

## **Weston Board of Ethics**

Minutes from February 6, 2012

4:30 p.m.

Commission Room, Town Hall

Public meeting

**In attendance:** all BoEthics members (John Albright; Terry Castellano; Harriette Heller; Rob Lamb; Paula Savignol)

**Others present:** Dr. Jo-Ann Keating, Finance Director for the BOE; Dr. Colleen Palmer, Weston Superintendent of Schools; BOE member Dick Bochinski; Lewis Brey, BOE Human Resources Director and counsel to the BOE; as well as members of the public.

**Minutes approval:** Held until end of meeting.

**Rob Lamb, chairman,** began by thanking all for attending and stated that the purpose of the meeting was to discuss the matter of David Finkel.

After a brief introductory statement, Rob asked Jo-Ann Keating if her understanding is that the BOE-ERA contract as executed by each party (BOE and Mr. Finkel) had been assigned to Renovo Mgt. (John Lauchnor's ERA franchise).

Dr. Keating answered yes.

Rob then asked Dr. Keating if she had agreed to the assignment.

Dr. Keating said yes.

Rob then asked Dr. Keating if she had any knowledge of further compensation to David Finkel (the original contract holder).

Dr. Keating said no.

John Albright then asked what was left to be performed by Mr. Lauchnor or Renovo Management with regard to the contract, and was Mr. Lauchnor capable of providing those services, or did he need to involve or contact Mr. Finkel about the contract in order to perform the remaining services?

Dr. Keating described the continuing procurement of goods from W.B. Mason and that it was her understanding that the payment the BOE owes (the 50% of the savings Mr. Finkel was able to negotiate) was now to be sent to Renovo instead of to ERA. The other 50% of savings stays with the BOE.

She added that John Lauchnor audits the arrangement between the BOE and W.B. Mason and that she feels he is fully capable of executing the remaining work to be rendered without involving Mr. Finkel.

Rob asked if there is anything else that Dr. Keating would like to add.

She said that CES (Cooperative Educational Services, a Connecticut State-supported regional education service) had called with questions regarding the services that Mr. Finkel had performed for the BOE under the BOE-ERA contract. Dr. Keating said she responded to their questions by giving “factual information.”

**Minutes:** approved with corrections. All members as well as Town Hall will be given a copy of the corrected minutes.

**Old Business:** Rob reminded the BoEthics members that they have agreed to set a schedule of regular meetings for once every quarter, beginning with March, and that the meetings would take place on the second Tuesday of that month and begin at 6:30 p.m.

Rob said he would send a note to the Town Clerk to post this schedule of regular meetings.

**New Business:** Rob asked that we as a board discuss the next steps in the process of reaching an advisory opinion. He reminded the members that both Mr. Lauchnor, the ERA franchisee who took over the contract from David Finkel with the BOE, and Mr. Schmitt, a managing director of ERA, answered emailed questions from the BoEthics.

Paula Savignol asked why there was such difficulty in finding all the documents relevant to the Finkel matter.

Rob replied that documents were in various places and needed to be retrieved, placed in order and then shared with the BoEthics members. He said that one of his goals was to place all documents in one place in Town Hall.

Rob went into detail as to where the various documents were found, including files at Town Hall, the vault and “the Chairman’s Box,” which was in the possession of the former co-chairman.

Rob agreed with Paula’s suggestion that all documents should be dated as to when received by the BoEthics.

John suggested a log of documents received, noting the date received, could be kept.

Rob said that since we had received comments from the four people we had wanted to interview, two in person and two via email, at the next meeting, scheduled for Feb. 13, 2012, we would discuss any outstanding questions or whether deliberations could commence.

**Adjournment:** 5:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Terry Castellano*  
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