

Luzerne County Ethics Code Subcommittee

February 28, 2011

Minutes

The second meeting of the Ethics Code Subcommittee convened at the Emergency Management Building in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania. It was called to order by Rob Bakewell at 6:45pm.

Members in attendance were: Rob Bakewell, James Bobeck, Veronica Ciaruffoli, Betsy Summers, Christine Dixon, Linda Trompetter, Peter Gagliardi, Rita Boyle, Len Frisbee, and Michael Cabell.

Members absent: Rick Morelli , Rich Heffron, and Lisa Eggleston

Citizen Comment- Tom Dombroski – Suggested that there should be reports from each Subcommittee in writing to the Transition Committee.

Thurman Guamp – stated that we are in need of a fresh look at other policies – that we should look outside the state for other successful codes.

Approval of Minutes- James Bobeck made a motion to approve the minutes submitted from the previous meeting, the motion was seconded by Len Frisbee and the vote was unanimous.

Old Business:

Review of work assignments/discussion-

Christine Dixon took a hard look at specific offences and penalties in the State code and the oversight of these policies. Christine stated that there are not very specific violations in the State code and suggested we detail our violations more specifically. Also the investigation process and who actually does the investigations needs to be addressed.

Betsy Summers concluded that the Allegheny County code was the most extensive with the exception of a list of penalties which they did not cover at all. On the other hand North Hampton was lacking in most of these areas and was not current.

Rob Bakewell handed out a list of offences and penalties and it was determined that we need to balance out each one with how it works in the “real world”.

Len Frisbee discovered that Erie County code does not exist in print. Delaware County’s Code defines a municipal officer as both paid and unpaid who is appointed to Subcommittees and ties them into one grouping.

Remaining Old Business – Veronica Ciaruffoli is going to develop a spreadsheet with everyone’s contact information and send it to each of the Subcommittee members.

New Business- Chairman Rob Bakewell questioned the rest of the Subcommittee if anyone objects to having their name posted on the County webpage. No one objected.

Veronica Ciaruffoli will put the minutes, names, and work assignments on the webpage.

Work assignments- Rita Boyle Developed a breakdown of Article IX of the Home rule Charter that describes the accountability, conducts, and ethics commission. This 3 page document will be distributed to the rest of the group upon its completion.

The Subcommittee will branch off into two work groups that will be responsible for commission function and the actual code writing. These groups will be filled by the next meeting by volunteers notifying our chairman via email.

Adjournment - Our next meeting will be Monday March 21, 2011 at 6:30pm at the Emergency Response Building. Veronica Ciaruffoli made a motion to adjourn and Len Frisbee seconded it, which was unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Rob Bakewell – Ethics Code Subcommittee Chair