

**CITY OF NORWALK
BOARD OF ETHICS
REGULAR MEETING
SEPTEMBER 24, 2009**

ATTENDANCE: Attorney William Fitzgerald, Chair; James DelGreco;
Jack English; Dr. Charles Stabinsky

STAFF: Robert Maslan, Corporation Counsel

ROLL CALL

Mr. Fitzgerald called the meeting to order at 6:58 p.m. and called the Roll.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were no members of the public present this evening.

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES – July 23, 2009

The following corrections were made to the minutes:

Page 2: delete “the” from first sentence under Ethics Complaint Form
Last sentence on page replace “is” with “in”

Page 4: delete “to” from second bullet on page

**** MR. DELGRECO MOVED TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES AS CORRECTED**
**** MR. ENGLISH SECONDED**
**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

OLD BUSINESS:

A. **COMPLAINT FORM**

Mr. Fitzgerald said that the Board has done outstanding work and it has been a real team effort which will serve the Citizens well.

The Board reviewed the Form. Mr. Maslan said that he incorporated everyone’s comments into the Form. Mr. Fitzgerald asked the Board members if they felt that an everyday citizen would be intimidated by the Form. Mr. DelGreco and Mr. English agreed that the Form was not intimidating.

Dr. Stabinsky asked about the penalty for making a false complaint. Mr. Maslan explained that there is an almost absolute privilege to make an ethics complaint. If someone knowingly makes a false complaint, that is a different issue. The factual statement may not constitute an ethical violation; whether it is an ethics violation is a legal conclusion. There is immunity for someone acting in good faith.

**** MR. DELGRECO MOVED TO APPROVE THE COMPLAINT FORM AND
MOVE IT FORWARD
** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

B. ETHICS HANDBOOK

Mr. Fitzgerald expressed his thanks to Ms. Broncati for doing a nice job on the Handbook.

Mr. Fitzgerald said that the Board needs to decide whether they are the Ethics Board of the Board of Ethics. After some discussion the Board agreed upon Board of Ethics.

The Board held a lengthy discussion and made revisions to the Handbook. Mr. Maslan made those changes to the original document.

The Board reviewed the City of Milford's Guide and Form. Mr. Maslan reviewed the State of Connecticut's Guide and said that the State's codes are very extensive. Mr. DelGreco will e-mail the Milford Guide to the Board members.

Mr. DelGreco said that the Board needs to decide the general structure of the document and make some revisions. Mr. Fitzgerald asked Mr. Maslan if they could create a sub-committee to work on this. Mr. Maslan explained that they could have a small group of less than four people work on this. Mr. Fitzgerald asked the Board members to send their comments to Ms. Broncati once they have reviewed the Milford and State of Connecticut guides. After that, someone could coordinate the comments. Dr. Stabinsky said that they should use Ms. Broncati's document as a guide.

Mr. DelGreco said that it was a good idea for a small group to work on the document, but he said that they need to determine what form they want to use.

Dr. Stabinsky suggested reviewing Ms. Broncati's document along with the State and City of Milford guides. He added that any suggestions should be sent to her and she can handle them at the next meeting.

Dr. Stabinsky said that he did not believe that the hypotheticals were necessary. Mr. Maslan said that he will meet with Ms. Broncati to find out where they came from.

Dr. Stabinsky asked Mr. Maslan if he was willing to read all three documents and send his suggestions to Ms. Broncati. Mr. Maslan said that he felt it would be more efficient if each

person takes a section. Mr. DelGreco said that he would like to see one or two people review the document and make their suggestions; he added that he does not have a lot of comments.

Mr. Fitzgerald said that he was pleased with the work done by Ms. Broncati and Mr. Maslan. He suggested scheduling a conference call to discuss what she has done and will then share that information with the rest of the Board.

Mr. Fitzgerald said that the next meeting is scheduled for October 22nd where they will review the Ethics Handbook. Mr. DelGreco will send the State Ethics Guidebook to the Boardmembers.

C. ETHICS INFORMATION ON CITY WEBSITE

Mr. DelGreco said that he spoke with Ms. DelVeccio and she said that she will add information to the website once it is available.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

ADJOURNMENT

- ** MR. DELGRECO MOVED TO ADJOURN
- ** MR. ENGLISH SECONDED
- ** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

There was no further business and the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosemarie Lombardi
Telesco Secretarial Services