



## ***Special Code of Ethics Revision Committee – Board of Representatives***

Benjamin Lee, Chair

J.R. McMullen, Vice Chair

# **Committee Report**

**Date:** Tuesday, June 30, 2020

**Time:** 7:00 p.m.

**Place:** Meeting was held remotely

The Code of Ethics Revision Committee met as indicated above. In attendance were: Chair Lee, Vice Chair McMullen and Committee Member Reps. Curtis, Fedeli, Miller, Morson, Sherwood, Stella and Zelinsky. Also in attendance were Rep. Adams, Rep. Cottrell, and one member of the public.

Chair Lee called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm.

<b>Item No.</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Committee Action</b>
1. <a href="#">COE30.001</a>	REVIEW; Regional Municipal Ethics Codes, Best Practices. 06/02/20 – Submitted by Rep. Lee	Report Made

Chair Lee explained that the key points for this first meeting of the Committee are 1) to define what areas of the Ethics Code on which to focus and 2) to determine what resources the Committee should look at to learn from other states and municipalities. It is important to bring out the highest standard for Stamford's Ethics Code and to possibly serve as a model for other municipalities. Clarity in revising the Ethics Code is essential.

Committee Members discussed what areas they would like to focus on:

- Negative public perceptions of issues with the Ethics Code.
- Compliance with State Statutes.
- Ethics Code should be a learning tool for anyone involved in City operations.
- Stipulated agreements that can defeat the purpose of the Ethics Code.
- Address and try to resolve problems that have arisen in the past.
- The Committee should focus on one topic at a time.
- There needs to be transparency in the Ethics Code and how the process works.
- The Ethics Code needs to be clearly written and easy to understand.
- Find out the reasons for the creation of the original Ethics Code.
- Focus on potential problem areas and do not re-write the Ethics Code in its entirety.
- Look at recurring issues that arise in the Ethics Board.

The review process should proceed as follows:

- Look at past and current recommendations from the Board of Ethics.
- Discuss these recommendations with the Board of Ethics.
- Look at the Committee recommendations and determine any overlapping areas of focus.
- Review model codes starting with Connecticut and expand to other regions.

The scope of the topics will consist of four areas, and be broken down into sub-topics:

- Clarifying definitions
- Conflict of Interest and Prohibitive sections
- Procedural section
- Other issues

The Committee will:

- Review as many resources as possible to learn from other state and municipal codes.
- Request a written document from the Ethics Board outlining its recommendations.
- Review the recommendations of the Board of Ethics from the last 10 years.
- Decide on an area on which to focus.
- Invite the Ethics Board to the third Committee meeting to discuss its recommendations.

Chair Lee adjourned the meeting at 8:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Benjamin Lee, Chair

This meeting is on [video](#).