GREENWICH BOARD OF ETHICS
Minutes of Special Meeting on January 5, 2022

Members Present: Paul de Bary, Chair, Jennifer Paul Cohen, Secretary, Robert Grele, Rev. Stephanie Johnson, Robert Sisca

Members Absent:

Others Present: Fred Camillo, First Selectman and ex-officio non-voting member

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 P.M. by the Chair, who noted that a quorum was present and that the agenda for the special meeting had been provided to all the members, posted online and posted in Town Hall in accordance with Freedom of Information Act requirements. This Special Meeting was held by means of electronic equipment using the Town’s Zoom license. The Chair reported that there had been no requests from members of the general republic to attend the meeting.

The Chair had distributed a draft of the minutes of the Board’s meeting on December 7, 2021. Approval of the draft minutes was deferred to the next regular meeting of the Board.

The Chair then reported on outreach efforts to Town Agencies regarding training on safe harbor policies and discussed ways in which the Board might prepare materials and presentations for such training. The Chair also noted that the updated Greenwich Board of Ethics Member Handbook will be distributed to Board members who have not already received their copies and encouraged members to continue to review and propose changes as needed. The Chair also noted the upcoming completion of the terms of two Board members, Robert Grele and Stephanie Johnson, and encouraged them to contact the Selectmen’s Nominations Advisory Committee.

The Board then turned to the next item on the agenda, i.e. a report concerning possible violations of the Code of Ethics. Under State law and the Board’s Statement of Procedures, such considerations were required to be done confidentially until the Board makes a determination that there is probable cause to
believe that a violation of the Code has occurred. Accordingly, at 5:53 PM a
motion to adjourn into executive session was unanimously approved.

At 6:40 PM a motion was made to leave executive session.

The next item on the agenda was exploring the issues and the possibility of
drafting an advisory opinion on outside consulting services. A discussion followed
regarding Town Officers and outside employment focusing on relevant provisions
of the Code of Ethics, applicable sections of the Town’s Human Resources Policy

The 1st Selectman requested that the Board consider making
recommendations clarifying the appropriate responses that should be provided by
Town officials and employees in response to inquiries regarding the services of
private companies and providers. The Chair indicated that he would work with the
members of the Board to develop a set of recommendations for the Selectmen to
consider.

Following this discussion, there was no further business before the Board
and the meeting was adjourned by unanimous consent at 7:20 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Paul Cohen
Board of Ethics, Secretary