



OFFICE OF THE ETHICS COMMISSION

MINUTES OF THE CHESAPEAKE BEACH ETHICS COMMISSION MEETING SEPTEMBER 22, 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 June 13, 2022 Ethics Commission Meeting.**

Discussion: The draft minutes of the June 13, 2022 Ethics Commission meeting were presented.

Decision: The Commission unanimously approved the June 13, 2022 Ethics Commission meeting minutes.

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

Discussion: As noted at the Commission's June 13, 2022 meeting, deficiencies in a number of public disclosure statements were detected. The following officials were notified, and clarification requested:

1. Greg Kernan
2. Dominique Soroka
3. Keith Pardieck
4. Margaret Hartman
5. Gregory Morris
6. L. Charles Fink

Decision: The requested clarifications were received from all of these officials, reviewed, and approved as sufficient.

Discussion: Chair Feuerle stated the Town has two new appointed officials, Stephen Sharp of the Board of Appeals, and Kelly Hauhn of the Planning Commission. In reviewing their disclosures, it was revealed that Form "A" was incomplete by both officials.

Decision: Commission Clerk will notify Mr. Sharp and Ms. Hauhn and request they provide the additional information.

Item 4: **Review of pending proposals to amend the Ethics Ordinance.**

Discussion: The Commission addressed a number of concerns that had been raised with respect to the amendments of the Town's Ethics Ordinance that had been proposed by the Commission itself and presented to the Council several months ago, mainly that some proposals might dissuade persons from serving as volunteers on the Town's various boards and commissions.

Decision: Mr. Feuerle will discuss these matters with the Mayor with the aim of arriving at an amendment package that the Council would be willing to pass.

Item 5: **Review new State mandates to amend the municipal ordinance.**

Discussion: The Town has been notified by the State Ethics Commission that recent general legislation has necessitated changes in the State Ethics laws, and that conforming changes in the municipal ethics laws have to be made. The State Commission identified these changes and designated them as mandatory. Legal counsel of the Town's Ethics Commission has prepared a draft ordinance that would enact the State mandated amendments, and it was discussed.

Decision: Mr. Feuerle will forward the draft to the Mayor for further action.

Item 6: **Agenda Item IV.E.** – Develop action plan for subjects C & D. – Dealt with among the matters described in Item 5.

Item 7: **Review required annual certification to the State Ethics Commission.**

Discussion: The State requires each municipality to certify to the State Ethics Commission annually that the municipality is, with respect to elected officials, in compliance with the State Ethics Law requirements and that the local ethics law is equivalent to or exceeds the requirements of the State Ethics Law provisions for conflicts of interest and financial disclosures.

Decision: Chair Feuerle stated he will complete the form and the Commission Clerk will forward to the State Ethics Commission along with a copy of the Town's current ordinance.

Item 8: **Any additional matter for discussion.**

Discussion: Commissioner Safaie inquired if the matter concerning a Homeowners Association which was brought before the Ethics Commission several months ago had been addressed and resolved or was further attention needed. The Commission agreed this issue was dealt with.

Item 9: **Schedule next Meeting.** The Commission will meet again on November 9, 2022 at 1 pm.

Item 10: **Comments by Commissioners and members of the public.** Chair Feuerle commented today is the Autumnal Equinox, marking the first day of Autumn in the Northern Hemisphere. So, look for the sun to rise later and set earlier.

The meeting adjourned at 2:25 pm.

Submitted by:

Sharon L. Humm
Town Clerk