



## **OFFICE OF THE ETHICS COMMISSION**

### **MINUTES OF THE CHESAPEAKE BEACH ETHICS COMMISSION MEETING JUNE 13, 2022**

**Commission Members Present:** Peter Feuerle, Chair  
Gregory Kernan  
Farhad Safaie

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

The 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 Agenda.**

**Discussion:**    The draft agenda was presented.

**Decision:**      The Commission unanimously approved the agenda as presented.

**Item 2:**        **Approval of the minutes of the April 20, 2022 Ethics Commission Meeting.**

**Discussion:**    The draft minutes of the April 20, 2022 Ethics Commission meeting were presented.

**Decision:**      The Commission unanimously approved the April 20, 2022 Ethics Commission meeting minutes.

**Item 3:**        **Review 2021 Public Disclosure Statements.**

**Discussion:**    Chairman Feuerle stated the 2021 disclosures from elected, appointed, and other Town officials had been sent out to the Commission for review. In reviewing the disclosures, Chairman Feuerle observed several concerns and shared with the Commission. It was noted that all filers had submitted their disclosures.

1. A lot of addresses were incomplete; only listing street address and omitting Chesapeake Beach. He proposes this be considered an immaterial omission and to allow.  
**Commission agreed.**

2. Form “C” Earned Income – Some of the elected officials failed to indicate their income that they receive from the Town itself, as council members, on their disclosures. Commission Clerk will confirm if all members do indeed receive compensation from the Town, and if so, the Commission will require it be listed on their disclosure form.
3. Form “A” Owned Real Estate- possibly re-design the matrix and consider what information is necessary to report. As for 2021, the disclosures will be accepted as submitted.
4. Form “A” Real Estate – Review the signature option certifying that the statements in your previous year “Form “A” Continued” page are true for the current year.
5. Form “I” Prestige of Position – 2<sup>nd</sup> question asking, “did you influence or attempt to influence the award of a Chesapeake Beach Town contract to a specific person or entity?” This question was answered “no” by all elected officials. Chairman Feuerle, after consideration, suggests this question should be a “yes” by all. The Commission will allow submission this year as provided but will work on re-wording the question to better clarify for the 2022 disclosures.
6. Discussion relating to a disclosure of an official where the position is filled through a contract with a Firm – re: Town Engineer.

Commission Counsel Mr. Sussman presented the following observations after his review:

1. Of the elected officials, only one council member listed stock ownership on Form “B”.
2. Very few filers identified co-owners of properties owned on Form “A”.
3. Many filers listed on the cover page, or on Form “A”, their street address but not the City/Town in which their property is located. Note: This was addressed earlier in the meeting.

The Commission reviewed all the disclosures finding deficiencies in the following:

1. Greg Kernan - further clarification needed on Form “A” Con’t.
2. Dominique Soroka - further clarification needed on Form “A” Con’t.
3. Require from four elected officials’ inclusion of earned income on Form “C” if applicable. (Keith Pardieck, Margaret Hartman, Greg Morris, & Charles Fink.)

**Decision:**

**MOTION:** Commissioner Kernan moved to accept all the disclosure filings as submitted with the exception of, Greg Kernan, Dominique Soroka, Keith Pardieck, Margaret Hartman, Greg Morris, & Charles Fink which require additional information. Seconded by Commissioner Safaie, all in favor.

The Clerk will send notification to those elected and appointed officials requesting further information and/or clarification to their disclosures.

**Item 4:**

**Review of pending proposals to amend the Ethics Ordinance and development of action plan.**

**Discussion:**

Chairman Feuerle stated that a long-standing set of proposed amendments was presented

to the Mayor and Town Council at the Council's January 2022 Work Session. These amendments were proposed prior to this current Commission.

**Decision:** Chairman Feuerle will prepare a memo setting forth the amendments as proposed, and such changes and additions as resulted from reactions to the Council's work session for discussion at the next meeting.

**Item5:** **Any additional matter for discussion.** Commissioner Kernan welcomed new Commissioner member Farhad Safaie.

**Item 8:** **Schedule next Meeting.** The Commission will meet again on August 1, 2022 at 1 pm.

**Item 9:** **Comments by Commissioners and members of the public.** Chairman Feuerle commented tomorrow will be a full moon, the Strawberry Moon!

The meeting adjourned at 2:40 pm.

Submitted by:

Sharon L. Humm  
Town Clerk