

TOWN OF HUDSON
Code of Ethics Committee
7:00 PM
May 10, 2022
Minutes

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Chairwoman Kim Rice at 7:00 PM in the Buxton Meeting Room at Town Hall.

Pledge of Allegiance: The pledge of allegiance was led by Chairwoman Rice.

Roll Call: Present: Kim Rice, Todd Terrien; Michael MacDonald, Heather Smalley and Robert Wherry. All members are present.

Old Business:

Approval of Minutes for Code of Ethics Meeting from March 22, 2022.

No feedback from board members.

Motion by Mr. Terrien, seconded by Mr. MacDonald, to approve the meeting minutes from March 22, 2022. The motion passed 4-0-1. Chairwoman Rice abstained as she did not attend the meeting on March 22, 2022 due to a conflict of interest.

New Business:

Review of the Code of Ethics Bylaws:

Chairwoman Rice: We are going to review the bylaws because we had received a complaint by someone, and I can't say that I don't agree with them, because they found out a complaint was filed against them on TV. I know for me I would be angry if that's how I found out. I think we should amend the bylaws under Procedures on Petitions to say, "within thirty (30) days after receipt. A copy of the Petition shall be forwarded to the Board of Selectmen and the Respondent. The copy to the Respondent shall be accompanied by a short cover letter which provides information about the Committee's procedures, the form of which is attached hereto as Exhibit A." Exhibit A is a letter that will be sent with the complaint to the person that filed the complaint, that way they are not surprised, and they are made aware of the procedures.

Mr. MacDonald: This is going to the person that the complaint was filed against, correct?

Chairwoman Rice: Yes, so that they know. I think that is only fair.

Mr. MacDonald: I think it makes complete sense to send it to the respondent. The only part of the change that I question the rationale for is, why forward a copy of the complaint to the Board of Selectmen? They are not involved in the process until we make a final determination as to whether there was a violation of the code of ethics.

Mr. Terrien: I don't think we need to have that in there. I'd like to see if we could strike that.

Mr. MacDonald: I think the complaint should be kept between us and those involved. I don't see the need to be looping the Selectmen in on things that are not Selectmen business, until a decision has to be made.

Chairwoman Rice: Is everyone amenable to striking the part about sending the complaint to the Selectmen? I also think in Exhibit A, we should be sending a copy with the procedures to the petitioner.

Ms. Smalley: Like as a CC?

Chairwoman Rice: Yes.

Ms. Smalley: I agree. How about, "A carbon copy of the letter shall be sent to the Petitioner"? I had one other edit, in Exhibit A, third paragraph and second sentence, it should say preliminary and not preliminarily. Other than that, I was fine with everything else.

Chairwoman Rice: I really like this. It makes it clear for both parties.

Mr. Wherry: Should we add to the bottom of Exhibit A, CC: Petitioner?

Chairwoman Rice: (to Mr. MacDonald) Do you have a copy of this on your computer so you can send a copy to Lorrie once we vote on them?

Mr. MacDonald: I only have what was posted on the website, but I can contact Lorrie for the word document version.

Motion by Mr. Wherry, seconded by Mr. MacDonald, to accept the bylaws with the edits as discussed. The motion passed 5-0.

Motion by Ms. Smalley, seconded by Mr. Terrien, to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed 5-0.

Code of Ethics Committee meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:10pm.