

TOWN OF MANSFIELD
Ethics Board
Thursday, July 17, 2014
Audrey Beck Municipal Building, Council Chambers

Minutes

Members Present: John DeWolf, Denise Keane, Saul Nesselroth, Win Smith, Nora Stevens (Chair)

Staff Present: Maria Capriola, Assistant Town Manager, Kevin Deneen, Town Attorney

The meeting was called to order at 4:35pm. The meeting was moved (and posted) from Conference Room B to Council Chambers due to the number of guests in the audience and room size.

Keane voted during the meeting of 7/17/14 since Raynor was unable to attend the meeting.

I. PUBLIC COMMENT

Toni Moran, Mansfield. Ms. Moran disclosed her affiliation as a Town Council and Mansfield Downtown Partnership Board member, but indicated that she was speaking as an individual. Ms. Moran spoke in support of the Ethics Code applying to Mansfield Board of Education employees. Ms. Moran spoke in opposition to the end of year gift giving tradition to teachers. She also spoke to the importance of maintaining a good relationship with the Board of Education and trying to find an internal way of resolving the differences between the Town and Board's gift provisions.

Jay Rueckl, Mansfield. Mr. Rueckl disclosed his affiliation as a Mansfield Board of Education member, but indicated that he was speaking as an individual. Mr. Rueckl spoke to the issue of the Ethics Code applying to Mansfield Board of Education employees and that the Board's legal counsel advised them to adopt their own Ethics Policy (for employees). Mr. Rueckl noted that the Board's policy does address gifts, just differently, and that the Town's Code and Board's Policy are similar in most ways. He acknowledged that the Code does apply to the elected officials of the Mansfield Board of Education.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of April 17, 2014 were approved as presented. The minutes were adopted with all voting in favor except for Keane (abstention).

III. CODE APPLICABILITY TO MBOE EMPLOYEES

Attorney Deneen reviewed the issue of Code applicability to Mansfield Board of Education employees, in particular jurisdictional issues, applicability of the gift provisions of the Ethics Code v. the MBOE Ethics Policy, and possible ways to resolve the differences in the gift provisions. By consensus, the Ethics Board decided to issue a

letter to the Town Council and Mansfield Board of Education, respectfully requesting that the two policy bodies review the gift provisions of the Code and Policy and attempt to find a resolution(s) to the differences between the two documents. Keane agreed to prepare a draft letter on behalf of the Board.

IV. ADVISORY OPINION

Members reviewed a draft advisory opinion regarding Human Services Advisory Committee members' participation/recusal in the review of applications for "grants to area agencies" when the reviewer is an employee or Board member of a requesting agency. Smith made the motion, seconded by DeWolf to issue the advisory opinion as amended. Motion passed unanimously.

V. FY 13-14 ANNUAL REPORT

The Board reviewed its accomplishments for FY 13-14 and plans for FY 14-15. The Board reviewed, discussed, and agreed to its annual report submission to the Town Council.

Due to scheduling conflicts for several members, the October 16th regular meeting will be cancelled and rescheduled for October 22nd at 4:30pm.

Smith made the motion, seconded by Nesselroth to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 5:30p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Maria Capriola, Assistant Town Manager