

**Vermont State Ethics Commission**

**Minutes of February 5, 2020 Meeting (approved)**

**1. Call to Order:** The meeting, held at the Ethics Commission office 6 Baldwin St. Montpelier, was called to order by Commission Chair Julie Hulburd at 10:12 a.m. Also present for the meeting were Commission members Sarah Biolsi Vangel, Michele Eid by telephone, Paul Erlbaum, and Executive Director Larry Novins. Commission member Christopher Davis did not attend.

**2. Approval of Minutes:** On the motion of Paul Erlbaum, second by Sarah Biolsi Vangel, the minutes of the January 8, 2020 meeting were approved.

**3. Public Comment**: None.

**4. Executive Director’s Report**: Larry Novins reported about his past and future appearances before the Senate Government Operations Committee, budget testimony before the House Appropriations Committee, and efforts to assist as the legislature considers S.198 and H.634. He reported about his appearance before the state CPA’s organization in January and attempts to garner support for a statutory ethics code.

Since the January meeting Novins was able to update the handout of Code of Ethics - General Principles and have it and the revised Ethics Commission information pamphlet printed. Also completed and printed before the January 15 filing date was the Commission’s Annual Report.

Novins and Chair Julie Hulburd spent a day at the legislature in the card room next to the House chamber at an Ethics Commission display. They were able to speak with quite a few people and update them on the Commission’s activities. The Annual Report was displayed there as well.

**5. Code of Ethics and Statutes Phase II** Novins briefed the Commission on revisions to “Phase II” of the Ethics Code statutory draft and the revision draft of the Code of Ethics - General Principles. The section regarding what public servants should do when they encounter a conflict of interest has been substantially revised. The portion defining “gifts” was also revised to reflect statutory definitions in Title 2 § 261. Novins will have an up-dated draft to share with the Commission at its March meeting.

**6. Terms of Office: Discussion** The Commissioners reviewed the status of their terms of office. Initial terms are of varying length. Second terms are for three years. As of now they are:

-Julie Hulburd, two-year term from January 1, 2018 through December 31, 2019. Her second term began on January 1, 2020 and expires on December 31, 2022.

-Sarah Biolsi Vangel, first three-year term from January 1, 2018 through December 31, 2020.

-Christopher Davis, first three-year term from January 1, 2018 through December 31, 2020.

-Michele Eid, filling the vacancy of Suzanne Lewisohn, term expires December 31, 2021.

-Paul Erlbaum, filled remainder of term which expired on December 31, 2019. He began his next term (three years) which will expire December 31, 2022. Novins will contact the League of Women Voters to verify that they wished Mr. Erlbaum to continue in this position.

**7. Executive Session to Discuss Complaints and Guidance Requests:** On the motion of Michele Eid, second by Sarah Biolsi Vangel, the Commission went into executive session to discuss complaints and guidance requests. These matters are confidential per 3 V.S.A. §§ 1221(d), 1223(c), and 1225(a)(3). On the motion of Michele Eid and Sarah Biolsi Vangel the Commission voted to conclude the Executive Session and return to open session.

**Other Business:** None.

**Adjournment:** Paul Erlbaum moved to adjourn, second by Sarah Biolsi Vangel. The meeting adjourned at 11:22 a.m.

**Next Meeting:** Wednesday, March 4, 2020 at 10:00 a.m.