

Town of Thompson
Ethics Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, April 15, 2015

<u>Attendees</u>	<u>Absent</u>	<u>Guests</u>
Kathleen Herbert Jimmy Andrews Al Landry Ray Dewey	Jason Akana Gary Hopkins*	Paul Baer

* - Gary has resigned from his position on the Ethics Advisory Committee.

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:55PM.

2. Approval of Minutes from March 18, 2015 meeting

Ray motioned, Al 2nd, approved. Unanimous.

3. Citizens' Comments

Paul opened his comments commending the EAC for the work that has been done to bring an Ethics Policy to Thompson. His primary concern that we discussed was surrounding whether hiring practices were being addressed, mentioning "conspiracy theories" that are popping up in regards to the EAC. Kathleen addressed most of the concerns, although there was an open discussion with Paul and the EAC surrounding these issues that Paul brought up. Kathleen has agreed to review hiring practices with the EAC again, in a subsequent meeting. Paul was given a copy of the most recent draft of the Code of Ethics to help address any concerns that may exist within a section of the Thompson population.

4. Discussion of Revised Draft Ethics Code:

Kathleen passed out an example of what a Thompson Social Media Policy would look like.

Multiple Agency Positions – Al suggested that "except in a public referendum" to include 'public meeting'. There was a group discussion, Paul was also included in the discussion to gain an outside perspective.

Ray suggested we up the fine of an Ethics Violation to \$150. He also checked the State statutes, which allow for up to a \$10,000 fine. Ray will look into changing the Town Code of Ordinances.

Kathleen feels that immediate family, multiple agency positions, nomination of Ethics Commission and appointment, and recusal process need to be less confusing and for next time we will discuss multiple agencies and hiring practices.

Al asked where ethics complaints go. Ray responded, they go to the Town Clerk. Al then asked if they were time-stamped, no they are not currently time stamped.

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5. Committee Comments

Al brought the literature "Local Government Ethics Programs in a Nutshell" by Robert Wechsler to the attention of the committee for review.

6. Citizens' Comments

{BLANK} (Paul was involved with the discussion throughout)

7. Adjourn

Kathleen adjourned the meeting at 8:23PM.

Next Meeting: May 6th, 2015.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jimmy Andrews

Secretary, Ethics Advisory Committee