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TOWN OF BERLIN
SPECIAL TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
Wednesday, September 27, 2023
Town Council Chambers (in person)
Remote Meeting
7:00 P.M.

A. CALL TO ORDER

B. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

C. ROLL CALL

D. AUDIENCE OF CITIZENS

E. MEETING AGENDA

F. NEW BUSINESS:

1. Topic re: Pursuant to Sections 1-4(a)(1) and 1-6 of the Berlin Ethics Policy and Section 9-5 of the Town Charter, consideration and action in response to the Board of Ethics' December 21, 2021, finding of a violation of the Ethics Policy and Code of Ethics relative to Complaint #2021-001. – Town Manager

G. ADJOURNMENT

Agenda Item No. 1
Request for Town Council Action

TO: The Honorable Mayor and Town Council
FROM: Arosha Jayawickrema, Town Manager
DATE: September 6, 2023
SUBJECT: Violation of the Ethics Policy and Code of Ethics

Summary of Agenda Item:

Please refer to the attached letter from the Board of Ethics dated January 4, 2022. Ms. Angelico-Stetson did file a lawsuit to overturn this decision. The lawsuit has been withdrawn.

This was discussed at previous Town Council meetings. The Board of Ethics information was distributed to the Town Council members in May.

Action Needed:

Pursuant to Sections 1-4(a)(1) and 1-6 of the Berlin Ethics Policy and Section 9-5 of the Town Charter, consideration and action in response to the Board of Ethics' December 21, 2021, finding of a violation of the Ethics Policy and Code of Ethics relative to Complaint #2021-001.

Attachments:

Letter from the Board of Ethics

Prepared By: Kate Wall, Town Clerk



Town Of Berlin

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Berlin, CT 06037
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Office of the Town Clerk & Registrar of Vital Statistics

January 4, 2022

Mr. Arosha Jayawickrema
Berlin Town Manager
240 Kensington Road
Berlin, CT 06037

Re: Board of Ethics Complain #2021-001

Dear Mr. Jayawickrema:

This letter will serve as notification pursuant to the Town's Ethics Policy that the Berlin Board of Ethics, following hearings on an Ethics Complaint filed by Donna Veach as Complainant against JoAnn Angelico-Stetson as Respondent, found a violation of the Ethics Policy was committed by the Respondent. The Berlin Board of Ethics concluded the hearing on Complaint 2021-001 on December 21, 2021. The Complainant, Donna Veach, and Respondent, JoAnn Angelico-Stetson, along with their respective legal counsel, were in attendance for the entirety of the hearing, including the Board's deliberations. The Board of Ethics, at its December 21st hearing, found the Respondent in violation of Section 1-5 of the Berlin Ethics Policy. To summarize, the Board found that the Respondent published/caused to be published/approved the publication of statements concerning the existence of a Complaint filed with the Board of Ethics. The Complaint, which was dismissed for lack of probable cause, and the existence of the Complaint, were, at all times, confidential pursuant to the Berlin Code of Ethics and Berlin Ethics Policy section 1-5(a). At all times relevant to the Complaint, the Respondent was bound by the Berlin Ethics Policy and the failure to comply with the confidentiality requirements of the Ethics Policy is a violation of the Policy.

In accordance with Berlin Charter Section 9-5 Administration of Code. "(b)... After the hearing, if the Board of Ethics finds that any of the provisions of this chapter have been violated by the person so charged, the Manager, with Council approval, shall take such appropriate action as deemed necessary..." Please proceed in accordance with the Ethics Policy and the Town Charter.

Sincerely,

Kevin Hines
Board of Ethics Chair