

# GLASTONBURY ETHICS COMMISSION

## MEETING MINUTES

MONDAY, October 7, 2024, 7:00 PM

TOWN HALL, Meeting Room A  
2155 MAIN STREET, GLASTONBURY

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Oppenheimer at 7:05 P.M.

### 1. Roll Call

#### *Present*

Brooke Oppenheimer, Chair  
James Hagen, Vice Chair  
Al Herzog  
Angela Bull  
Nancy Thomas, Alternate {excused}  
Wes Schlauder, Alternate {excused}

Also present was Jean M. D'Aquila, counsel to the Ethics Commission.

### 2. Review and approval of minutes of April 1, 2024 meeting

The Commissioners reviewed the minutes of the April 1, 2024 meeting, as posted on the Town website.

*Motion by:* Commissioner Herzog

*Seconded by:* Commissioner Bull

*Result:* Motion to approve the minutes passed unanimously {4-0-0}.

### 3. Review of Request for an Advisory Opinion pursuant to 24-2 (Foyle Request Dated 9/10/24)

Attorney D'Aquila explained that Board of Education (BOE) Chairman Doug Foyle requested that the commission vote on a potential conflict of interest regarding Jenn Jennings, a BOE member, with respect to a curriculum item. Ms. Jennings is the Executive Director of the Connecticut Heating and Cooling Contractors (CHCC), which is a trade association. The BOE has been reviewing the matter of including trade programs into Glastonbury public schools.

The Ethics Commission reviewed three videos: two BOE meetings (dated September 9 and May 20) and a Connecticut Heating and Cooling Contractors Workforce Summit meeting (dated June 4).

Ms. D'Aquila read sections 2-64 and 2-65 of the code, which deal with conflict of interest, noting that there has been no reference to a financial or personal interest here. Dr. Herzog stated that if Ms. Jennings is not selling anything, then he does not see a conflict. Ms. Oppenheimer noted that the concern is that the May 20 BOE meeting referenced classes related to HVAC, which ties into Ms. Jennings' role in her contract association. Ms. Bull stated that the curriculum is defined by the management who bring recommendations to the curriculum committee.

Ms. D'Aquila clarified that Ms. Jennings does not appear to be on the curriculum committee, based on the information presented. Mr. Hagen's understanding is that the BOE would approve a budget, but not specific contracts within a program. He stated that there is an appearance of a conflict of interest because Ms. Jennings represents an organization that will benefit from having more trade programs in schools.

Ms. Oppenheimer stated that Ms. Jennings' suggestion that the trades be included in curriculum review is not by itself a conflict of interest, but if in the future, she is involved in a decision that HVAC specifically be included in the curriculum, then she should consider recusing herself from deliberations and voting on this item.

#### **4. Response to Request for an Advisory Opinion pursuant to 24-2**

*Motion by:* James Hagen

*Seconded by:* Al Herzog

The Glastonbury Ethics Commission has found that voting to refer the matter to the Curriculum Committee is not, by itself, a conflict of interest. However, if in the future, the matter of an HVAC training program within the curriculum comes before the Board of Education while Jenn Jennings is still employed by the Connecticut Heating and Cooling Contractors Association (CHCC), then she should recuse herself from participation, deliberations, and voting on this item.

*Result:* Motion passed unanimously {4-0-0}.

**5. Other business**      *None*

**6. Adjournment**

*Motion By:* James Hagen

*Seconded By:* Al Herzog

Moved that the Glastonbury Ethics Commission hereby adjourns its regular meeting of October 7, 2024 at 8:30 p.m.

*Result:* Motion to adjourn passed unanimously (4-0-0).

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Lilly Torosyan**  
**Recording Clerk**

**Brooke Oppenheimer**  
**Chair**