

**TOWN OF MANSFIELD
ETHICS BOARD**

Wednesday, January 17, 2019
Audrey Beck Municipal Building, Conference Room B
5:00 P.M.

REGULAR MEETING

AGENDA

Call to Order

- I. Public Comment
- II. Approval of Minutes 10/7/2018
- III. Discussion of Citizen Letter – B. Wassmundt Dated 8/7/2018
- IV. Board Request – Follow-Up Attorney Letter

Adjournment

TOWN OF MANSFIELD

Ethics Board

Wednesday, October 17, 2018

Conference Room B, Beck Municipal Building

Minutes – DRAFT

Members Present: John DeWolf (Chair), Saul Nesselroth, Jamie Lang-Rodean, Win Smith, James Raynor, Suzanne Singer Bansal

Staff Present: Joshua Putman

Council Member Present: Ben Shaiken

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 PM.

I. Public Comment

None

II. Approval of Minutes 7/19/2018

The minutes of the 7/19/2018 we approved unanimously.

III. Consolidation of Ethics Board and Personnel Appeals Board

Ben Shaiken, representing the Committee on Committees, asked the Ethics Board to take on the role of the Personnel Appeals Board, which would result in a consolidation of functions. The Board agreed they would be willing to take on the functions of the Personnel Appeals Board.

IV. Housekeeping Items

- 2019 Regular Meeting Schedule
 - Was established as follows
 - January 17, 2019
 - April 18, 2019
 - July 18, 2019
 - October 17, 2019
- Dewolf was nominated to serve as Chair for November 2018 – October 2019. The motion passed unanimously.
- Nesselroth was nominated to serve as Vice Chair for November 2018 – October 2019. The motion passed unanimously.
- Lang-Rodean was nominated to serve as Secretary for November 2018 – 2019. The motion passed unanimously.
- By consensus the Board approved the presented FY17-18 Annual Report.
 - By consensus the Board directed the Assistant Town Manager to seek an advisory opinion from the Town Solicitor regarding the status of the Ethics Code and gifts to Board of Education employees.

Meeting adjourned 5:45 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Joshua Putman

Staff

8/7/2018

To: Town of Mansfield, CT
Board of Ethics

From: Elizabeth T. Wassmundt
54 Old Turnpike Road
Storrs, CT
Member, Mansfield Town Council, speaking for myself only.

I'm here to request that you review the current Code of Ethics with the intent to strengthen it.

In specific, I would like to see a strong Whistleblower clause which would require an employee or official to report a violation of the Ethics Code, if they know of such.

I would like to see a requirement for financial disclosure for certain officials. The present code requires disclosure of possible conflict of interest but there is no way for anyone to determine if the official is so required. Financial disclosure would help to correct that.

Please look at the current Code, section 25-7 Rules, part M. The sentence: "No public official or public employee may engage in and political activity while on duty" etc. The "on duty" with respect to an official concerns me.

I urge you to review all of the current Code; it is your Code. The current Code was developed several years ago. I ask you to review it with a critical eye and with the intent that Mansfield should operate within a culture of ethics. The town has new management ; this is the time to do this. Your Code sets the tone for ethical behavior in the town; your Code is what should give the public faith in the operation of their government.

I'm going to give you a reference to a very good document on municipal ethics. It is:
<http://www.cityethics.org/content/full-text-model-ethics-code#0.1> TOC49

I will hope to see a Board of Ethics regularly scheduled meeting devoted to my request. Thank you.