

BOARD OF ETHICS

February 20, 2024

Special Meeting – 6:30 pm

SUBJECT TO APPROVAL

RECEIVED FOR RECORD
IN NEWINGTON, CT

2024 MAR -5 PM 4:20


Town Clerk

I. Call to Order

The Board of Ethics Committee Special Meeting was called to order at 6:34 pm.

II. Roll Call

Commissioners Present

Mary Camilli
Nancy Cappello
Lynn Connery
Robert Gerrol
Frank Marci
Kristen Wagner
Edwin Zacharias

Commissioners Absent

Spencer Lombard

III. Public Participation

Rose Lyons – 46 Elton Drive

There was a question asked at the last meeting regarding speaking about the complaint in a public forum that I hope will be answered tonight because there is a lot of misinformation out there; and I feel as a resident that I would like to know whether or not the Complainant or the Respondent should be speaking in public about the complaint(s). There are so many rumors and conjectures, that I feel it is a disservice to this Board if you do not set the record straight as to what you can and cannot do and can and cannot say. As someone who has been on the Board before, came in when we needed to make up a complaint form because there was a threat that a complaint may be filed. I am trying to see this through to the end and see exactly how the procedure should go. I don't know that there has ever been a complaint brought before the Ethics Board in this Town. I know ten years ago there hadn't been. There was a threat of one, they couldn't find a form, we came up with a form, and now we actually have a complaint(s). I would like to see it go forward and show the respect to this Commission/Board that should be shown and let the residents know what can and cannot be done and the Respondents and Complainants as well. Thank you.

IV. Remarks by Board Members

Frank Marci stated that there was a complaint over ten years ago that was dismissed. With regards to what is going on online, because of the confidentiality at this point, I don't think any members of the Board can say one way or another who it involves or does not involve so confidential information is not revealed. I believe we will be talking in Executive Session tonight what our next steps will be, but you can rest assure everything will be done properly. I thank Lynn Connery for making sure we got the attorney involved so that we would see this process through to the end with the respect it needs to be dealt with.

Lynn Connery stated that she understands that people want to know what the complaints are, but under statute you cannot mention the Complainant or who the complaints are about. If it goes away—if it's deemed no ethic violation—then you will never know because then it's locked and sealed. If it's deemed there was an ethic violation, then it goes to the Town Council, and then it is made public. That is why everything is done in Executive Session.

Frank Marci stated that the person that the complaint is made against, if it is dismissed, that person may reveal that a complaint was made against them, if I'm not mistaken.

Lynn Connery stated that they can even talk now, but the members of the Board of Ethics cannot.

Resident Rose Lyons stated that her main concern was that the Respondent(s) may speak in public. The public needs to know there are procedures in place.

Lynn Connery mentioned that there is a Code of Ethics on the Town website, and people can refer to that instead of other avenues of information.

V. Executive Session – CGS §1-200(6)(A)

Board members and Attorney Needelman went into Executive Session at 6:43 pm to discuss the Complainant and the complaint(s).

a. Interview(s) and discussion concerning pending Ethics complaint

Board members and Attorney Needelman adjourned from Executive Session at 8:51 pm.

VI. Public Participation

None

VII. Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 8:55 pm.