

Minutes of the Ethics Commission

The Ethics Commission of the McLean County Board met on Thursday, December 5, 2013 at 3:00 p.m. in Room 404, Government Center, 115 East Washington Street, Bloomington, Illinois

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| Members Present: | Member Brandau, Hansen and Liechty, |
| Members Absent: | None |
| Staff Present: | Ms. Diana Hospelhorn, Recording Secretary, County Administrator's Office |
| Department Heads/ Elected Officials: | None |
| Others Present: | Mr. Pablo Eves, First Assistant State's Attorney |

Chairman, Brandau, called the meeting of the McLean County Ethics Commission to order at 3:00 p.m.

Chairman Brandau stated that the first item for action is approval of the minutes from the September 19, 2013 Ethics Commission Meeting.

Motion by Hansen/Liechty to recommend approval of the September 19, 2013 minutes of the Ethics Commission.
Motion carried.

Chairman Brandau presented the recommended Amendment to the Ethics Ordinance. He noted that the suggestions made by the Commission have been incorporated in the proposed Amendment. The Annual limit of \$100.00 for food and refreshment was already included in the Ordinance. He noted that this recommended Ordinance will be the governing document for the Ethics Commission. He asked if the Commission is satisfied with the Amendments to the Ethics Ordinance.

Mr. Pablo Eves, First Assistant State's Attorney, stated that as we proceed with this governing document, if and when we are hearing a complaint we will learn where the void is.

Motion by Liechty/Hansen to recommend Approval of the Amendment to the Ethics Ordinance.
Motion carried.

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Mr. Eves stated that the Commission's recommended Amendments to the Ethics Commission will now be presented to the County Board for final approval.

Mr. Eves advised the he has been in contact with Mr. Jason Chambers, State's Attorney concerning a past Ethics situation the Commission could examine. Mr. Chambers has suggested one scenario and Administration has suggested another. Mr. Eves is not sure which situation will be used. He suggested that he will follow up with both scenarios and advise the Commission before the next Ethics Commission Meeting mid next year. We are coming into an election in March 2014 and complaints are possible. He added that he would answer any questions the Commission may have.

Chairman Brandau asked if there have been any complaints that may come before the Commission. Mr. Eves responded that the election cycle solicits those types of tensions. He added that during the last election cycle there were several Freedom of Information Access (FOIA) requests.

Mr. Hansen asked if the Ethics Commission members need to be cautious concerning their involvement in the upcoming election. Mr. Eves asked the Commission to respectfully avoid involvement in County campaigns, donations, community organizations, etc.

Chairman Brandau noted that his appointment is up in June. Is there something he should do? Ms. Hospelhorn informed Mr. Brandau that he will be receiving a letter from Ms. Jude LaCasse asking him to be reappointed to the Commission.

Mr. Hansen asked if the Commission needs to take the Open Meetings Act training every year. Staff will check and let the Commission know if they need to retake the Open Meetings Act training. The Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) training is done annually.

Chairman Brandau asked if there was any further business to come before the Committee. The next meeting of the Ethics Commission will be in June, 2014.

Chairman Brandau adjourned the meeting at 3:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Diana Hospelhorn
Recording Secretary

Approved by Lane Hansen, Ethics Commission Secretary