

**TOWN OF PORTLAND
ETHICS COMMISSION
Regular Meeting
October 23, 2024
7:00 P.M.
Portland, Connecticut 06480**

Present: Commissioners Jim Motes, chairman; Donna Cote, secretary; Patrick Moynihan, Barry Rodgers and Don Roy

1. Call to order

Jim Motes called the regular meeting to order at 7:04 PM in the Van Beynum Room in the Public Library located at 20 Freestone Avenue, Portland, Connecticut.

2. Public Comment: Michael Pelton was present as the requestor of AO 2024-01

3. Request for Advisory Opinion (RAO): AO 2024-01

A letter from a Portland resident was received, reviewed and included in the record. It contained 2 questions for the Commissions related to the AO and one concern regarding potential conflicts of interest between certain Ethics Commission members and the Requestor. The resident is the writer of RiverEast editorials used as exhibits by the Requestor. The two questions and one concern were addressed prior to the discussion of the AO.

Review of Conflicts of Interest

Conflicts of interest were reviewed pursuant to Sec. 1-12 and Sec. 1-1(c)(1), (2), (3), and (4). Jim Motes, Barry Rodgers and Donna Cote disclosed professional and/or social connections with the Requestor. Donald Roy is the spouse of the writer of RiverEast editorials used as exhibits by the Requestor. All stated that their integrity to remain unbiased and did not recuse themselves.

Question 1

Address the lack of citation of the Ethics Ordinance in the application submitted by the Requestor. The Commission discussed and concluded that the lack of citation does not void the application.

Question 2

The AO should not contain or include private citizens' names...and therefore, the AO should be rejected or dismissed. Jim Motes communicated his consultation with the Town attorney regarding the matter. The Commission concluded that the AO could move forward.

Discussion then ensued regarding the specific opinions requested in the AO. A motion was made by Jim Motes to draft and approve a report outside of the regular meeting to document the discussion, EO citations and opinion determined by the Commission. The motion was seconded by Patrick Moynihan and approved.

4. Approval of 2025 calendar dates: January22, April23, Jul23, October 22: approved.

4.A. Approve Minutes from April 24, 2024 Meeting: approved.

5. Adjournment

Jim Motes made motion to adjourn the meeting, motion seconded by Patrick Moynihan that the meeting adjourn at 8:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Cote
Secretary