

**Board of Ethics
Village of Mamaroneck
Minutes of the Meeting
June 19, 2020**

In attendance: Mark Ettenger, Deborah Chapin, Michael Newgaard, Jefferson Meighan and Yoram Miller; Christy Mason, Esq. and Robert Spolzino, Esq., by invitation, all parties participating by video conference.

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Ettenger at approximately 11:06 am.

Ms. Chapin stated that she had reviewed the minutes and the Board of Ethics had failed to elect officers for calendar year 2020. She suggested that the Board now ratify that Mr. Ettenger as the Chair. Mr. Spolzino advised that he cannot be retroactively be made Chair, but that he has always been Chair, as a public officer holds over until a successor is elected, so it is unnecessary to ratify; but the issue having been raised, it would be appropriate to acknowledge that fact and make him Chair for the balance of the year. Upon motion of Mr. Newgaard, seconded by Mr. Meighan, with Mr. Ettenger abstaining, all other members of the Board voted for the approval of the appointment of Mark Ettenger as Chair for the remainder of 2020 and acknowledged that he has been Chair since last elected. Upon motion of Mr. Newgaard, seconded by Mr. Meighan, a parallel motion appointing Ms. Chapin as Secretary was approved, with Ms. Chapin abstaining.

Upon motion of Mr. Newgaard, seconded by Mr. Meighan, the minutes of the meeting of May 22, 2020 as revised, were unanimously approved.

Upon motion of Ms. Chapin, seconded by Mr. Miller, the minutes of the meeting of June 5, 2020, as revised, were unanimously approved.

Ms. Chapin raised the issue of the request that the Board of Ethics attend a work session of the Board of Trustees. Mr. Ettenger stated that he received a communication from the Mayor stating that the Board need not appear. He advised that it was his opinion that with the Goldstein matter pending, discourse surrounding revisions to the Code at this time would be uncomfortable. He said he had reiterated to the Mayor a request to give the Board's Annual Report which will include a repeat of requests for training, consideration of legislative proposals and other resources, to which the Ethics Board has not received responses.

Ms. Chapin expressed concern about allegations made about the Board of Ethics during the Mayor's public hearing on May 27, 2020 and in the public comment period thereafter. She characterized the allegations as unfounded, made by persons who did not have knowledge of the facts and, in some cases, persons who manufactured facts. She thought it was important for the Board of Ethics to correct those misstatements and to deal with a perception that the Board of Trustees' interest is adverse to the Board of Ethics. She indicated that she was disappointed that the Board of Ethics was not appearing before the Board of Trustees, because she felt it was important to set the record straight about the Board's proceedings, the way the Board conducts itself, the cost to the Village in connection with the Goldstein matter, and the Board of Ethics' integrity. Mr. Ettenger expressed the view that while the Goldstein matter is pending, comments

by members of the Board of Ethics should not include matters relating to it. Mr. Meighan agreed with both Ms. Chapin's and Mr. Ettenger's comments. Mr. Ettenger commented that there has been an inappropriate, almost hostile work environment created by comments from public officials that mischaracterized the work of the Board of Ethics. Mr. Ettenger provided background on the Board's investigations in order to refute claims that there have been a wide range of investigations by the Board of Ethics. He stated that he believed the Board is being targeted with false facts and he, personally, finds it distressing. Every member of the Board agreed. Mr. Ettenger also addressed the issue of the cost of the Goldstein matter, advising that the only costs that the Board of Ethics incurred, other than printing and copying, were for the stenographer for the hearings. Mr. Spolzino was asked if he had anything to state and he said "no" but did confirm that the record is accurate.

Mr. Newgaard inquired as to whether the Board of Trustees has responded to the letter from the Board of Ethics regarding non-filing of Disclosure Forms by certain people. Mr. Ettenger advised that it had and this would be discussed in Executive Session.

Upon motion by Ms. Newgaard, seconded by Mr. Meighan, the Board convened in Executive Session to review annual disclosure forms and receive advice of counsel.

Upon motion of Mr. Ettenger, seconded by Mr. Newgaard, the Executive Session was adjourned and the Board reconvened in public, with Ms. Chapin absent.

Upon motion of Mr. Ettenger, seconded by Mr. Newgaard, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 12:25.#

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