



# *ETHICS BOARD*

August 27, 2015

Present: Jeff Darlington, Joseph Amprey, Jonathan DelCollo – 3

Also Present: Ed Stock, Solicitor  
Shelly Katzenmoyer, Secretary

The meeting was called to order at 5:36 pm by Mr. Darlington.

A quorum is present.

## PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no members of the public present.

## APPROVAL OF MINUTES

**Motion was made by Mr. DelCollo, seconded by Dr. Amprey, to approve the May 14, 2015 minutes as written. Motion carried unanimously.**

## OLD BUSINESS

- Campaign Finance

Mr. Stock stated that this is the first election cycle where the new campaign finance regulations are in place. He stated that many questions are being asked of the City Clerk's office and that they in turn forward the questions to him. He stated that most of the questions are interpretive and have legal ramifications. He stated that he has addressed many of the questions but expressed the belief that some questions deserve review by the Board and that they should be issued as Advisory Opinions.

Mr. Stock stated that Advisory Opinion #1 deals with Pre-Candidacy. He expressed the belief that the intention of Section 12 D is to prevent large contributions before declaring candidacy or to use the funds raised to run for another office on a current election. He expressed the belief that pre-candidate applies to any time before a person announces or files petitions for candidacy.

Mr. Darlington expressed the belief that filing the petitions is the official act of becoming a candidate. He questioned the paperwork that is filed. Ms. Katzenmoyer stated that a State Ethics Commission financial interest statement is filed along with petitions from the Elections Board. Mr. Stock stated that campaign expense reports are then required throughout the election cycle. He stated that the new regulations require candidates to file copies of their expense reports with the County Elections Office and the City Clerk. He stated that the reports are meant to keep money out of the election if it is raised before a person has declared candidacy.

Ms. Katzenmoyer questioned if there was time period associated with pre-candidacy. Mr. Stock stated that it was any time regardless of the time period.

Mr. DelCollo stated that it is a very thorough process.

Dr. Amprey stated that candidates become official when they file their paperwork. Mr. Stock agreed but stated that some choose to announce before the paperwork is filed.

**Mr. DelCollo moved, seconded by Dr. Amprey, to approve Advisory Opinion #1-2015. Motion carried unanimously.**

Mr. Stock stated that the other Advisory Opinion would answer the question of whether in-kind contributions counted toward the limit. He explained that the definition of contribution includes the phrase "things having a monetary value". He expressed the belief that volunteering time does not count toward the limit.

**Dr. Amprey moved, seconded by Mr. DelCollo, to approve Advisory Opinion #2-2015. Motion carried unanimously.**

Mr. Stock recommended the issuance of Advisory Opinions for future questions. He stated that he will draft opinions for simple or non-controversial questions and distribute them for review and approval via email to reduce the number of meetings needed. He stated that he is glad there are questions as it indicates that the regulations are not being ignored.

#### NEW BUSINESS

None.

#### EXECUTIVE SESSION

- Complaint 12-0703

Mr. Stock stated that the Board would be entering into executive session to discuss this complaint as per Sunshine Act Section 708 (a) 4 regarding litigation.

The Board entered executive session at 5:55 pm and exited at 6:14 pm.

#### NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held as needed.

Meeting adjourned at 6:14 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Shelly Katzenmoyer, CMC*  
Deputy City Clerk