



Vermont State Ethics Commission

Minutes of October 6, 2021 (Unapproved)

1. Call to Order: The meeting, held in person and remotely via Zoom, was called to order by Acting Commission Chair Paul Erlbaum at 11:03 a.m. Also present for the meeting were Commission members Christopher Davis, Michele Eid, Ze Anderson-Brown and Sarah Biolsi Vangel, and Executive Director Larry Novins. No member of the public attended the meeting.

2. Approval of Minutes: For lack of a quorum of members present at the September 1, 2021 meeting, the minutes of that meeting were not considered. They will be reviewed at the Commission's November 3, 2021 meeting. On the motion of Ze Anderson-Brown second by Sarah Biolsi Vangel, the minutes of the September 16, 2021 meeting were approved. On the motion of Chris Davis, second by Ze Anderson-Brown, the minutes of the September 23, 2021 meeting were approved. On the motion of Ze Anderson-Brown, second by Chris Davis, the minutes of the September 29, 2021 meeting were approved with minor corrections.

3. Public Comment: None

4. Executive Director's Report: Larry Novins briefed the Commission on his efforts to update via informal conversations with Chief Justice Reiber and Gov. Scott's legal counsel Jaye Johnson the other branches of government about the Ethics Commission's status and efforts over the last year. Novins assisted the new Executive Director search efforts by extending the listing through the State of Vermont website. He also had the job description posted on the Vermont Bar Association website. Novins told the Commission that TJ. Jones continues to be available as a resource to the Commission. Novins participated in a panel discussion on transparency, ethics, and open government sponsored by the Vermont Council on World Affairs. Novins spoke also of continuing IT issues the office has seen over the last month.

5. Other Business: None

6. Executive Session to Discuss Complaints, and Personnel matters: At 11:13 a.m., on the motion of Chris Davis, second by Ze Anderson-Brown, the Commission went into executive session to discuss complaints, guidance requests, and personnel matters. These matters are confidential per 3 V.S.A. §§ 1221(d), 1223(c), and 1225(a)(3). At 11:48 a.m. on the motion of Sarah Biolsi Vangel, second by Chris Davis, the Commission voted to conclude the Executive Session and return to open session

8. Adjournment: Chris Davis moved to adjourn, second by Sarah Biolsi Vangel. The meeting adjourned at 11:49 a.m.

Next Meeting: The Ethics Commission's next regular monthly meeting will be Wednesday, November 3, 2021 at 10:00 a.m.* The meeting will be held both in person and remotely via Zoom.

*On the morning of the meeting, the needed Zoom meeting ID number and password will be posted on the Ethics Commission web site under "Meetings." Directions for attending the meeting via internet video or by telephone will be included.