

Town of Brookfield, CT
Board of Ethics c/o Town Clerk's Office
Brookfield, CT 06804

TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE

BROOKFIELD, CT

NOV 17 2015

11:51am

Alice R. Bristol
JOAN M. LOCKE, TOWN CLERK

Special Meeting, Complaint Hearing for complaint C2015-07
November 12, 2015 at noon in room 133 in Town Hall

Meeting called to order at 12:01 pm by Dr. Carolan. Present: Dr. Alice Carolan, chair, Dr. James Sullivan, Vice Chair, Mrs. Joni Park, Secretary.

The complainant, Howard Lasser, was present. The respondent, William Tinsley, was not present. Dr. Carolan asked members if they wanted to reschedule the hearing or continue. Members felt we had given Mr. Tinsley ample opportunity to accommodate his schedule and to provide the information we would need in our deliberations and decided to proceed with the hearing. Dr. Carolan then read the procedure for holding a hearing and swore in Mr. Lasser.

In presenting his complaint, Mr. Lasser said that Mr. Tinsley violated sections C10-1 and C10-3a of the Charter and section 21-4 of the Code of Ethics ordinance. He wrote that a Conflict of Interest occurred when Mr. Tinsley was seeking endorsement of the Republican Town Committee for reelection as First Selectmen and that Mr. Dembowski was a member of that committee. Mr. Tinsley hired Mr. Dembowski for a contract project manager position without considering anyone else. Soon after, Mr. Tinsley was endorsed by that committee. Mr. Lasser found no evidence that the position was advertised or that the selectmen were involved in the hiring.

The Board of Ethics began deliberations and considered the allegations raised in the complaint. Dr. Sullivan reported that he spoke with Mr. Tinsley on October 26, 2015, and asked if anyone else had been considered. Mr. Tinsley said, "No. No other candidate considered. This one was qualified." On October 27 and again on November 5, 2015, we sent Mr. Tinsley a list of questions trying to determine the hiring procedure he used. He never responded. Members also reviewed a chronology of events related to this complaint (copy attached).

After considering sections of the Charter and Code of Ethics ordinance, Dr. Sullivan moved and Mrs. Park seconded the following motion: **"The Board of Ethics finds in favor of complainant, that there was a conflict of interest in hiring Mr. Dembowski and that Mr. Tinsley provided no evidence to the contrary."** Approved unanimously.

The Board discussed recommendations. Dr. Carolan made the following motion, seconded by Dr. Sullivan, **"The Board of Ethics will submit a recommendation that the Board of Selectmen publically admonish Mr. Tinsley's action in this regard and file a reprimand in his employee folder."** Voted unanimously. Members also wanted recommendations on ways the Human Resources Director, Controller and Treasurer could help avoid such a conflict from occurring in the future, and also on ways all elected and appointed officials could become familiar with sections of the Charter and Code of Ethics ordinance which pertain to their boards and commissions. They directed Dr. Carolan to draft our response to the Board of Selectmen.

Motion to adjourn at 12:43 pm made by Mrs. Park, seconded by Dr. Sullivan, approved unanimously.

Minutes submitted by Joni Park, Secretary for the Board of Ethics.