



ETHICS BOARD

815 Washington Street
Reading, PA 19601
610-655-6204

March 4, 2009

Present: Jeff Darlington, Doris Leisawitz, Joseph Amprey, Steve McCracken, Chair
– 4.

Absent: Jonathan Del Collo – 1.

Also Present: Ed Stock, Solicitor
Shelly Katzenmoyer, Secretary

The meeting was called to order at 5:09 pm by Steve McCracken, Chair.

MINUTES

A motion was made by Joe Amprey, seconded by Jeff Darlington, to approve the August 20, 2008 minutes as written. The motion carried unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

- Education – Rev. McCracken and Ms. Katzenmoyer met with the Human Resources Director. Ms. Wheelen agreed to distribute the brochure about the Code of Ethics with employee paychecks. She also informed them that she was planning an ethics training session for all employees. Rev. McCracken and Ms. Katzenmoyer requested that the City Code of Ethics be reviewed at that time along with the complaint process. Mr. Stock stated that the legal case regarding ethics training is no longer applicable.

NEW BUSINESS

- COGEL – Rev. McCracken highlighted the conference. He stated that many legislators were present. The topics included election issues, disclosure issues and the new PA Right to Know law. He stated that people were in attendance from around the world. He stated that he was impressed with the conference and found it very informative.

- Airport Authority – Rev. McCracken noted his intention of becoming a member of the Reading Regional Airport Authority. He stated his willingness to continue assisting the Board of Ethics until his replacement could be found. Ms. Katzenmoyer noted that the appointment resolution is on Council's agenda for action on March 9.
- Anti-Theft Policy – Mr. Stock noted that this issue would be added into Section 6 and would define fraudulent activities. He stated that this would then become part of the jurisdiction of the Board of Ethics. Rev. McCracken stated his opinion that the Code already covered this issue. Mr. Stock stated that this would add specificity. He stated that the concept is good but that he has a few linguistic changes. He will make the changes and provide them to Ms. Katzenmoyer.
Motion was made by Joe Amprey, seconded by Doris Leisawitz, directing Mr. Stock to make the changes necessary. Motion carried unanimously.
- Integrity in Government – Ms. Katzenmoyer informed the Board that this ordinance is already included in the City's Codified Ordinances. She stated that it is currently part of the Purchasing policies. She noted Councilor Fuhs' hope that the Board would relocate this into the Code. This would give the Board jurisdiction and would give enforcement powers. Mr. Stock requested additional time to review the Ordinance. Ms. Leisawitz questioned if the Board wanted to move in this direction. Dr. Amprey questioned who would enforce this if not this Board. Rev. McCracken stated this would fall to the Board of Elections. Mr. Stock stated the problem with the Ordinance is that it assigns no enforcement power. He noted his willingness to rewrite the Ordinance and adapt it to the Code. Ms. Leisawitz stated her discomfort with this issue. Rev. McCracken questioned if this becomes part of the Code would there be duplication with the Board of Elections. Mr. Stock stated that there may be some overlap but this would exceed the State code. Rev. McCracken questioned if it was permissible to exceed the State code. Mr. Stock noted that this would require research. He stated he will circulate his review via email through Ms. Katzenmoyer. This issue will be discussed further at the next meeting.
- Investigation – Ms. Katzenmoyer and Mr. Stock have no further information from the investigative officer.
- Elections –
 - **A motion was made by Ms. Leisawitz, seconded by Dr. Amprey, to nominate Jeff Darlington as Chair. Mr. Darlington accepted the nomination. Motion carried unanimously.**
 - **A motion was made by Rev. McCracken, seconded by Ms. Leisawitz, to nominate Joe Amprey as Vice Chair. Dr. Amprey accepted the nomination. Motion carried unanimously.**
- Ms. Leisawitz stated her intention of running for the Inspector of Elections. She stated that she is running unopposed and questioned if this would be a conflict of interest. Mr. Stock stated that it was, as the Code is currently written. He questioned if the Board would be willing to rewrite this section so that members can hold de minimus elected positions. The Board stated its willingness to

discuss this possibility. Mr. Stock will review this section and this issue will be further discussed at the next meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 5:53 pm.

The next meeting of the Board of Ethics will be held on Wednesday, April 22 at 5 pm.

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