

Minutes

July 19, 2007

The Citizen's Ethics Advisory Board of the Office of State Ethics held its regular meeting on Thursday, July 19, 2007 at 1:00 p.m. in Conference Room 2-A, 2nd floor, 18-20 Trinity Street, Hartford, CT 06106.

The meeting was called to order by the Chairperson at 1:00 p.m.

The following members of the Citizen's Ethics Advisory Board were in attendance:

- Patricia T. Hendel, Chairperson
- Robert Worgaftik, Vice Chairperson
- Jaclyn Bernstein, Board Member
- Rebecca Doty, Board Member
- Enid Oresman, Board Member
- Dennis Riley, Board Member
- Michael Rion, Board Member
- Scott A. Storms, Board Member
- Sister Sally J. Tolles, Board Member

The following staff members of the Office of State Ethics were in attendance for portions of the meeting:

- Benjamin Bycel, Executive Director
- Christine V. Vieira, Office Assistant/Clerk
- Wendy Hasbrouck, Fiscal Administrative Officer
- TJ Jones, Ethics Enforcement Officer
- Peter Lewandowski, Assistant General Counsel
- Brian O'Dowd, Assistant General Counsel
- Meredith Trimble, Education Director
- Mark Wasielewski, Assistant Ethics Enforcement Officer (in hall)
- Cynthia Isales, Assistant General Counsel

***The Citizen's Ethics Advisory Board requests that all motions and votes taken be bolded and underlined.

***Minutes are briefly summarized. Tapes are available to the public for the entirety of Board meetings.

The following topics were discussed during the meeting (numbers do not correspond with agenda):

1. **Chairperson Patricia Hendel entertained a motion to add agenda item “Appointment of a Personnel Search Committee” to the agenda. The motion was moved by Vice-Chairperson Robert Worgaftik and seconded by Board member Enid Oresman. The vote was unanimous to add the agenda item with the seven (7) present Board members voting in favor. Board members Scott Storms and Rebecca Doty had not yet arrived.**
2. Minutes for the June 21, 2007 regular meeting were presented to the Board for approval. Changes to the minutes were requested including alphabetizing the list of Board members after the officers and consistency in the language of the motions. **Chairperson Hendel entertained a motion for approval of the minutes. The motion was moved by Board member Jaclyn Bernstein and seconded by Vice-Chairperson Worgaftik. Board member Scott Storms abstained. The vote was unanimously in favor with eight (8) Board members in favor of approving the minutes with the necessary changes.**
3. Benjamin Bycel, Executive Director, presented his Director’s report for the Board. The following matters contained in the report were presented:

a. Staffing

Janice Luise-Lutkus, Human Resources Specialist, had prepared a spreadsheet which details the steps in the process to hire our additional staff members. There is still difficulty in finding the person that will handle the computer and data requirements needed in the office. The concern is not the title of the person but the skills and abilities of the person that is hired.

b. Online Filing and IT

Iris D’Oleo-Edwin reported the progress on the statement of financial interests supplemental forms filed online and on paper. The most common question being asked is “.....if the filer is a state employee, must the supplemental form be filed.....?” The answer has consistently been that the office must abide by the language of the public act requiring all those that filed a Statement of Financial Interests to file the supplemental form as well.

For the upcoming legislative session, the Legal division will be making suggestions to Board about changes to the Statements of Financial Interests forms in organization and substance.

c. **Budget**

The budget requested by the OSE has been accepted without any substantial changes. The only reduction in the requested budget was \$30,000.00 which would have been a salary for employees that have not yet been hired.

d. **Education**

The education process continues to push forward with continued requests for appearances. Another “customized guide” is being created for citizens to file a formal complaint with the OSE. The goal is for this guide to be completed in August.

4. TJ Jones, Ethics Enforcement Officer, presented six (6) audits for the Board’s approval. The Board had previously reviewed the audits. A discussion took place pertaining to the particular audit of the YMCA Public Policy Committee. A separate vote was conducted for this audit. **Chairperson Hendel entertained a motion for approval of the YMCA Public Policy Committee audit. The motion was moved by Board member Michael Rion and seconded by Board member Oresman. The vote was eight (8) in favor of approval and Board member Dennis Riley not in favor of approval. Chairperson Patricia Hendel entertained a motion for approval, in bulk, of the remainder of the five (5) audits: Aircraft Facilities Group, LLC, Connecticut Police Chiefs’ Association, Connecticut Technology Council, Goodwin College, Inc., and Robinson & Cole, LLC (Government Relations Group) in bulk. The motion was moved by Board member Riley and seconded by Board member Scott Storms. The vote was unanimously in favor with all nine (9) Board members approving to accept the remaining five (5) audits as a bulk package. Chairperson Hendel entertained the motion to approve the audits. The motion was moved by Board member Storms and seconded by Board member Sister Sally Tolles. The vote was unanimously in favor of approval of the audits.**

It is the request of the Board that the Ethics Enforcement Officer, TJ Jones, prepare monthly reports for the Board’s review as the Executive Director and other departments do. These reports will include the progress of the division with respect for the casework. It is requested that the October report reflect specific information pertaining to those that file within the lobbyist system.

John Lucker, a public citizen, spoke briefly about his concerns on the “draft advisory memo on the ‘Interpretation of General Statutes 1-82a(b) and 1-93a(b)’”.

Linda Smith-Prittle, a resident of Madison, spoke briefly on her interest in attending the CEAB meeting since she is trying to implement an ethics commission in her town.

5. Board member Michael Rion recused himself from this advisory opinion due to a possible conflict of interest and left the Board room. Attorney Scott Murphy spoke briefly regarding CI and presented a two-page letter to the Board. Brian O'Dowd, Assistant General Counsel, spoke on the draft response to a request for Advisory Opinion No. 4850. In that request, Attorney Scott L. Murphy, who asks, on behalf of Connecticut Innovations, Inc. (CI), how the revolving-door provisions of the Code of Ethics for Public Officials (Code of Ethics) apply to designees of ex-officio members of the CI Board of Directors (Board). **Chairperson Hendel entertained a motion to table the advisory opinion until more information is presented to the Board. The motion was moved by Vice-Chairperson Worgaftik and seconded by Board member Storms. The vote was unanimous with all eight (8) members present voting in favor of tabling this opinion.**

6. Brian O'Dowd, Assistant General Counsel, spoke on the Interpretation of General Statutes §1-82a (b) and §1-93a (b). In that request, Assistant General Counsel with the Office of State Ethics was recently asked the following question: What information, if any, may a complainant disclose to a third party following the filing of a formal complaint with the Office of State Ethics alleging a violation of the Codes of Ethics, chapter 10, parts 1 and 2, of the General Statutes (Codes of Ethics)? **Chairperson Hendel entertained a motion to table the advisory opinion for re-draft. The motion was moved by Vice-Chairperson Worgaftik and seconded by Board member Tolles. The vote was unanimous with all nine (9) members present voting in favor of tabling this opinion.**

The Board briefly discussed the regulations sub-committee meeting schedule.

Chairperson Hendel entertained a motion to adjourn the Board meeting and go into closed session for the purposes of creating a personnel search committee. Vice-Chairperson Worgaftik moved the motion and Board member Bernstein seconded the motion. All Board members were in favor.

Chairperson Hendel entertained a motion to adjourn the Board meeting. Board member Rion moved the motion and Vice-Chairperson Worgaftik seconded the motion. All Board members were in favor.

The Board meeting was adjourned at 3:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine V. Vieira, Office Assistant, OSE
Clerk, Citizen's Ethics Advisory Board

Approved _____