

**MACOMB TOWNSHIP ETHICS BOARD**  
**Minutes – April 29, 2021**  
**Held Virtually by Zoom**  
**5:30 PM**

PRESENT: Tom Champion, Chairman, in Macomb Township, Macomb County, MI  
Tony DeVillano, Co-Chair, in Snoqualmie, WA, by Zoom  
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 5:32 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 Papa, Seconded by DeVillano to approve the agenda as submitted.

Roll Call:

Ayes: DeVillano, Papa, Champion

Motion Carried.

**5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Meeting of 4-8-21.**

Motion by DeVillano, Seconded by Papa to approve the minutes with a correction of “am” changing to “pm” on the time.

Roll Call:

Ayes: DeVillano, Papa, Champion

Motion Carried.

**6. NEW BUSINESS**

Discussion took place concerning the May meetings. Ms. Kowal will be at a conference when the regular meeting would take place. May 17<sup>th</sup> was offered as an alternative. The Board Members checked their calendars and agreed the meeting could be held on the 17<sup>th</sup> of May.

## **OLD BUSINESS:**

Lengthy discussion took place regarding the Complaint Form, the Procedures, and the Disclosure form.

Ms. Kowal informed the Board that it is the Supervisor's intention to place this on the agenda for the Board of Trustees' review as soon as the attorney completes his review.

Chairman Champion commented that he still preferred the Macomb County Form, and would like to see the Ordinance Enforcer serve the complaints on the staff or Board Members if one is files. Ms. Kowal responded that she does not see that ever happening for a few reasons. One: The Ordinance Enforcer is a union member, just like all the employees. It is unreasonable to ask him to serve a complaint on a fellow union member. Two: He works for the Board of Trustees, and once again we cannot ask him to serve his bosses. Three: The Ordinance Enforcer is busy all the time, every day. He does not have time to add another function to his job description.

Discussion followed and all agreed the Ordinance Enforcer may not be the best choice to serve the complaint.

Ms. Kowal stated she will get the form, as is, to the Board of Trustees.

Chairman Champion states he has a concern that the Human Resource Director may have political leanings toward the Board of Trustees and the Employees. Ms. Kowal reassured him that the HR Director is a non-political employee. He is responsible for maintaining confidence in many situations and is trusted by the Board of Trustees and the employees in the Township.

The topic of having the respondent get their reply notarized is discussed again. Ms. Kowal stated that the respondent can be questioned by the Ethics Board at the public hearing. The reason for the complainant to get the complaint notarized is to make it more difficult to file a false complaint.

Questions about Closed Session were asked of Ms. Kowal. Her reply was that the respondent can request Closed Session and the Ethics Board must comply. However, if the respondent changes their mind while in closed session, they must return to open session. Likewise, if a motion is required, the Board must make the motion in open session.

Ms. Kowal reminded the Ethics Board that they are an advisory board. Any decisions to be made concerning the issue will be made by the Board of Trustees.

## **8. \* PUBLIC COMMENTS**

No one was logged on from the public.

**9. BOARD COMMENTS**

The next Ethics Board Meeting will be May 17, 2021.

**10. MACOMB TOWNSHIP LIAISON UPDATE**

Ms. Kowal thanked the Ethics Board and Ms. Wheeler for all their hard work and dedication. She also reminded the Board that it is possible that they will not receive any or very few complaints of Ethics Violations from staff or the public. She bases that comment on the fact that complaints can be made now with the informal form on the website. Its been there for months and no complaints have been received.

**11. ADJOURNMENT**

Chairman Champion called for a motion for adjournment.

Motion by DelVillano, seconded by Papa.

Motion carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 6:42 pm.

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Ron Papa, Secretary

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Date