

Town of Thompson  
Ethics Advisory Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, February 18, 2015

<u>Attendees</u>	<u>Absent</u>	<u>Guests</u>
Jimmy Andrews Kathleen Herbert Al Landry Ray Dewey Gary Hopkins		

**1. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00PM.

**2. Approval of Minutes from February 4, 2015 meeting**

Kathleen entertained a motion to approve the minutes, Al motioned and Jimmy 2<sup>nd</sup>. Unanimous approval..

**3. Citizens' Comments**

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**4. Discussion of Draft Ethics Code to include**

**a. Review of prior sections of Code from February 4, 2015 meeting to include business meals, gifts, influence favors and other issues still needing discussion; and**

**b. Discussion of recusal section for code**

Ray was concerned that the idea of business meals may be misinterpreted or otherwise misconstrued. Kathleen reviewed how the section was written and agrees with Ray's interpretation generally because the section states that business meals are considered gifts and should not be accepted when acting in an official capacity on behalf of the Town.

Section J was next on the list about social media. Kathleen passed out some information regarding as such that described the creation of a social media policy and other policies would reference that document. Al and many of the other Committee members agreed that we should step away from the creation of a social media policy, it falls outside the scope of the Committee. Al also brought up the term 'disruptive' as it is mentioned in Section J mentioning that it doesn't sit well, along with the term 'personal opinion.' The group discussed. Al suggested to spell out the term 'inappropriate conduct' and applies to elected officials and not necessarily the staff. Kathleen will draft and Ray will adjust.

Sections L and M were reviewed and generally agreed upon as written.

In Section N, Al brought up the idea of "non-action" when someone sees something unethical. Jimmy also brought up the idea of "knowingly assisting" to account for those that may not be aware they are committing an ethical breach while under instruction from a superior. These topics were discussed at length with much of the group leaning towards keeping "non-action" out of the wording but not all. There are split ideas and beliefs about how effective an anonymous reporting system of ethical violations would be.

Section O was OK.

Section 5.A, Al asked if 'electors' was defined and Ray said no. Al said it should be, Ray will define. An elector is a town resident registered voter. Al also mentioned that appointing family members to committee's could be unethical.

Section 5.B Al suggested that we shouldn't force the alternate to fill a vacancy, it should only be offered. The group discussed and Al brought his thoughts on the topic explaining why he felt that way. The group generally agreed.

Section 6.A, B nothing to note.

Section 6.C Al mentioned it should be 10 working days, not 10 days. Ray mentioned that it may be a good idea to define advisory vs. declaratory and the group agreed. Jimmy asked to add in electronic media to C2.

**5. Committee Comments**

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**6. Citizen Comments**

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**7. Adjourn**

Kathleen adjourned. The EAC adjourned at 8:16PM

Next Meeting:

March 4<sup>th</sup> 2015.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jimmy Andrews

Secretary, Ethics Advisory Committee