

MACOMB TOWNSHIP ETHICS BOARD
Minutes – February 25, 2021
Held Virtually by Zoom
6:00 PM

PRESENT: Tom Champion, Chairman, in Macomb Township, Macomb County, MI
Tony DeVillano, Co-Chair, in Columbia, Richland County, S. Carolina
Ron Papa, Secretary, in Macomb Township, Macomb County, MI

ALSO PRESENT: Terri Kowal, Township Liaison, in Macomb Township, MI
Beth Wheeler, Asst. Township Liaison, in Macomb Township, MI

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Champion at 6:00 pm.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. ROLL CALL

The roll was called by Secretary Papa. All members were in attendance.

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion by DeVillano, Seconded by Papa.

Roll Call: Ayes: DeVillano, Papa, Champion

Motion Carried.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Papa. Seconded by DeVillano.

Roll Call: Ayes: DeVillano, Papa, Champion

Motion Carried.

6. NEW BUSINESS

A. Discussion of Section 2.46: 1-14

Chairman Champion started a brief discussion about Section 143 and 144. Terri Kowal clarified that we will get back to discussing these sections but want to focus on the sections assigned on this agenda.

Mr. Champion explained he would like to note all suggested changes and save them all for the end to decide which changes are necessary.

Title 2.146 Prohibited Conduct – Ron Papa suggested to change the title to Prohibited Gifts or Items of Value.

Mr. DeIVillano stated in the first sentence we may want to change or add the wording – “which tends to influence the manner or may appear to influence in which”, but the other members felt it was sufficient as is.

1. All agreed no changes needed.
2. All agreed no changes needed.
3. All agreed to eliminate the word “immediate” as it could be a gift to a non-related person close to the employee or official.
4. All agreed no changes needed.
5. Discussion regarding the \$75 amount. All agreed it seems common among other communities. Possibly the frequency could be changed. May need another phrase added. Ron Papa discussed the word catering, in that if the \$75 were for catering it would be spread over all the attendees at \$75 each.
6. Mr. Papa pointed out an extra left parenthesis needs to be deleted.
7. Discussion regarding the word entertain. All agreed no changes needed.
8. All agreed no changes needed.
9. All agreed no changes needed.
10. Mr. DeIVillano questioned the wording about the gift being provided only due to the persons status or job. Lengthy discussion followed. All agreed no changes needed.
11. All agreed no changes needed.
12. All agreed no changes needed.
13. All agreed no changes needed.
14. Discussion that #14 should be #15; they seem to be reversed in the order in which they should be listed.

B. Review of Temporary Complaint Form

Mr. DeIVillano suggested we use a different word other than complaint. He feels there is a better word to use – possibly “concern” or “advisory”. Terri Kowal explained that it is not just a common concern, it is in fact a complaint. It should stay complaint.

Mr. Papa suggested we replace *Public Servant* with another word in case they wanted to complain about a group of people. Terri Kowal explained it needed to be very specific as to who the complaint is about. The ordinance is not about complaining about a group of people. It’s a means to correct an issue with one person.

Mr. Papa asked if there needs to be a section on favoritism or discrimination. Everyone agreed it is all covered with other sections.

It was suggested the email address on the form be generic. Terri Kowal explained a generic ethics email is being created and that Chairman Champion's address was used in case we needed to handle a complaint immediately. She also mentioned the Township has a new HR Director, Jeff Tabaka, who will work with the committee on employee issues.

C. Discussion of Temporary Plan if Complaints are Filed

It was clarified if a complaint comes in the mail, it will be opened by Mr. Tabaka, the HR Director, and forwarded to the Ethics Board Chair, to share with the Ethics Board Members.

D. Consideration of Statement of Purpose

All agreed no changes needed.

7. OLD BUSINESS

8. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were two attendees on zoom, but no comments.

9. BOARD COMMENTS

Chairman Champion stated that the next meeting will be on March 11, 2021. He suggested the Ethics Board have an educational plan and some form of promotion through the Township. Papa suggested promoting through social media.

10. MACOMB TOWNSHIP LIAISON UPDATE

No comments made.

11. ADJOURNMENT

The Chair called for a motion for adjournment.

Motion by Papa, seconded by DelVillano.

Motion carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 6:53 pm.

Ron Papa, Secretary

Date