



Vermont State Ethics Commission

Minutes of September 1, 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 10:18 a.m. Also present for the meeting were Commission members Christopher Davis, Michele Eid, and Executive Director Larry Novins. Absent: Ze Anderson-Brown and Sarah Biolsi Vangel.

2. Approval of Minutes: On the motion of Michele Eid, second by Chris Davis, the minutes of the August 4, 2021 meeting were approved. The Commission amended the agenda to remove item 6 and add "personnel matters" to its executive session.

3. Public Comment: None

4. Executive Director's Report: Larry Novins reported on his efforts to publicize the Executive Director position. Bill Meirs of the Department of Human Resources arranged for the publication of the job description for the soon-to-be-open position. Novins will verify that the job description will be published in major news outlets. Novins reviewed his attempts to get a badge for acting Chair Paul Erlbaum to get access to the office when needed and his attempts to get an email address for new Commission member Ze Anderson-Brown. Novins reported that the State has decided to move the Commission office across the hall to a smaller room. The current room will be used as a conference room and will be available for the Commission's meetings.

During August, Novins participated in two ethics trainings, one with CAPS, the other a presentation to the Cannabis Control Board and its Advisory Committee.

5. Executive Director Appearances at Public Meetings or Events: Commissioner Erlbaum, who had received an invitation to speak at a good government meeting, asked for thoughts regarding whether individual commissioners should accept such an invitation. The Commissioners present unanimously agreed: It is acceptable practice for individual Commissioners to make general public comments regarding the Commission's activities. Unless authorized by the Commission, individual Commissioners will avoid public comments regarding specific matters. The Executive Director will use discretion when speaking on behalf of the Ethics Commission.

6. Other Business: The Commission approved the issuance of a press release to publicize the Executive Director Position and the appointment of new ethics Commissioner Susan "Ze" Anderson-Brown. It also agreed to hold a special meeting on Thursday, September 16, 2021 beginning at 8:30 a.m. which will be an executive session meeting to review applications for the Executive Director position.

7. Executive Session to Discuss Complaints, and Personnel matters: At 10:38 a.m., on the motion of Chris Davis, second by Michele Eid, 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 11:54 a.m. on the motion of Michele Eid, seconded 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 Michele Eid. The meeting adjourned at 10:59 a.m.

Next Meeting: Special meeting September 16, 2021.

The Ethics Commission's next regular monthly meeting will be Wednesday, October 5, 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.