

Minutes of the Meeting of the Ethics Committee
Wednesday, September 23, 2020

Ethics Committee will be abbreviated to "EC."

Meeting called to order at 7:01 p.m.

Committee Members Present: Jan Pemberton, Brian Geraghty, Rob Squiers, John Clark, (7:07 p.m.) Scott Houghton

Committee Members not present: Joe Ghanem, Matt Seely (see below)

Guests Present: Burnie Pemberton, Laurel Kraus, Danielle Gehlert

Brian Geraghty nominated Jan Pemberton to be Chairperson, supported by Rob Squiers and unanimously approved.

Brian Geraghty nominated Rob Squiers to be Secretary, supported by John Clark and unanimously approved.

Discussed EC membership changes to a "citizen's only" committee - Kedzierski and Nichol have resigned in writing. Kedzierski stated to Pemberton that Seely would not serve on the EC. To date, the Seely resignation has not been confirmed. EC agreed Seely's status should be clarified. Pemberton to follow up.

EC recognized and approved with correction, the minutes of the Village GPSAMC Meeting of the City Council, published as Tuesday, August 20, 2020 (sic – should be Monday, August 18, 2020) specifically, the following excerpt within Item 15. Mayor's Comment: "The Mayor also reported on the Mayor's resignation from the Ethics Committee to avoid any appearance of impropriety. His resignation from the Ethics Committee will now exclusively allow citizens to direct the ordinance drafting process."

Discussed general purpose of the EC: To draft a prospective ordinance to provide ethical guidance to elected, appointed and employed village personnel. The prospective ordinance would likely provide for the establishment of an Ethics Board to investigate and advise on matters brought to its attention. The prospective ordinance would be presented to the council for consideration. EC recognized council would have full authority to accept or reject, in part or in entirety, the prospective ordinance, or return it to the EC with instructions for further drafting following which the approval or rejection process could be repeated until council ended the process at which time the EC would disband.

Geraghty proposed a document with "Rules and Procedures for the Ethics Committee Meetings" for the EC on the lines of the rules and procedures established for the Charter Commission, of which Geraghty was a member. The proposal was received favorably. Geraghty to present a draft document at the next EC meeting.

Discussed various approaches to prepare for the drafting of an ordinance, Source materials include the Michigan Attorney General Model Ethics Ordinance, as well as Ordinances from various communities

within Michigan. Among others, the ordinances of Ann Arbor, Grosse Pointe Park, Detroit and Birmingham were mentioned. Mentioned as a source for guidance to the EC is the Michigan Municipal League's, *Ethics Handbook for Michigan Municipalities*.

Discussed some prospective elements of the ordinance: Conflicts of Interest, FOIA, Transparency, Gifts/Donations/Solicitation, Failure to Act (ex.: paying fines, taxes), Application of Ethics Ordinance during Campaign for Office, Nepotism, Promise of Future Benefits, Civility/Decorum, Social media, etc. EC acknowledged that any prospective ordinance would be subordinate to collective bargaining agreements. Each EC member will circulate a list of prospective ordinance elements to fellow members to establish a preliminary list for discussion at the next EC meeting.

Discussed a standard set of ordinance definitions. Adopting the definitions set forth in the model ordinance was favorably received.

Discussed methods for communicating EC meetings to GPS citizens to solicit participation and input.

Open Comments:

Gehlert suggested that as a starting point, the EC should consider the ethics ordinances of communities of similar size and composition.

Next meeting: Tuesday, October 13 @ 7:00 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 7:57 p.m.