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|  |  TOWN OF OLD SAYBROOK **Ethics Commission** |
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**SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES** - AMENDED

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2015

The Ethics Commission met at a Special Meeting on Thursday, November 19, 2015 at 6:00 p.m. at the Old Saybrook Acton Library

1. **Call to Order:** Chairman Edward Cassella called the meeting to order at 6:10 p.m. Members present: E. Cassella, K. Knobelsdorff, P. Ladd, M. J. Lewandowski and D. Hunt.
2. **Approval of Minutes**
3. Special Meeting Minutes, September 17, 2015; **Motion**: to approve (Lewandowski/Knobelsdorff): Approved (Hunt, abstain)
4. **Comments from the Public:** Thomas Stevenson, a member of the town’s Board of Finance attended the meeting. He asked if there is any protection in the Ethics code for whistle blowers. Mr. Cassella stated that it is addressed at the state level with the whistle blower statutes and that our ethics rules focus on conflicts of interest issues. Mr. Lewandowski believed that one town in CT uses its Ethics Commission as a freedom of information commission and asked if that was something the Charter Revision Commission could look into. Mr. Cassella said that we could raise this question at the upcoming CCM training on December 3rd. Mr. Hunt stated that he was on the Charter Revision Commission and that he doesn’t believe the Charter addresses this at all. Mr. Lewandowski stated that in past years a lot of FOI requests were made through the state with respect to information from the Ethics Commission which seemed like a lot of unnecessary paperwork to have to go through the State.
5. **Old Business**
6. Review and finalization of proposed revisions to Code of Ethics and “Procedures for complaints and advisory opinions” for presentation to a Town Meeting: The Commission members previously decided to table approving the final draft of proposed changes to the Code of Ethics until after the CCM training. Ms. Ladd added that the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities had alluded to the fact that there might be some changes coming from the State. It was agreed that this was another reason to wait and see what could be learned at the training and possibly incorporated into our ethics code.
7. Update on Ethics training opportunity with CCM and Office of State Ethics. Ms. Ladd confirmed the date of the CCM ethics training session on December 3, 2015, from 9:00 to 12:00 at the Acton library second floor meeting room. CCM stated they have 21 people registered to attend, 8 of whom are from Old Saybrook, not including the members of the ethics commission. Ms. Ladd stated that CCM does not allow the seminar to be recorded, but they do allow printed materials to be shared.

 Mr. Lewandowski suggested the commission provide refreshments for the seminar and Mr. Cassella said that there is money in the budget to cover that. Members discussed what best to provide and Mr. Lewandowski offered to assist. Ms. Ladd stated that she would send a reminder email to confirm the time.

1. **New Business**

a. Receipt and review of Certified Mail from Connecticut Interlocal Risk

Management Agency (CIRMA): Mr. Cassella followed up with the CIRMA adjuster and reported that the action was being or had already been dismissed completely.

b. 2016 Schedule of Regular Meetings: 1/21/16, 4/21/16, 7/21/16 and 10/20/16, all at 6:00 p.m. **Motion:** to approve the Schedule of Regular Meetings of the commission for 2016 (Knobelsdorff / Lewandowski); Approved.

**6. Adjournment: Motion** for adjournment (Lewandowski/Cassella): Approved. Meeting adjourned at 6:26 p.m.

Submitted: Kerry Knobelsdorff