



OFFICE OF THE ETHICS COMMISSION

MINUTES OF THE CHESAPEAKE BEACH ETHICS COMMISSION MEETING SEPTEMBER 22, 2021

Commission Members Present: Phillip Kete, Chair
Ingrid Lamb
Peter Feuerle

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.

Commissioner Lamb moved to add an agenda item for discussion regarding public disclosures for three officials that have resigned. It was unanimously approved to add agenda item “Special Disclosures” to the agenda.

Item 1: **Approval of the minutes of the August 10, 2021 Ethics Commission Meeting.**

Discussion: The draft minutes of the August 10, 2021 Ethics Commission meeting were presented.

Decision: Commissioner Lamb moved to amend the minutes to strike the word “virtual” from the first paragraph. The Commission unanimously approved the August 10, 2021 Ethics Commission meeting minutes as amended, all in favor.

Item 2: **Review 2020 public disclosures by Elected and Appointed Officials.**

Discussion: The Commission reviewed the 2020 public disclosure submissions by two Elected Officials.

Decision: The Commission unanimously approved the following submissions as filed complete:
Gregory J. Morris
Lawrence P. Jaworski

Item 3: **Consider whether elected officials should be barred from accepting gifts from Town employees, Town officials, Town departments, or the Water Park.**

Discussion: Chairman Kete stated he had previously submitted a proposed draft amendment to the ethics ordinance in regard to accepting gifts from Town employees, Officials,

Departments, and/or the Water Park. Chairman Kete withdrew that proposal and instead recommended one of the Commission members speak with the Town's Administration and present the Commission's concerns on this practice.

Decision: Commissioner Feuerle will meet with the Town's Administration and share the Commission's concerns. He will report back with the results of that meeting. The Commission unanimously agreed.

Discussion: Chairman Kete recalled a disclosure statement by an official that referenced a close relative (stepchild) that works with a business in Town. It is further recommended that Commissioner Feuerle discuss this with the Town's Administration to determine if this relationship might constitute a conflict-of-interest. The Commission unanimously agreed.

Item 5: **Determine whether to certify to the State that the Town is in compliance with the State Public Ethics law, or, if not in compliance, report the status of efforts to bring it into compliance.**

Discussion: Chairman Kete stated it is required by the State that the Town's Ethics Commission, certify by October 1, that the Town's Ethics Ordinance meets the requirements of the State public ethics law with respect to elected officials.

Decision: The Commission unanimously agreed that the Town's current ethics ordinance follows the State's ethics law and should be submitted by the deadline of October 1, 2021. Chairman Kete will submit the certification form with a copy of the Town's current ethics ordinance.

Item 6: **Special Disclosures.**

Discussion: Chairman Kete reported several officials have recently left office. The Town's ethics ordinance requires they file a public disclosure within 60 days of leaving office. The disclosure would cover this current year up to the time of their resignation.

Decision: Chairman Kete and the Clerk will work together to send a reminder, with a copy of the disclosure forms, requesting they submit back to the Town.

Discussion: It has come to the Commission's attention that a vacant seat is open on the Town Council. Anyone considered for that appointment, should be informed of the fact, that a public disclosure will be required for the preceding calendar year. The Commission discussed having the public disclosure completed prior to being interviewed for the position.

Decision: The Commission unanimously recommends that the Town require any candidate being considered for appointment to the Town Council vacancy, submit at least seven (7) days before the date of interviews, public disclosures for the year 2020 and 2021 up to the date of filing.

Item 7: **Schedule next Meeting.** The Commission will meet again on November 3, 2021 at 1 pm.

Item 8: **Comments by Commissioners and members of the public.** Commissioner Lamb was glad to see Counsel Sussman back and doing well after his surgery.

The meeting adjourned at 1:45 pm.

Submitted by:

Sharon L. Humm
Town Clerk