

7.13.2021 Board of Ethics Meeting—Hybrid Meeting.

Dan Maher, Scott Gatti (in person), Marge Rama (virtual)

Call to order at 7:05pm

Approval of agenda- Motion to approve agenda by Gatti, Rama 2nd – all in favor.

Approval of minutes- Motion to approve 6.2.2021 minutes by Gatti, Rama 2nd- all in favor.

Discussion of Complaint form 001-

Maher noted 3 different dates- 6.17.2019, 2.2.2021, 3.15.2021. Maher proposed that the 6.17.2019 cannot be considered since it is outside of the scope due to time restrictions outside of the one year cutoff from the Ethics policy. Gatti read the article in the Ethics Policy for the record.

2.21.2021- BW&M committee vote: Within scope by dates of policy. Maher read a portion of Meltzer's brief that pertained to the 2.21.2021 date. Gatti mentioned the minutes that were submitted as evidence and how Mr. Johnson announced himself as the founder of the SE Chamber and the Warren Community Foundation. Now Ethics Board has to distinguish if there is a relationship between West and Johnson during the time in question. Financial disclosure form submitted by West was discussed. Submitted in 4.2019. Effective 4.20.2020 West resigned from the SE Chamber of Commerce. Question is currently if West has a relationship with the SE chamber or its entities. Website for Warren Community Foundation currently lists West a current team member. Gatti is in agreement with that submission from Maher. Rama asked if financial gains are received from the Warren Community Foundation. Gatti mentioned that on the foundation is not listed on current financial statement filed by West. Gatti read the conflict of interest portion of the policy for the record and mentioned that his findings would not change if finances were received or not received. It would be the recommendation of the Ethics Board to recuse West from any matters that involve the SE Chamber and its entities.

3.15.2021- Board Meeting: Maher read a portion of the brief submitted by Meltzer that calls on the 3.15.2021 date in question. Maher feels the financial disclosure forms filed are what is in question. Rama mentioned needing proof of resignation, Maher agreed. Gatti mentioned the financial disclosure form dated 6.2020. Neither the SE Chamber or the Warren Community Foundation or on the financial statement. Maher feels the community foundation should indeed be listed on the financial statement. Rama and Gatti agree that the financial statements are lacking.

Conclusion- lack of disclosure on financial disclosure form dated 6.19.2020. A conflict of interest did indeed take place. Recommendation will be made to the board.

Conclusion Comments: Conflict of Interest are extremely hard to identify and arrive to conclusion. There will be a learning curve and context for the board's consideration. Gatti wanted to enforce that we (the ethics board) is learning as we go through this process as are those that use the policy. It is a very broad policy. Rama mentioned that we are a recommending body and all are learning through this process.

Public Comment – No emails or entries in the chat were received.

Trustee West spoke in regards to her work with the Chamber, West apologized for any inconvenience, and had zero intention of anything unethical. West mentioned that she has previously tried to abstain from a vote and was turned down and forced to vote. Maher commented that he feels that it is all one

can do, disclose and ask to recuse. Maher mentioned active in the community and how conflicts can easily arise. Gatti mentioned that the Ethics Boards duty is to apply the policy to the analysis, no personal matters at all.

Clerk Meltzer spoke in response to Trustee West's comments. Meltzer feels that West saying she knows the policy and clearly knew what she did. The perception is important and feels that if a policy is brought forward it should be followed. Thanked the Ethics Board for their time.

Gatti motion to adjourn 7:49 Rama 2nd – All in favor.