

Town of Red Hook

Ethics Board Minutes

Friday, March 14, 2008

Attendance: Susan Goldstein, Claire Horst, and Linda Keeling

Absent: Fred Cartier and Gail Nussbaum

Guest: Christine Chale, Attorney for the Town and Harry Colgan at 9:40 am

Location: Town Hall, Conference Room

Call to Order: Susan called the meeting to order at 8:10 am.

Purpose:

1. Discuss correspondence
2. Continue Ethics Code 2-21-08 revisions
3. Set new meeting date

Minutes: Linda noted she received by email a correction from Susan Goldman referring to the vote, instead of so many “yes” and so many “no”, to include the former format of “in favor” and “opposed”. Claire motioned to accept the minutes with the minor change and Susan seconded. All were in favor.

Correspondence: Dutchess County recommended that the town assessor, Jeffrey Churchill, fill out a confidential disclosure form. He presented the document to Claire Horst. She opened it at the meeting for all to review. It was agreed that Claire would seal it in an envelope, label it and keep it with the Ethics Board file.

Discussion: Susan reflected on the former meeting and the formal procedure for making a determination. Christine Chale called for an attorney-client consultation. The Board is still working on an updated draft procedural review for rendering a decision and to date no vote has occurred. Generally, we are gaining more experience and are trying to streamline the process so it is consistent and fair to all.

Revisions: Christine Chale presented other materials related to the question of gifts and public integrity. We were fine with the reading and changes for:

13-1. **Title**

13-2. **Purpose.** A-E

13-3. **Construal of provisions; legislative authority.** A-C.

13-4. **Standards of Conduct.** A, 1-4 and B

Note: second B becomes C and change all letters one higher to N,

13-4.C. **Recusal.** (1)

Continued
Ethics Board Minutes
March 14, 2008

Rewrites to be done by Christine Chale:
13-4.C. **Recusal** (2) and (3)
13-4. D. **Gifts**

Christine presented language from the NYS Ethics Commission Advisory Opinion No. 94-16 describing examples related to “gifting”. We all liked having concrete examples within the code as an easily understood reference for the town employees.

Towards the end of the meeting, Harry Colgan stopped by as the liaison to the Ethics Board. Some examples of what is being worked on were shared with him for his thoughtful input. He is more cognizant of the immense challenge put before us all and showed his appreciation for our work efforts.

Meeting Ended: Susan Goldstein motioned to conclude the meeting, Claire Horst seconded and all agreed. The meeting ended at 9:40 am.

Next Meeting: *Thursday, March 20th*, 8 a.m., town hall

Respectfully submitted,

Linda J. Keeling,
Ethics Board Secretary
March 20, 2008