



Vermont State Ethics Commission

Meeting Minutes April 5, 2023 Remote Attendance*

1. Call to Order: The regular meeting, held remotely via Zoom, was called to order by Paul Erlbaum at 10:03 A.M. Also present for the meeting were Commission members Sarah Butson, Christopher Davis, Sarah Biolsi Vangel, Executive Director Christina Sivret, and Administrative Assistant Erin Smith. Commissioner Michele Eid was absent.

2. Approval of Minutes: On the motion of Chris Davis, second by Sarah Butson, minutes of the February 1, 2023, meeting were approved.

3. Public Comment: None

4. Executive Session: At 10:06 A.M., on the motion of Chris Davis, second by Sarah Biolsi Vangel, the Commission went into Executive Session to discuss complaints and Guidance requests received over the last few weeks. At 10:19 A.M., on the motion of Chris Davis, second by Sarah Biolsi Vangel, the Commission voted to conclude the Executive Session and return to open session.

5. Executive Director's Report:

Legislative Update: In January, the Senate Committee on Government Operations requested proposed language from the Ethics Commission regarding penalties for failure to file required Executive Officer and candidate financial disclosure forms, as well as language instructing the Commission to prepare a report on a possible municipal ethics framework for Vermont. The intention was for the language to be part of a stand-alone miscellaneous bill. The Ethics Commission submitted the language during the first and second weeks of February, after circulating it to a variety of interested parties for review in comment. Unfortunately, the Committee did not get to consider the bill before crossover, and they are now looking to break up the language and attach it to other, existing bills. As of now, there is a proposal to add the candidate financial disclosure language to H. 429, a miscellaneous elections bill. On 3/29, the

Executive Director testified about the proposed language before the Committee, and also submitted [written testimony](#).

Media Update: On April 4, Executive Director Sivret was interviewed on WDEV by Pat McDonald.

Speaking Event Update: The Executive Director is still working on a possible May speaking event with Lt. Col. Alexander Vindman. Vermont Law school is interested in co-sponsoring the event, and Cabot is interested in donating refreshments. The Commission still needs additional co-sponsors to help cover costs, expand the event's reach, and help with event logistics. The Executive Director asked the Commissioners about the maximum amount of funding the Commission could release for the event, given its potential benefits and the national profile of the speaker. The Commission agreed on an amount of \$10,000 plus expenses. The Executive Director will continue to follow up with prospective co-sponsors. If the Executive Director cannot come up with the additional co-sponsors in the next few weeks, the Commission may need to cancel or push the event off until fall.

6. Other Business: None.

7. Adjournment: Chris Davis moved to adjourn, second by Sarah Butson. The meeting adjourned at 11:13 A.M.