

**Town of Mansfield
Minutes of the Board of Ethics Meeting, October 15, 2009
Conference Room C**

Attending: Mike Sikoski, Chair, Nora Stevens, Vice Chair, Win Smith, David Ferrero, Nancy Cox, Saul Nesselroth_(alternate), Lena Barry (alternate)

Mr. Sikoski, chair, called the meeting to order at 4:45 p.m.
He asked Nancy Cox to take minutes owing to the absence of the staff member assigned to the board.

Approval of Minutes 7/16/09--Approved without changes, passed unanimously

Approval of Minutes 9/17/09

Nora Stevens read email correspondence questioning the draft minutes. The minutes were corrected to delete "Ethics Complaint" from the draft minutes. The minutes were approved by Stevens, Cox, Smith, Ferrero and Nesselroth who were present at the meeting on 9/17/09.

Public Comment

Rick Hossack

Betty Wassamundt

Chairman's Report

Mr. Sikoski pointed out that there was to be a draft memo for review addressed to the Committee on Committees regarding vetting procedures for members of the Ethics Board.

Ms. Cox move, Ms. Stevens seconded

"Maria Capriola be requested to prepare a draft memo for the Committee on Committees regarding vetting procedures for the Ethics Board", passed unanimously

Before taking up the next item of business, it was determined that there were insufficient copies of the current draft of the Ethics code. Ms. Cox moved the Board recess in order to make copies of the draft for review. Ms. Stevens seconded. Mr. Sikoski questioned the need for recess. Motion and second were withdrawn. Mr. Sikoski read an article about the novel solution reached by the Town Council of Loma Linda, CA regarding a potential conflict of interest.

Before discussion commenced on the draft code, Ms. Stevens moved to add "discussion of the status of the secretary" to the board's agenda. Ms. Cox seconded. There was no discussion and it passed unanimously.

Discussion commenced. Ms. Stevens pointed to an email she had sent Mr. Sikoski in response to his emails soliciting opinions about staff to the Ethics Board. Mr. Sikoski reiterated his opposition to having a staff member assigned to

the board. Ms. Stevens provided a history of the service the Board had received from town staff in previous decade. Mr. Sikoski offered his opinion that staff interfered with the workings of the board.

Ms. Cox introduced a motion of "No Confidence" in the Chairman, citing undisclosed conflict of interest, failure to follow directions of the Board and the Board's Rules of Procedure, and personal conflict with the staff assigned to the Board. Ms. Stevens, seconded. Discussion followed. Ms. Stevens called the question. Discussion was ended unanimously. The motion passed with Stevens, Cox and Smith voting aye and Sikoski and Ferrero abstaining.

Ms. Cox moved that Ms. Stevens, Vice Chair, become chair. Ms. Stevens declined.

Ms. Stevens moved that Ms. Cox become chair, Mr. Smith seconded. During discussion, Ms. Cox asked Mr. Smith if he would serve as chair, he declined. Mr. Smith called the question. Discussion was ended with Stevens, Smith, Cox and Ferrero voting aye, Sikoski abstaining. Motion to elect Ms. Cox as chair passed with Stevens, Ferrero, Smith voting aye, Sikoski and Cox abstaining.

Motion to Adjourn by Mr. Sikoski, Mr. Smith seconding.
Discussion of date for next meeting--set for October 29, 2009 at 4:30 at Town Hall

Proposed Agenda includes:

Public Comment

Report of the Chair

Review of the Draft Code

Review of the Memo to Committee on Committees

Meeting adjourned at approximately 6:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Nancy Cox with review by Win Smith.