

BOARD OF ETHICS

MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING

OCTOBER 17, 2023

A Special Meeting of the Board of Ethics of the Town of Wallingford was held on Tuesday, October 17, 2023 at 6:30 p.m. in Room 315 of the Wallingford Town Hall, 45 South Main Street, Wallingford, Connecticut.

Meeting called to order at 6:40 p.m.

In attendance: Members: Chairman Dean Warburton, Mary Paquette, Sean Doherty and Jon Venoit.

Also present: Attorney Jeffrey Donofrio (representing the Board)

1. Hearing on Ethics Complaint brought by Craig Fishbein against Jason Zandri:

- a. Discussion regarding Complainant's proposed Stipulations of Fact; Respondent did not agree with several proposed stipulations so the parties agreed to remove paragraphs 20 and 26 and modify paragraphs 19 and 22 as shown on the Exhibit; With the aforementioned modifications, the Stipulations of Fact were admitted into evidence as Exhibit T. Complainant's Exhibits A-S were admitted into evidence without objection;
- b. Both parties gave brief opening statements;
- c. Both parties were sworn in for testimony;
- d. Complainant, Craig Fishbein, presented his case and asked questions of Respondent, Jason Zandri and rested his case;
- e. Respondent, Jason Zandri, presented his defense and rested his case;
- f. Board members asked questions and engaged in discussion of the matter;
- g. Parties made closing statements
- h. At 8:21 pm, the Board recessed into executive session with Attorney Donofrio and reconvened in public session at 9:12 pm.

2. Discussion and possible action by the Board on the complaint, after hearing:

Attorney Donofrio read the sections of the Code and Town Charter relevant to this matter: Code Sections 20-4.A and B; 20-3, definition of interest; 20-5.A and Town Charter Chapter 21,B.

Motion to find that a violation occurred under the Code of Ethics, Sections 20-4.A, 20-4.B, 20-5.A and Town Charter Section 21.B. Motion made by Sean Doherty and seconded by Mary Paquette. Motion was approved unanimously.

The Board noted that when Mr. Zandri became aware of the possible violation, he quickly rectified the situation by removing the agenda item and resigning from the Wallingford Grange, Board of Directors.

The Board recommends that the Town Council take part in annual Code of Ethics training.

Attorney Donofrio noted that a Memorandum of Decision is required within 15 days and he will prepare one.

Meeting adjourned at 9:20 by motion made by Sean Doherty, seconded by Mary Paquette and approved unanimously.

Dated: October 20, 2023