



Vermont State Ethics Commission

Minutes of December 1, 2021

- 1. Call to Order:** The meeting, held remotely via Zoom, was called to order by Paul Erlbaum, Chair. Present for the meeting were Commission members Christopher Davis, Sarah Biolsi Vangel, Susan Anderson-Brown, and Executive Director Christina Sivret.
 - 2. Approval of Minutes:** On the motion of Paul Erlbaum, second by Sarah Biolsi Vangel, the minutes of the September 6, 2021 meeting were approved. On the Motion of Susan Anderson-Brown, second by Paul Erlbaum, minutes from the November 3, 2021 and October 6, 2021 meetings were approved.
 - 3. Public Comment:** None
 - 4. Executive Director's Report:** Christina Sivret updated Commission members on the upcoming office move as well as recruitment efforts for the part-time administrative assistant position. Engagement with members of the House and Senate Government Operations Committees is ongoing in advance of the 2020 legislative session. Revisions to H.384 include a provision that allows public servants or their supervisors to request a conflict of interest determination from the Ethics Commission upon the submission of a detailed written statement. Additional information is needed to clarify whether the provision anticipates this to be a request for an Advisory Opinion, whether the Commission's determination will be binding, and whether the legislature intends for the determination to be made public.
 - 5. Discussion of Short and Long-Term Commission Priorities:** Chair Paul Erlbaum reviewed the long-term goals for the Commission including the passage of the the statutory code of ethics; examining whether a statutory change to the method of selecting commissioners is needed; the eventual drafting and passage of an ethics enforcement statute; implementation of trainings/listening sessions; and consideration of whether municipal members should be in the purview of the Commission. Chris Davis emphasized short-term goals include drafting and finalizing the annual report and the end-of-year disclosure forms. Susan Anderson-Brown highlighted relationship-building as an area of focus for the next 6 months.
 - 6. Other business:** Chair Paul Erlbaum requested a bio from Executive Director Christina Sivret.
 - 7. Adjournment:** Paul Erlbaum moved to adjourn, second by Chris Davis. The meeting adjourned at 11:15 a.m.
- Next Meeting:** The next regular monthly meeting will be on January 5, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. It will be held remotely.