



Vermont State Ethics Commission
Meeting Minutes
June 5, 2024
Remote Attendance*

1. Call to Order: The regular meeting, held remotely via Zoom, was called to order by Chair Paul Erlbaum at 10:05 a.m. Also in attendance were Commission members Christopher Davis, Michele Eid; Jack Kennelly, Executive Director Christina Sivret and Administrative Assistant Tina Wolk. Sarah Butson was absent.

2. Public Comment. None.

3. Approval of Minutes: On the motion of Michele Eid, seconded by Jack Kennelly, the minutes of the March 6, 2024 were approved. On the motion of Chris Davis, seconded by Michele Eid, the minutes of the May 1, 2024 meeting were approved with some minor amendments by Paul Erlbaum.

4. Executive Director's Report:

Update on H.875: The commissioners all gave a round of applause to Executive Director Chris Sivret for her hard work on H.875, which was passed by the legislature on May 10th. It is now on Governor Scott's desk for signature. Executive Director Sivret reported that she was disappointed that whistleblower protections for the members of the public were withdrawn from the bill, although whistleblower protections for municipal officials and municipal employees were left in. She thinks it is worth it to continue to raise this issue in the future. H.875 has various effective dates and municipal code of ethics will go into effect on January 1st, 2025.

H. 875 includes two new commissioner appointments, both of whom must be former municipal officials, bringing the number of commissioners from five to seven. The commissioners and Executive Director Sivret discussed whether there needs to be written policies in place regarding communications between commissioners and their appointing authorities. Current practice is that commissioners consider themselves completely independent of their appointing authorities and do not report back to them regarding Commission business. It was agreed that it would be a good idea to have written policies in place to establish this as official Commission practice. Executive Director Chris Sivret said she would work on drafting language for the commissioners to review.

5. Executive Session: At 10:42 a.m., on the motion of Chris Davis, seconded by Michele Eid, the Commission went into Executive Session. Executive Director Chris Sivret reported on complaints and requests for Guidance that had come in since the last Commission meeting.

6. Other business: Michele Eid asked who would be available to attend the COGEL annual meeting scheduled for the first week in December 2024. The conference will be in Los Angeles. Michele Eid said she would be interested in attending. Commissioners Kennelly and Erlbaum may also be interested in attending, schedules permitting.

7. Adjournment: At 11:00 am, Chris Davis moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Michele Eid.