



Vermont State Ethics Commission

Meeting Minutes October 4, 2023 Remote Attendance*

- 1. Call to Order:** The regular meeting, held remotely via Zoom, was called to order by Paul Erlbaum at 10:07 A.M. Also in attendance at the meeting were Commission members Sarah Biolsi Vangel, Christopher Davis, Sarah Buston, 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 September 6, 2023, meeting were approved with grammatical correction.
- 3. Public Comment:** None.
- 4. Executive Session:** At 10:16 A.M., on the motion of Sarah Biolsi Vangel, second by Chris Davis, the Commission went into Executive Session to discuss complaints and Guidance requests received over the last few weeks. At 10:25 A.M., on the motion of Chris Davis, second by Sarah Biolsi Vangel, the Commission voted to conclude the Executive Session and to return to open session.

5. Executive Director's Report:

FY25 Budget: The Ethics Commission is currently understaffed compared to other comparable offices. For the FY25 budget the Commission will need to consider staffing requirements based on both current and future needs. These may include the Executive Director's position becoming full-time, the administrative assistant becoming a paralegal position, and/or the addition of a chief counsel position. Much will depend on what, if any, ethics-related legislation passes during the upcoming legislative session.

Municipal Ethics Framework: Research is ongoing regarding the proposed municipal ethics framework to be submitted to the legislature by January 15, 2024. The Commission has shared a skeleton framework with the Secretary of State's office and is waiting to hear feedback. Plans

are moving forward to hold municipal ethics listening sessions with members of the public and municipal officials in the coming weeks.

6. Other: Commission Chair Paul Erlbaum spoke about an upcoming meeting he has planned with Big Hartman from the Human Rights Commission and the potential to find common ground between the Human Rights Commission and the Ethics Commission. Sarah Biolsi Vangel agreed that it may be good to connect with the Human Rights Commission.

7. Adjournment: Chris Davis moved to adjourn, second by Sarah Butson. The meeting adjourned at 10:39 A.M.