

ETHICS COMMISSION SPECIAL MEETING

March 16, 2022
Via Teleconference

FINAL MINUTES

A special meeting of the Ethics Commission was held virtually on Wednesday, March 16, 2022, at 4:00 pm. A recording of the meeting can be found on the following link:

[Meeting Recordings - Town of Fairfield, Connecticut \(fairfieldct.org\)](https://www.fairfieldct.org/MeetingRecordings)

Members Present: Chairman Alex Trembicki, Nancy Billington, Brian Cantor, Dana Kery and Craig Van Steenbergen (also present: Town Attorney James T. Baldwin)

Members Absent: Dana Kery

1. Chairman Trembicki called the meeting to order at 4:05 pm

2. Consideration of Request for Advisory Opinion by Town Attorney, James T. Baldwin

Previously James T. Baldwin, submitted an e-mail request to Ethics Commission Chairman Trembicki, dated December 5, 2021, asking for the Commission's opinions on two (2) possible scenarios that could arise in the future. Scenario A would be where a member of a town board/commission is also an expert in the field associated with the board/commission and Scenario B would be where a member of a board/commission is a professional in the field associated with board/commission that is issuing a Request for Proposal (RFP) for professional services and the member wishes to submit a proposal under the RFP process to do the work.

Also, previously, Attorney Baldwin participated in a Special Meeting teleconference (on December 16, 2021) and asked the commission to hear, consider and act upon his request. He gave no opinion to the commission at that time. Upon completion of the Special Meeting teleconference, there was a consensus of the Commission that an additional Special Meeting was required.

During a February 10, 2022 Special Meeting, Chairman Trembicki proposed to draft a letter addressed to Town Attorney Baldwin rendering advisory opinions on possible future scenarios involving membership on various town board and commissions as they relate to persons who have business interests that may be implicated by the work of the board or commission. That letter was drafted and sent the Town Attorney, dated March 9, 2022.

Over the course of the earlier noted special meetings, letters prepared by previous Ethics Commissions, dated October 30, 1998, December 20, 2010 and August 28, 2017 were referenced for prior precedence(s) in order to develop the current Commission's opinion. The Commission addressed the letter of March 9, 2022 and there was a consensus that the letter's recommendations were as previously discussed.

With no further discussion, a motion was made by Chairman Tremicki and seconded by Commissioner Billington to issue the letter, as drafted, to the Town Attorney bearing the advisory opinion of the Ethics Commission. The motion passed unanimously.

However, a suggestion was immediately made by Commissioner Cantor to amend the letter to include references to the dates of the letters of previously Ethics Commissions that were reviewed and assisted the current Commission in rendering its opinion.

With no further discussion, a motion was made by Chairman Tremicki and seconded by Commissioner Billington to issue the drafted letter, with the above amendment, to the Town Attorney bearing the advisory opinion of the Ethics Commission. The motion passed unanimously.

3. Adjournment

A motion was made by Chairman Tremicki and seconded by Commissioner Billington to adjourn the meeting at 4:12 pm. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted by

Craig Van Steenberg/Secretary Ethics Commission