



## Vermont State Ethics Commission

### Meeting Minutes

January 5, 2022 (Unapproved)

#### Remote Attendance\*

- 1. Call to Order:** The meeting, held remotely via Zoom, was called to order by Paul Erlbaum, Chair, at 10:06 a.m. Present for the meeting were Commission members Chris Davis, Sarah Biolsi Vangel, Michele Eid, Executive Director Christina Sivret, and Administrative Assistant Carolyn Desch.
- 2. Approval of Minutes:** On the motion of Chris Davis, second by Sarah Biolsi Vangel, the minutes of the December 1, 2021, meeting were approved. On the Motion of Chris Davis, second by Sarah Biolsi Vangel, minutes of the December 8, 2021, meeting were approved.
- 3. Public Comment:** None
- 4. Executive Director's Report:** The Executive Director updated the Commission on legislative advocacy efforts regarding passage of the draft Code of Ethics. The draft Code is currently with the Senate Committee on Government Operations. They are expected to hold hearings on the draft bill in mid-January. In addition to meeting with members of the Senate Government Operations Committee in December and January, the Director met with Speaker of the House, Jill Krowinski. She will meet with Senate President pro tempore Becca Balint later in the month. Outreach to the judiciary and other interested parties is ongoing. Efforts to reach Rep. Gannon, sponsor of the draft bill have been unsuccessful. The Director was asked by the Center for Achievement in Public Service to speak about the role of the Ethics Commission to some of their classes later this year and she agreed. One ethics complaint was filed with the Commission during the month of December. It was later retracted.
- 5. Discussion of Short and Long-Term Commission Priorities:** The Executive Director reported that the draft 2021 annual report is almost finished. She will send it to the Commissioners for comment. Sarah Vangel Biolsi asked if the Commission is required to vote to approve the annual report. Michele Eid referred to last year's meeting minutes and said that they had voted last year. Executive Director Sivret said she didn't think a vote to approve the annual report was required. The Executive Director also reported that the office had started receiving Executive Disclosures, which are due by January 15. The Disclosures will be posted the Commission's website on January 18.
- 6. Executive Session:** Motion to go into Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter by Michele Eid, second by Chris Davis.
- 7. Other business:** On the motion of Michele Eid, second by Chris Davis, the Commission returned to public session. Carolyn Desch reviewed budget matters with the Commission. She will send around a copy of the budget request for the next fiscal year. Carolyn went over the per diem expense claim

process for Commission members. The Executive Director suggested a reference to an Advisory Opinion should be removed from the Commission's website. The Advisory Opinion had been withdrawn and the reference contained personally identifying information in violation of current Commission policies. The Commissioners agreed with the Executive Director's suggestion.

**8. Adjournment:** Chris Davis moved to adjourn, second by Michele Eid. The meeting adjourned at 11:05 a.m.