



# *ETHICS BOARD*

815 Washington Street  
Reading, PA 19601  
610-655-6204

March 25, 2010

Present: Joseph Amprey, Robert Swope, Jeff Darlington, Chair – 3.

Absent: Jonathan Del Collo – 1.

Also Present: Ed Stock, Solicitor  
Shelly Katzenmoyer, Secretary

The meeting was called to order at 4:32 pm by Jeff Darlington, Chair.

## MINUTES

A motion was made by Joseph Amprey, seconded by Jeff Darlington, to approve the October 13, 2009 minutes as written. The motion carried unanimously.

## OLD BUSINESS

- Integrity in Government addition to Code of Ethics

Ms. Katzenmoyer explained that the Legislative Aide Committee has recommended adding this as a prohibition to the Code of Ethics. She stated that she worked with the City's legal staff in drafting the amendment and that the items in bold italics were the changes being proposed.

Mr. Stock stated that the amendment would ultimately need to be approved by City Council but that input from the Board is being requested.

Ms. Katzenmoyer questioned if the Supreme Court ruling regarding campaign contributions would affect the language. Mr. Stock stated that the ruling affects federal campaigns only. He stated that this may call State law into question and that it may become a future legal issue for Reading.

Mr. Stock reviewed the proposed amendment.

Mr. Swope questioned if the 10% ownership cited is commonplace. Mr. Stock replied that it was, as it would mean substantial benefit to the business owners.

Mr. Stock noted that this amendment would substantially limit the ability of those who wish to contribute to campaigns and those campaigning.

Mr. Darlington questioned who would initiate this type of complaint. Mr. Stock explained that it would be as other complaints, either the Board beginning the process or the receipt of a complaint. The amendment would bring this issue under the Board's jurisdiction.

Mr. Stock explained that the amendment would allow the business to be disqualified from City contracts and would allow fines.

Mr. Darlington questioned the next steps to be taken. Ms. Katzenmoyer stated that after the Board has approved the language, it would be given to City Council for their consideration.

Mr. Stock suggested that the Board decide if they wish to include this in the Ethics Code. He stated that once that decision is made, revisions to the language can occur. He expressed his belief that this is important legislation for the City.

Mr. Swope questioned why the amendment to the Code was necessary if the City already enacted an ordinance to this effect. Mr. Stock explained that as it is currently written, there is no means for enforcement.

Mr. Darlington questioned if there was a timeline that Council was hoping to follow for this legislation. Ms. Katzenmoyer stated that there was none at this time.

Mr. Darlington suggested that members review the information more closely and be prepared to discuss it at an upcoming meeting.

Dr. Amprey questioned why this was being proposed now. Mr. Stock noted that the public's perception is that those who contribute to campaigns get a future benefit. He stated that this concept tries to take money out of politics.

#### NEW BUSINESS

- Complaint Update

Ms. Katzenmoyer noted that the investigator indicated that two complaints were received and were noted as not being within the Board's jurisdiction. He further explained that if they had been, they would be viewed as de minimus infractions.

Mr. Stock explained the complaint procedure to Mr. Swope.

The next meeting of the Board of Ethics will be held on Thursday, April 8, 2010 at 4:30 pm in Council Chambers.

Meeting adjourned at 5:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Shelly Katzenmoyer  
Deputy City Clerk