

# Luzerne County Ethics Code Subcommittee

February 7, 2011

## Minutes

The first 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 6:30pm.

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

Members absent: Rick Morelli and Lisa Eggleston

**Citizen Comment-** There was no citizen comment.

**Organization of subcommittee** – It was decided that the Ethics Subcommittee would be an open forum/round table discussion in which we will all listen to the input of the various experts and other committee members to develop a sustainable Ethics Code for Luzerne County.

**Sitting of citizen volunteers** – James Bobeck made a motion to appoint all of our citizen volunteers and that they would have equal rights with regard to procedural voting and motions. The motion was seconded by Veronica Ciaruffoli and the vote was unanimous.

**Nomination and appointment of chair** – James Bobeck nominated Rob Bakewell as chairperson of the subcommittee and it was seconded by Betsy Summers. The vote was unanimous and Rob Bakewell was named Ethics Subcommittee Chairperson.

**Scope and mission of subcommittee** - It was decided that the mission of the Ethics Subcommittee would be to figure out remedies to ethical issues and help develop the best Ethics Code for Luzerne County. We will be responsible for gathering information, best practices and solutions to problems in reference to ethical issues.

Rich Heffron stated that a set of penalties instilled in the code cannot supersede anything the state mandates.

Peter Gagliardi mentioned that we need to work in something to the code that gives guidance to people whom know that there is a wrong doing in the County (whistle-blower protection).

James Bobeck stated that we should develop an ethics board so we do not have to wait for the state to punish wrong doings.

It was said that we should examine the other various Home Rule Counties and dissect their codes and relate their remedies and solutions.

**Work Assignments** – Len Frisbee volunteered to study Erie and Delaware Counties; Betsy Summers will study Lehigh, Northampton, and Allegheny Counties; and Rob Bakewell will study Lackawanna County. Christine Dixon will obtain and study Pennsylvania State ethics code.

**Adjournment** - Our next meeting will be Monday February 28, 2011 at 6:30pm at the Emergency Response Building. Rob Bakewell made a motion to adjourn and Jim Bobeck seconded it, which was unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Rob Bakewell – Ethics Code Subcommittee Chair