

**Town of Hebron**  
**Ethics Study Committee**  
April 21, 2010  
Regular Meeting  
Meeting Room – Town Office Building

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2010 APR 28 A 8:29

*Ann E. Hughes*  
Linda Blakely, Charles Redfern, Elaine Griffin

**Members Present:** Stan Marchut, Robert Zamojcin, Charles Redfern, Ann Hughes, Linda Blakely, Charles Redfern, Elaine Griffin

**Members Absent:** Glenn McGrath, Donna Ferree

Chairman, R. Zamojcin called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

**Public Comment:** None

**Approval of Minutes:** S. Marchut motioned to approve the minutes from the April 7, 2010 meeting without changes. A. Hughes seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**Review of Latest Draft Code:**

S. Marchut led a review of the Hebron Code of Ethics (Revised to include A. Hughes definitions and changes discussed at the April 7, 2010 meeting). A. Hughes noted two minor typographical errors. S. Marchut noted an addition that the definition for gifts excluded political contributions made in compliance with campaign finance regulations. R. Zamojcin and C. Redfern endorsed the language. S. Marchut went on to note that the term "incidental gratuities" seemed nebulous and wondered if it should be clarified or defined. Board members agreed that with a value limit of \$100, it was not necessary to define the term separately. Board members agreed that pages two and three were acceptable, and R. Zamojcin commented that language on page four should be changed to include "or leased" to reference vehicles and equipment. E. Griffin motioned to adopt the Code of Ethics as presented with the minor changes discussed. L. Blakely seconded the motion. A. Hughes commented that many codes have a closing statement referencing severability and inquired if one should be reflected on this code. R. Zamojcin indicated that he was fine with one not being included, and E. Griffin noted that the draft would be presented to the Town Attorney for review. A vote was called for to approve the motion and all members present were in favor.

**Discussion of Ethics Commission:**

S. Marchut distributed copies of the state statute outlining the establishment and operation of municipal ethics commissions. C. Redfern stated that according to CCM's Senior Legislative Associate, the two alternatives available are to use the Board of Selectmen to fill the function or to delegate complaints to the Town Attorney. A lengthy discussion took place about possible alternatives to establishing a commission during which E. Griffin expressed concern over the cost of a commission, should a budget be required to be established and noted that she would like to know if a budget is required before endorsing a recommendation for or against a commission. C. Redfern expressed surprise over how many towns utilized a commission, even ones with populations close to Hebron. L. Blakely endorsed the concept of establishing a commission, citing that such a commission would be comprised of volunteers that are not able to serve on any other boards or commission thus reducing the possibility of there being a conflict of interest, and further went on to state that any complaints with substance would be brought to legal counsel anyway so there would not be any cost associated that wouldn't already be incurred. C. Redfern offered to contact CCM to verify whether or not a budget would need to be allocated and if so, what an appropriate amount would be. C. Redfern suggested that establishing an ethics commission may prompt complaints that might otherwise not be realized. L. Blakely noted that by introducing an ethics code, the same effect might take place. E. Griffin suggested that the public hearing would bring attention as well. L. Blakely endorses establishing a commission, citing its ability to give the code some reinforcement and that by using the Board of Selectmen, a conflict could arise as they are bound by the code. C. Redfern agreed that having the Town Manager or Board of Selectmen could be misconstrued, and agreed that a commission would appear more impartial, but noted that a commission could be formed at any time.

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A. Hughes noted that according to CCM's 2008 statistics, only two of Connecticut's 126 towns had six or more complaints, and inquired what the real exposure was and a request was made to verify whether or not a commission would be required to have representation from the various political parties. C. Redfern offered to verify this information with CCM as well.

R. Zamojcin stated that he would feel more comfortable having a feel for whether or not board members are interested in having a commission prior to the public hearing and requested a poll of the board. Board members present offered the following opinions:

S. Marchut stated opposition to establishing a commission, citing a level of formality that would come with it and does not feel that introducing the code will create a deluge of complaints.

E. Griffin stated that as elected officials, the Board of Selectmen are capable of handling complaints and that townspeople should have faith in them to do that.

P. Moon prefers to use the existing structure in place rather than create a new commission.

L. Blakely stated that establishing a code would not incur a cost, and would only benefit the process.

C. Redfern agreed in principal to a commission but requires more information before committing.

In summary, board members elected not to formalize their recommendation to the Board of Selectmen regarding the establishment of an Ethics Commission until after the Public Hearing, but an informal poll resulted in six out of the seven members present in favor of rolling out the code without a commission with the understanding that a recommendation would be issued to revisit the concept. L. Blakely stated that she was in opposition to presenting the code without recommending a commission.

R. Zamojcin verified with E. Griffin that May 19, 2010 was a viable date to hold the Public Hearing. D. Lanza will post the required legal notice and R. Zamojcin will submit a letter to the editor of the Rivereast that will also direct readers to the town website where they can view the proposed code and reflect an email address where people can leave feedback that will be reviewed by S. Marchut and himself. S. Marchut agreed to represent the Ethics Committee at the next All Boards meeting where the code will be discussed.

E. Griffin stated that a copy of the code, as revised 3/17/2010, was presented to Town Manager Bonnie Therrien for review, along with a copy of the most recent meeting minutes.

R. Zamojcin inquired of how the code would be rolled out to the various boards and commissions. E. Griffin noted that the rollout would be a policy issue that would be decided by the Board of Selectmen and inquired if it would be prudent to invite the BOS to attend a future meeting, or to request being placed on a BOS agenda. C. Redfern noted that the document is not a code until the BOS adopts it.

S. Marchut stated that the RHAM BOE could not be covered by the code, but inquired if the code would apply to the HBOE and to what capacity, then requested that the BOS be asked to clarify how they want the Ethics Committee to proceed with that. E. Griffin offered to contact Bill Mazarra to obtain a copy of the BOE handbook to review for potential conflicts between it and the proposed code.

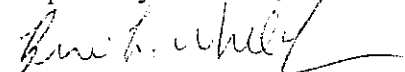
**Adjourn**

C. Redfern motioned to adjourn the meeting. A. Hughes seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 8:53 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for May 5, 2010 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Brian Whalen  
Board Clerk