

**Town of Corning Ethics Board
Meeting Minutes
May 9, 2017**

Dave Shafer called the meeting to order at 6:33pm.

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

The Pledge of Allegiance was given.

Minutes Approval

Hope Johnson made a motion to approve the April 25, 2017 meeting minutes and Dave Boyd seconded it. In discussion, Hope requested an addition to the minutes. Agreement regarding wording of addition reached and the motion to approve the (amended) minutes was carried.

Ethics Board - Best Practices

An open discussion reoccurred about Mr. Shafer's role on the Ethics Board and the potential for a perceived conflict of interest relative to his positions on the Town Board and as President of the East Corning VFD. Hope Johnson reiterated her opinion that he should step down from the Ethics Board because of this. Mr. Shafer reiterated that he would physically recuse himself from any future Ethics discussions or votes regarding the ECVFD but would not resign his position on the Ethics Board.

Motion made by Dave Boyd to temporarily appoint Hope Johnson as Acting Chairman of the Ethics Board until a full contingent of 5 members is in place. Motion seconded by Hope Johnson and unanimously carried.

Discussion occurred about job titles in the Town of Ithaca for which Annual Disclosure Forms must be completed. They do not require employees outside of these specific job titles to complete the form. An internet search revealed that this is a common practice in other NYS towns as well. Dave Shafer will contact Supervisor Feehan to get a list of current TOC job titles so that the Ethics Board can render an opinion on this issue to the Town Board.

Draft copies of "Internal Guidelines" for operation of the TOC Ethics Board and a "Procedures" guide for staff and public use were circulated for review and discussion. These documents were redrafted for use by the TOC Ethics Board from best practice examples identified in an internet search of other NYS towns. The Board will meet again in 2 weeks to review these draft documents in more detail.

Advisory Reviews

No action taken.

Filling Vacancy on Ethics Board

Mr. William Groeger was recognized as a candidate for appointment to the Ethics Board. Mr. Groeger indicated that he is a long-time resident of Gibson and Corning, Inc. retiree. He expressed interest in the operations of the Ethics Board and indicated that he is a strong advocate of "squeaky clean" ethical performance by elected officials and municipal employees.

2017 Meeting Dates

Motion by Hope Johnson that the Ethics Board meet again on Tuesday, May 23rd at 6:30pm to review details of draft Policy & Procedure documents for guiding Ethics Board operations. Seconded by Dave Boyd and unanimously carried.

Visitor Comments

Mr. Groeger indicated that he would be willing to have Hope Johnson submit his name to the Town Board as a candidate for appointment to the Ethics Board at the Town Board's meeting on May 16, 2017. Hope will ask Supervisor Feehan to add this to the Agenda for the Town Board's meeting on May 16th.

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
Member-Ethics Board