

New Durham Ethics Committee

Date: Sept 9, 2014

Present: D. Viesel, Chair; C. Allen, Vice Chair; E. Phillips, M. Haley, Secretary

Excused: Joan Swenson

Topic	Discussion	Follow-Up
Call to Order 7:08PM		
Public Input	<p>Kristen Bernier – question: what is the town position on volunteers/town employee such that when a person brings forth a complaint or concern as regards retaliation towards to the person who brings forth the issue? She had been referred to the Ethics committee from Town Administrator.</p> <p>Misuse of power – selectman who blocked a vote, related to item below.</p> <p>A review of procedural approvals is in question. Example: if BOS votes an approval by 2 to 1, and one of the approvers is gone, should the non-approving selectman be required to sign-off on the approval?</p> <p>BTW, the blocking selectman was sitting on the committee whereby the person was blocked from voting?</p> <p>This above mentioned selectman has a state voting record perceived to be voting against women. This is possibly a federal issue of discrimination, and needs to be reviewed by town counsel. Ethics committee recommends proper documentation and due diligence to assure accuracy of concerns.</p> <p>Feedback will be provided to questioner by next month.</p> <p>If questioner wants to file a complaint, she is referred to town administrator, and if to selectmen, may be either written or verbal.</p> <p>If the questioner determines there is retaliation against her, does this relate to the federal whistleblower act?</p> <p>Confidential inquiry: Wants it on record that Selectman Bickford has misused power of position.</p>	<p>Dot will call Carole Ingham to get procedural information.</p> <p>Dot will get back to Kristen</p> <p>Dot will draft a letter back to confidential person stating that this is a misuse of power issue, and will let him know what avenues he can pursue if he wishes to do so.</p>

Minutes of July 8th meeting	Motion by Ellen, to accept as written, seconded by Carol, none opposed	none
Old Business	Follow up to Rules o Procedure: Sent to Town Counsel in August, no reply yet. Letters to the other questioner will be reviewed at next meeting.	
New Business	Budget: Will request the same amount of money. Last year's budget was not spent since there were no opportune educational conferences, turnover of committee members, and the publication "Knowing the Territory" is still current.	
Next Meeting, October 14, 2014 7PM		
Adjourned, 8:45	Motion by Carol, seconded by Monica, Passed unanimously.	Respectfully Submitted, Monica Haley