ETHICS

Minutes of the Special Meeting of September 8, 2009
Gisborne Conference Room, Town Hall

Board Members Present: Chairman Paul deBary, Robert Grele, Lou Pittocco, Jane Finn

Others Present: Aubrey Mead, Jr.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman deBary at 5:36 p.m. in the Gisborne Conference Room in the Greenwich Town Hall.

The following items were discussed and/or actions taken:

1. The Chairman reported that he had received a letter of resignation from Heather Parkinson-Webb. On Motion made by Mr. Grele and seconded by Mr. Pittocco, the Board thanked Ms. Parkinson-Webb for her many contributions and services to the Board.
2. On Motion made by Mr. Grele and seconded by Mr. Pittocco, the minutes of the previous meeting were unanimously approved in the form attached.
3. The Chairman updated the Board on the status of the Board's Hotline. Mr. deBary had consulted with Eileen Ingalls of the Town's Purchasing Department to see if there were better alternatives to the system that we now have in place. No better system seems to be available. The Hotline has been upgraded to include a customized message and a virtual switchboard. The Town will now pay for the Hotline from the \$1500 authorized for the Board of Ethics. The Board listened to the message on the Hotline and approved the content.
4. The Chairman updated the Board on the status of the Reporting Project. In the past year, the Board was able to retrieve and organize most of the Advisory Opinions of the Board since its inception. The Board intended to compile all these opinions and publish them in a volume for use of the Board, town departments, and interested Greenwich residents. Due to fiscal constraints, there is no money to publish these Opinions at the present time. It is hoped that future budget allocations will be sufficient to publish these reports.
5. The revised annual disclosure statements required by the Code of Ethics had been forwarded to the Board. The Board reviewed the statements that

were received this year and discussed if the statement itself should be improved in light of the responses received and/or if the Board should contact individuals who incorrectly or incompletely completed the disclosure form. The Board will continue to discuss the disclosure form and try to improve it.

6. The Chairman distributed a proposed draft of the Annual Report of the Board of Ethics for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2009 which will be submitted to the Board of Selectmen and the Representative Town Meeting. The Chairman asked for input from members of the Board. On Motion by Mr. Grele and seconded by Mr. Pittocco, subject to input by individual members of the Board which will be incorporated into the Report, the Annual Report was unanimously approved in the form attached.
7. The Chairman asked the Board to consider the future initiatives of the Board and to develop a structure for their implementation irrespective of the composition of the Board. The Chairman asked to meet with each Board member to determine which goals were most important to them and should be included in a long-term perspective.
8. The Board agreed upon a schedule of meetings for the fiscal year 2009-2010. Regularly scheduled meetings will be held on Dec. 8, 2009, February 9, 2010, April 6, 2010 and June 8, 2010.
9. The Board had received a request for an Advisory Opinion dated August 8, 2009. A member of the Greenwich Flood Erosion Control Board, who is a part owner of an engineering firm that provides a variety of engineering services to private individuals and public agencies, was concerned that his continued service on the Board might present problems for the Town or potential clients in light of the decision of Frank v. Westport Planning and Zoning Commission. The Board discussed the functioning of the Flood and Erosion Board with the member in light of this judicial decision and the Code of Ethics. It was noted that the FECB does not approve any applications from the general public, nor is it typically asked to comment on applications before the Planning and Zoning Commission or the Inland Wetlands and Watercourses agency. The Board was of the view that the member could continue to serve on the Flood Erosion Control Board, although under certain circumstances, which the member seemed to be aware of, it might be necessary for him to recuse himself from certain activities. Chairman deBary will draft an Advisory Opinion for the Board to consider.
10. Mr. Grele reported on his investigation of Gift Policies in town departments vis-à-vis the Code limits on gifts. Mr. Grele has tried to schedule a meeting with Maureen Kass, Director of Human Resources.

He will attempt to set up another meeting or talk to her about her knowledge of the Gift Policies in various town departments.

11. The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Jane Finn, Secretary

BOARD OF ETHICS OF THE TOWN OF GREENWICH
RECORD OF VOTE BY THE BOARD

DATE: September 8, 2009

MOTION/RESOLUTION:

The Board resolved to thank Heather ParkinsonWebb for her valuable contributions to the Board Of Ethics.

	Yea	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Paul de Bary	x			
Jane Finn	x			
Robert F. Grele	x			
Heather Parkinson-Webb				
Louis Pittocco	x			

BOARD OF ETHICS OF THE TOWN OF GREENWICH
RECORD OF VOTE BY THE BOARD

DATE: September 8, 2009

MOTION/RESOLUTION:

The Board approved the June 23, 2009 minutes.

	Yea	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Paul de Bary	x			
Jane Finn	x			
Robert F. Grele	x			
Heather Parkinson-Webb				
Louis Pittocco	x			

BOARD OF ETHICS OF THE TOWN OF GREENWICH
RECORD OF VOTE BY THE BOARD

DATE: September 8, 2009

MOTION/RESOLUTION:

The Board approved the Annual Report of the Board of Ethics.

	Yea	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Paul de Bary	x			
Jane Finn	x			
Robert F. Grele	x			
Heather Parkinson-Webb				
Louis Pittocco	x			

