

MINUTES
TOWN OF WINCHESTER
CODE OF ETHICS COMMISSION
JUNE 7, 2016 AT 7 P.M.

The first meeting of the Town of Winchester Code of Ethics Commission began at 7 p.m. on the above date.

Those in attendance at the meeting were: Anita Garnett, Lynn Kessler, Mike Gamari, and Judith Dixon.

First order of business was election of officers. Motion by Anita Garnett, seconded by Lynn Kessler: to nominate Judith Dixon for both Chairman and Secretary of the Ethics Commission. Vote was unanimous.

Discussion of Ethics Complaint as presented then ensued. Issue dealt with jurisdiction and the authority of the Ethics Commission to deal with various aspects of the complaint. It was noted that the Ethics Commission has authority to deal with employees and public officials of the Town of Winchester. The definition of public officials are those officials elected by the public and any employee of the town or any agency of the town. It was generally discussed that Mr. Travaglini was the state appointed Receiver for the town's school systems and he was neither appointed nor elected by the Town of Winchester. It was further noted that complaints regarding Freedom of Information are properly directed toward the State Freedom of Information Commission.

It was generally discussed that the commission would have jurisdiction over Mari-Ellen P. Valyo as an employee of the Winchester Board of Education/Gilbert School. However, with respect to conflict of interest, the Connecticut General Statutes §10-232 provides that no member of a Board of Education shall be employed for compensation by that same Board. The statutory provision is that if any member of such Board is employed contrary to the provisions of that section, the office to which he or she was elected or appointed "shall become vacant". Accordingly, there was no time period during which Ms. Valyo, if she were both a member of a Board of Education and employed by the Board of Education, would actually have a conflict since, upon

accepting employment, her position as a Board member would automatically be declared vacant.

There was further discussion regarding the claim of disclosing the name of a special education student as a violation of section 4, disclosing "confidential information concerning town affairs". It was noted there was no indication in the complaint when the name was disclosed, to whom, under what circumstances, etc. The commission did not have enough information in order to determine the exact nature of the complaint.


On motion by Anita Garnett, seconded by Lynn Kessler: that the complaint so far as it concerned Mr. Travaglini was dismissed.

On motion by Anita Garnett, seconded by Lynn Kessler: that the complaint so far as it concerned Mari-Ellen P. Valyo and a claim of conflict of interest was dismissed.

On motion by Lynn Kessler, seconded by Mike Gamari: that the complaint so far as it concerned Mari-Ellen P. Valyo and an alleged violation of confidential information, was tabled.

. The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Judith Dixon
Chairman/Secretary