



ETHICS BOARD

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

September 30, 2009

Present: Jonathan Del Collo, Joseph Amprey, Jeff Darlington, Chair – 3.

Absent: None – 0.

Also Present: Ed Stock, Solicitor
Shelly Katzenmoyer, Secretary

The meeting was called to order at 5:01 pm by Jeff Darlington, Chair.

MINUTES

A motion was made by Joseph Amprey, seconded by Jonathan Del Collo, to approve the April 22, 2009 minutes as written. The motion carried unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

- Integrity in Government addition to Code of Ethics

Mr. Stock suggested that this be reviewed by the Legislative Aide Committee to determine if it is appropriate to include in the Code of Ethics. Ms. Katzenmoyer will bring this issue to the Legislative Aide Committee.

NEW BUSINESS

- None.

OTHER BUSINESS

- Status of Investigation

Mr. Stock inquired if the Board received a copy of the investigator's findings. The Board noted that it did not. Mr. Stock indicated that he would send the report to Ms. Katzenmoyer for dissemination to the Board.

Mr. Stock described the complaint as one in which Mr. Hottenstein was accused of using his office to have traffic citations withdrawn. The investigator concluded that the citations were dismissed by the Police Department due to a personal relationship and not due to the authority of the office. The investigator noted the appearance of impropriety and recommended that Mr. Hottenstein receive a letter of admonition and a fine of \$153.50 (the amount of the traffic violation).

Mr. Stock noted that Mr. Hottenstein did not request a hearing or file an appeal. He stated that the Board must now decide to accept the recommendation of the investigator or to impose other sanctions. He stated his belief that the Board should review the findings report and meet again to formally discuss this issue.

Mr. Darlington noted that he felt this would be the best way to proceed. Mr. Stock stated that a hearing is allowed as part of the Code but that Mr. Hottenstein did not wish to pursue a hearing. This allows the Board to determine the penalty.

Dr. Amprey questioned who filed the complaint. Mr. Stock noted that it was Steve Keiser.

Mr. Del Collo questioned the total amount of the traffic citations. Mr. Stock noted that \$153.50 was the speeding violation and the second was the result of having an expired registration. He noted that it is common practice for the Police Department to drop the expired registration citation if the party can produce a current registration within a reasonable period of time. He stated that this citation may have been withdrawn regardless of the individual.

Dr. Amprey questioned if the citation was withdrawn by the officer who issued it. Mr. Stock stated that Officer Reilly issued the citation and it was withdrawn by Sgt. Fizz.

Dr. Amprey noted that he is influenced by the fact that a hearing was not requested. Mr. Stock requested that the Board focus on the appearance of impropriety while reading the findings report.

Dr. Amprey stated his belief that Sgt. Fizz also gives the impression of impropriety.

The next meeting of the Board of Ethics will be held on Tuesday, October 13 at 5 pm in Council Chambers.

Meeting adjourned at 5:16 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Shelly Katzenmoyer
Deputy City Clerk