

**Town of Corning Ethics Board
Meeting Minutes
April 25, 2017**

Dave Shafer called the meeting to order at 6:35pm.

Roll Call: Dave Shafer, Hope Johnson, Dave Boyd.

The Pledge of Allegiance was given.

Minutes Approval

Dave Boyd made a motion to approve the March 9, 2017 meeting minutes and Hope Johnson seconded it. Motion carried.

Resignation

Dave Shafer reported that Marc Witmer contacted him by email on March 24th and indicated that he is no longer interested in being a member of the Ethics Board. Dave noted that he has tried to reach Mr. Witmer on two occasions since to discuss his decision to resign but has not received a response. Motion to accept Mr. Witmer's resignation from the Ethics Board made by Hope Johnson, seconded by Dave Boyd and carried.

It was noted that there now are 2 vacant positions on the Board. Dave Shafer reported that Supervisor Feehan recently spoke with a resident of Gibson who expressed interested in being appointed to the Board. It was agreed that Dave Shafer and Hope Johnson would meet with this individual to acquaint him with the Board's duties, responsibilities of individual members, and answer any questions he may have. Dave Boyd indicated that he would also contact an acquaintance of his who had previously expressed some interest in the Ethics Board and see whether she would be willing to seek an appointment.

Hope Johnson recommended that Dave Shafer step down from his position on the Ethics Board due to the potential perception of a conflict of interest related to his concurrent roles as a member of the Town Board and President of the East Corning VFD.

Ethics Board - Best Practices

Dave Shafer reported that he has reviewed Ethics Board information on the websites of several other counties and towns in NYS (i.e. Steuben & Albany County; Towns of Ithaca, Lansing, Brookhaven and Yorktown) to develop a better understanding about current their policies, procedures, and practices. What he found was that information about Ethics activities varies greatly by county/municipality and suggested that the best examples of policies, procedures and disclosure practices can be found on the website for the Town of Yorktown. It was agreed that we should further evaluate how best practices adopted by other towns across the state can be adapted for use by this Board.

Annual Disclosures

Motion to discuss 2016 & 2017 Annual Disclosures by town employees and elected officials made by Hope Johnson, seconded by Dave Boyd and carried. Dave Shafer reported that a significant number of individuals who required to submit annual disclosure forms under town law have not done so for 2017. He will contact these individuals and remind them of this responsibility.

Advisory Reviews

Motion to enter discussion about ethics review of a Fire Service Efficiency Study that the Town of Corning plans to conduct in 2017 was made by Dave Boyd and seconded by Hope Johnson. Since Dave Shafer has recused himself from voting on this matter, a quorum vote could not be achieved on the motion. An ad hoc discussion on the matter then ensued, however. Hope and Dave Boyd expressed concerns about the appearance of impropriety that could occur in the performance of this study since 2 members of the Town Board are also officers of the East Corning Volunteer Fire Department. It was agreed that, in the absence of a quorum needed to adopt specific advisory recommendations from the Ethics Board on this matter, Hope and Dave (Boyd) should express their concerns directly to the Town Board.

Ethics Board Review: Town of Corning Ethics Law of 2016

No action taken.

Filling Vacancy on Ethics Board

See "Resignation" above. No further action taken on this topic.

2017 Meeting Dates

The Board agreed to meet again on May 9th or 11th (whichever works best for all members) at 6:30pm.

Visitor Comments

There were no visitors to the meeting and, therefore, no comments.

Motion to Adjourn

Motion to adjourn made by Dave Boyd at 7:40pm, seconded by Hope Johnson, and carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted by,



David Shafer
Acting Chairman-Ethics Board