

DRAFT
Town of Red Hook
Ethics Board Minutes

Friday, February 20, 2009

Attendance: Fred Cartier, Claire Horst, Susan Goldstein, and Linda Keeling

Absent: Gail Nussbaum

Guest: None

Location: Town Hall, Main Multi-purpose Room

Call to Order: Chairman Fred Cartier called the meeting to order at 8:15 am.

Purpose:

1. To approve the past 1-16-09 minutes
2. Discuss the public hearing on “Public Contract Reform”
3. Discussion of need for training session for personnel

Minutes:

Susan Goldstein motioned to accept the minutes from January 16, 2009 with the correction of the word “chairman” to “chair”, Claire Horst seconded. All were in favor.

Correspondence: None

Discussion:

Public Contract Reform

Linda Keeling brought up the subject of the Feb. 25th town board public hearing on the subject of “Public Contract Reform” and a board member’s interpretation that the newly updated Ethics Code would need modification. Claire Horst noted that it costs \$1277 to print the law and involves about 30 copies that need to be inserted into the town code book.

The Ethics Board members discussed the proposal and determined that it is more of a legal matter rather than an ethical issue. Susan Goldstein felt that if it is made a part of Red Hook law, it should be a free standing law. All felt that we should submit an official statement at the public hearing to read as such:

It is the considered opinion of the Ethics Board of the Town of Red Hook that this proposed “Public Contract Reform” ordinance is more of a legal issue rather than an ethical issue.

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Chairman Fred Cartier will not be available that night but assistant chair Susan Goldstein will read and submit the statement at the public hearing other members will try to be present that night.

Ethics Training for Staff

The members felt it was not necessary to provide training to the staff. A memo to the committees can be sent out letting them know that we are available for training or for a formal or informal discussion at any time as a group or individually.

2009 Ethics Code Law Signature Sheet

Each member present signed the sheet. Susan Goldstein will get Gail Nussbaum's signature then hand it in to the town clerk who has designated March 31st as the deadline for all Committee Chairs to hand in their signature sheet indicating that they have read and understand the 2009 Ethics Code.

Next Meeting:

The next regularly scheduled meeting is Friday, March 20, 2009, 8 a.m., town hall. If not needed, the chairman will cancel the meeting.

Meeting Ended:

Susan Goldstein motioned to end the meeting, Claire Horst seconded and all agreed. The meeting ended at 9:10 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda J. Keeling,
Ethics Board Secretary
February 24, 2009