



Vermont State Ethics Commission
Meeting Minutes
May 1, 2024
Remote Attendance*

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

2. Public Comment. None.

3. Approval of Minutes: On the motion of Sarah Butson, seconded by Christopher Davis, the minutes of the April 3, 2024 were approved at 10:06am. The minutes of the March 6, 2024 meeting were not approved as there was not a quorum of Commissioners in attendance who had been present at the March 6, 2024 meeting.

4. Executive Director's Report:

Update on Legislative Session: Executive Director Sivret provided an update on the status of H.875 in the Senate Government Operations Committee. The bill remains mostly intact from the version approved by the House and she believes it is likely to be voted out of Committee. The provision to add a seat on the Commission appointed by the Vermont League of Cities and Towns has been changed to provide for an additional seat to be appointed by the Governor. The bill does not include additional staffing for the Ethics Commission to help with the additional responsibilities associated with the bill. Because of this, some provisions in the bill will likely not go into effect until September 2025. This will give the Commission the opportunity to ask for additional staff during the next legislative session, to develop a municipal ethics training, and to get new policies and procedures in place related to the Commission's new investigatory and hearing responsibilities. Once the bill is passed by Senate Government Operations, it will go to the Senate Appropriations Committee and then to the full senate.

5. Executive Session: At 10:20am, on the motion of Chris Davis, seconded by Michele Eid, the Commission went into Executive Session to review revised Advisory Opinion AO_4_23 and complaints and guidance requests received since the last meeting. Commissioner Chris Davis recused himself from the discussion of one complaint and exited the meeting. Upon completion of the discussion of the complaint, Commissioner Davis re-joined the meeting. At the end of

Executive Session, the Commission voted to approve the revised AO_4_23. The Commission voted to end the Executive Session at 10:54am.

6. Other business: Executive Director Sivret reported that she is scheduled to testify before the Senate Government Operations Commission that afternoon. She also reported that she will be on vacation May 19-31, 2024.

7. Adjournment: At 10:58am, Chris Davis moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Sarah Butson, and the meeting was adjourned.