

**TOWN OF COLCHESTER
ETHICS COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, APRIL 7, 2014
TOWN HALL-SUITE 201**

Members Present: Shannon Bergquist, John DiIorio, Daniel Henderson, Debra Marvin, Denise Ward

Members Absent: None

Others Present: First Selectman Gregg Schuster, Justin LaFountain, Clerk

1. Call to Order

First Selectman G. Schuster called the meeting to order at 5:02 PM.

2. Discussion of Rules Governing Appointed Boards

First Selectman G. Schuster discussed the Boards and Commissions handbook with the Commission, noting that three of the five members were new to serving on a commission.

3. Discussion of Colchester Code of Ethics

First Selectman G. Schuster discussed the Colchester Code of Ethics with the Commission, emphasizing that the task of the Commission is not to determine if conduct is ethical, but to determine if it violates the written Code. The various sections of the Code were briefly discussed.

First Selectman G. Schuster stated that the Code is several years old, and would be supportive of the Commission taking on a revision project for it.

4. Request for Advisory Opinion on Possible Appointment of Russell Melmed to Chatham Health Board

First Selectman G. Schuster asked the Commission for an opinion on appointing R. Melmed to the Chatham Health Board. He explained that Colchester is allowed two (2) members on the Board, he himself being one. He stated that R. Melmed is an employee of another health district, which on occasion competes with the Chatham Health District for grant funding. This could potentially create an issue.

First Selectman G. Schuster suggested that the Commission not act on this issue at this meeting, but rather sometime in the future, after having acclimated to their new positions. The Commission agreed to wait until an upcoming Special Meeting to discuss it.

5. Election of Officers

Motion by J. DiIorio to nominate D. Henderson as Chariman of the Ethics Commission. Seconded by D. Ward. **Motion carried unanimously.**

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D. Henderson assumed the chairmanship of the Commission.

Motion by D. Henderson to nominate S. Bergquist as Vice Chairman of the Ethics Commission. Seconded by D. Marvin. **Motion carried unanimously.**

S. Bergquist assumed the Vice Chairmanship of the Commission.

6. Set Future Meeting Dates

The Commission agreed to maintain their past schedule by meeting on the first Tuesday of every even numbered month at 6:00 PM.

The Commission agreed to set a Special Meeting for the purpose of discussion the R. Melmed Chatham Health Board opinion on Thursday, April 17th at 6:00 PM.

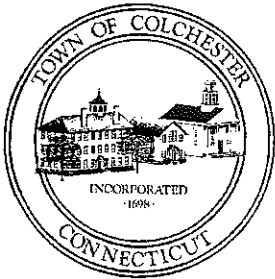
7. Adjourn

Motion by D. Ward, seconded by D. Marvin to adjourn the meeting at 6:25 PM. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted,

Justin LaFountain, Clerk

Attachment: Memorandum from First Selectman G. Schuster: "Request for Advisory Opinion- Russ Melmed"



Town of Colchester, Connecticut

127 Norwich Avenue, Colchester, Connecticut 06415

Gregg Schuster, First Selectman

MEMORANDUM

To: Ethics Commission

cc:

From: Gregg Schuster, First Selectman *GS*

Date: 4/7/14

Re: Request for Advisory Opinion – Russ Melmed

Colchester belongs to the Chatham Health District. The district provides our health services such as restaurant inspections, site plan reviews, and public health education. There are a number of health districts that Colchester could join, but we made a decision approximately three years ago to join Chatham. There is the potential for competition between districts for grants and even for towns as customers.

As part of the Chatham Health District, Colchester appoints two members of their Board of Directors. A member has recently resigned leaving the Board of Selectmen to fill the vacancy. Only one elector, Russ Melmed, applied and interviewed for the position.

Mr. Melmed is an employee of the Ledge Light Health District based in New London. The Board of Selectmen expressed a concern that there may be occasions when Mr. Melmed would have a conflict of interest between his duties as a Chatham board member and as an employee of Ledge Light.

This is a request for an advisory opinion from the Ethics Commission to determine:

1. Is Mr. Melmed precluded from serving on the Board of Directors due to his employment with Ledge Light?
2. If Mr. Melmed is not precluded from serving on the Board of Directors, are there occasions when he must recuse himself?