

**Town of Trumbull, Connecticut Ethics Commission Meeting
Nichols Meeting Room, Trumbull Town Hall July 13, 2015**

Present: Commission Members: Thomas E. Lee, Esq., Eric Gross, Esq., Rev. Larry Fullerton, Mark Block, and Deacon Sami Bal

Town Attorney Vincent M. Marino, Esq.
First Selectman Timothy M. Herbst

Member of the Public: Vicky Tesoro, Cindy Katske and John Greene

The meeting was called to order by Thomas E. Lee at 7 p.m.

1. The First Selectman provided comments to the Commission about the existing language of the Code of Ethics and the need to address some deficiencies within the Code.
2. Election of officers.
 - a. Motion to nominate Thomas E. Lee, Esq. chairman of the commission made by Eric Gross, Esq. and seconded by Rev. Larry Fullerton. The motion carried unanimously.
 - b. Motion to nominate Eric Gross, Esq. vice-chairman of the commission made by Thomas E. Lee, Esq. and seconded by Mark Block. The motion carried unanimously.
 - c. Motion to nominate Mark Block secretary of the commission made by Thomas E. Lee, Esq. and seconded by Eric Gross. The motion carried unanimously.
3. The Chairman requested Attorney Marino to provide the new members with a brief discussion of the Freedom of Information Act ("FOIA"). Attorney Marino provided the commission with a brief overview of the FOIA.
4. The Chair recognized Commissioner Gross concerning his comments about the proposition that the Ethic's Commission review the existing Code and provide recommendations to change it. Commissioner Gross stated that he did not believe it was within the province of the Ethic's Commission to propose amendments to the Code of Ethics. Mr. Gross stated that it was his belief that the matter should be taken up by the Town Council. After completing his comments, Commissioner Gross exited the meeting.

Commissioner Block commented that he would prefer to proceed with the exercise of reviewing the Code of Ethics and making recommendations. Commissioner Block made comment on the overall gender neutrality of the Code and then made specific comment to §2.523 which omits reference to acting "legally." The Chairman stated that Section II/Sanctions of the Code imputes the obligation to act legally throughout the Code.

The Chairman stated that he would like to put together a DVD to provide employees and town officials to educate them on the Code of Ethics.

The Chairman stated that he would consult with the Town Attorney as to whether he could discuss a previously dismissed complaint with the new members since there was not a finding of probable cause and the matter was accordingly not public.

The Chairman requested that the commissioners review the Code of Ethics and that the Commission would discuss making recommendations to modify the Code at a meeting to be scheduled in September or October.

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be the initials 'JH' followed by a long, sweeping horizontal line that extends to the right.