

TOWN OF BARRE
Conflict of Interest Policy Committee
Meeting Minutes
August 21, 2018

The Barre Town Conflict of Interest Policy Committee (COIP) held its second meeting on August 21, 2018 starting at 6:00 p.m. The meeting was held in the municipal building. Committee members present were: Lee Walther, Norma Malone, Alan Garceau, Chauncey Liese, Cedric Sanborn, Mike Gilbar and Jon Valsangiacomo. Also present was town manager Carl Rogers.

Chairwoman Norma Malone called the meeting to order at 6:12 p.m.

On a motion by Mike Gilbar, seconded by Cedric Sanborn, the COIP voted unanimously to approve the agenda as presented.

Lee Walther made a motion to approve the August 1, 2018 meeting minutes as written. Chauncey Liese seconded the motion, which the COIP approved without dissent.

The COIP discussed policies from other Vermont municipalities. Policies from the towns of Waterbury, Plainfield and Jericho were included in reference material emailed to members after the August 1 meeting. Gilbar provided 8 more municipal conflict of interest policies before the August 21 meeting. (Jon Valsangiacomo arrives.) After a short discussion the COIP resumed review of the VLCT model policy.

There was discussion about a public officer leaving the meeting room after recusing him/her self. The consensus of the COIP was Article 10 of the model policy is satisfactory on that point.

The COIP checked over policy revisions discussed last time. Looking at the revised policy, the COIP thought the revisions to Article 6 were good. The COIP considered changes to Articles 7, 8, 9 and 10. Gilbar moved and Liese seconded to:

- Drop the title of Article 7 "Recusal," and replace it with the title to 7. A., "Recusal of Appointed and Elected Officer" and not have a title on 7.A.
- Change the second 7 B to E and delete the title.
- Renumber Article 9, Article 8.
- In Article 8, change the reference to Article 8 to Article 7.
- Renumber Article 10 as Article 9.
- Delete the reference to "Zoning Board of Adjustment or" in footnote #3.

The COIP approved the motion on a 7-0 vote.

Next the Committee reviewed Article 4. On a motion by Gilbar, seconded by Sanborn the Committee voted all in favor of the following changes to 4A:

- Delete first sentence of 4.A 1.
- Strike the phrase, "A conflict of interest arises when there is" from the beginning of the second sentence of 4.A.1.
- Insert the phrase, "but not limited to" after the word "including" in the second sentence.
- Drop the last sentence of 4.A.1 and subparagraphs a, b, c and d.

The COIP shifted to Article 2 for one change. Jon Valsangiacomo moved and Gilbar seconded to change the last word (municipality) of Article 2 to "community at large." The COIP approved the motion unanimously.

Liese moved to remove the last sentence of 4.G., Walther seconded and the motion carried by a 7-0 vote.

Because the town Development Review Board is required by state law to have its own Rules of Procedure and Conflict of Interest Policy, the COIP felt more discussion was needed about 4.E. Gilbar will inquire if the VLCT has samples of other towns' boards (DRB) and commissions conflict of interest policies.

On a motion by Gilbar, seconded by Liese, the COIP voted unanimously to utilize 4 B, C, D, F and H as presented in the VLCT model policy.

The Committee moved on to Article 5. The COIP heard that in several of the 11 sample policies, towns deleted paragraphs D and F. After some discussion the Committee was leaning toward retaining all paragraphs (A-F) of Article 5. The COIP talked about using a less negative title for the Article. Malone asked the members to think about the title and Article 5 in its entirety for the next meeting.

Gilbar offered to produce a draft policy showing the changes approved during the meeting. The next meeting on September 5 at 6:00 p.m. was confirmed.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:07 by a unanimous vote after a motion by Sanborn and seconded by Liese.

Conflict of Interest Committee

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