



**MINUTES OF THE CHESAPEAKE BEACH
ETHICS COMMISSION MEETING
September 29, 2020**

Commission Members Present: Phillip Kete, Chair
Ingrid Lamb
Michael Linsenbigler

Staff Members Present: Fred Sussman, Commission Counsel
Sharon L. Humm, Commission Clerk

The virtual meeting convened at 1:00 p.m. Those listed as present participated in all portions of the meeting unless otherwise noted. If other individuals participated in aspects of the meeting, they will be identified in the specific line item where their participation occurred.

Item 1: Approval of the minutes of the September 21, 2020 Ethics Commission Meeting.

Discussion: The draft minutes of the September 21, 2020 Ethics Commission meeting were presented.

Decision: The Commission unanimously approved the September 21, 2020 Ethics Commission meeting minutes as presented.

Item 2: Approval of the minutes of the September 22, 2020 Ethics Commission Meeting.

Discussion: The draft minutes of the September 22, 2020 Ethics Commission meeting were presented.

Decision: The Commission unanimously approved the September 22, 2020 Ethics Commission meeting minutes as presented.

Item 3: Review of any further or amended disclosures of candidates for election.

Discussion: Chairman Kete stated that during the Commission's September 21st meeting, it was noted that Mr. Johnson's real estate submissions did not identify any mortgage/lien holders. Mr. Kete notified Mr. Johnson via email to either confirm as correct, and if in error, to submit immediately corrected submissions.

Decision: Chairman Kete stated Mr. Johnson has provided the necessary clarification and additional information as requested and the Commission finds that the condition set on September 21st has been met.

Item 4: Determination of whether the Town is in compliance with the State's public ethics law, and, if not, the status of efforts to bring it into compliance.

Discussion: Chairman Kete stated it is the responsibility of the Commission to review and certify that the Town's ordinance is in compliance with the State's public ethics law in regard to conflict of interest and financial disclosure requirements of elected officials.

Decision: After review of the current ordinance, the Commission has determined that its conflict of interest and financial disclosure requirements for elected officials are equivalent to or exceeds the requirements of State ethics law and is adopted by unanimous consent. Chairman Kete will execute the certifications and submit to the State Commission.

Item 5: **What documents related to financial disclosures must be made available for public review?**

Discussion: Chairman Kete suggested all original forms submitted plus any amendments and correspondence to and from a candidate be part of the public disclosure.

Decision: The Commission unanimously agreed but will at a future time revisit this matter.

Item 6: **Section 25-32(b)(3) of the ethics ordinance requires that the Ethics Commission "inform the Board of Elections of any case in which the financial disclosures of a candidate were facially incomplete or defective..." As a matter of state law or of public policy must or should the Commission also report on any apparent conflicts revealed by the disclosures?**

Discussion: Chairman Kete read into the record an inquiry by Councilman Morris. "Does Maryland State Ethics law require the Ethics Commissioners to report on unusual contents of these disclosures? After listening to the attorney's comments of that night, it seems that language requiring a report of apparent conflicts be sent to Town Council/Public well-being entity for review and action. Not just a statement that all the blanks have been fully filled in. There needs to be a watch-dog aspect to the contents approved and submitted."

Decision: The Commission discussed and agreed there is no requirement on this. The Commission agreed to revisit this at a future time, coordinating with the Election Board. Also recommended that for future candidates that a copy of the ethics ordinance and a training packet for candidates be given at the time of filing.

Item 7: **Schedule next Meeting.** The Commission will meet again on November 10, 2020 at 1 pm.

Item 4: **Comments by Commissioners and members of the public.** None

The meeting adjourned at 1:35 pm.

Submitted by:



Sharon L. Humm
Town Clerk