

**MINUTES OF THE MAY 5, 2016
MEETING OF THE WEST VIRGINIA ETHICS COMMISSION**

The May 5, 2016, meeting of the West Virginia Ethics Commission was called to order in the Commission's Office located at 210 Brooks Street, Charleston, West Virginia, at 10:00 a.m., by Chairperson Robert J. Wolfe. Present in person at the meeting were Chairperson Wolfe and Commissioner Karen Disibbio. Commissioners Betty S. Ireland, Lawrence Tweel, Terry Walker and Monté Williams participated by telephone. Commissioner Suzan Singleton was absent. General Counsel Kimberly B. Weber, Staff Attorney Derek Knopp, and Special Assistant to the Executive Director M. Ellen Briggs, all from the Commission staff, were present.

WHEREUPON, Chairperson Wolfe asked for approval of the April 7, 2016, Commission meeting minutes.

WHEREUPON, Commissioner Disibbio made a motion to approve the minutes of April 7, 2016. Commissioner Walker gave a second. The motion passed.

WHEREUPON, Chairperson Wolfe reported on the 2016 dates for Commission meetings as:

June 2	July 7	August 4	September 1
October 6	November 3	December 1	

WHEREUPON, Chairperson Wolfe called upon Ms. Weber to present Executive Director Stepto's recap of the previous month in her absence.

Ms. Weber reported that a public hearing on a complaint initiated by the Ethics Commission against Eugene Thorn in late 2014 will be held on July 18-19 in the Commission's conference room. Commissioners were sent a copy of the Statement of Charges and Notice of Hearing via email on April 27. This document is posted on the Commission's website.

Ms. Weber reported that a list of the numbers of lobbyists registered for the years 1991 through 2015 was compiled. The list also sets forth the total amount of spending reported by the lobbyists during those years.

A report was given by Ms. Weber that as of the date of this meeting, 47 verified complaints have been filed with the Ethics Commission during calendar year 2016. Last year on this date, the Commission had received 63 complaints.

Ms. Weber reported that lobbyist activity reports are due on May 16. Press releases regarding this deadline were issued.

WHEREUPON, Chairperson Wolfe called upon Mr. Knopp to present proposed Advisory Opinion 2016-07 for consideration.

WHEREUPON, Mr. Knopp presented proposed Advisory Opinion 2016-07 to the Commission for consideration. After discussion, a motion was made by Commissioner Disibbio to accept the proposed Advisory Opinion as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Ireland, and the motion passed unanimously.

WHEREUPON, Chairperson Wolfe called upon Ms. Weber to present proposed Advisory Opinion 2016-08 for consideration.

WHEREUPON, Ms. Weber presented proposed Advisory Opinion 2016-08 to the Commission for consideration and reported on technical changes to amend the proposed Opinion. After discussion, a motion was made by Commissioner Disibbio to accept the proposed Advisory Opinion as amended. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Ireland, and the motion passed unanimously.

WHEREUPON, Chairperson Wolfe reported that H. F. Salsbery and Jennifer Narog Taylor have been selected to serve as Hearing Examiners for the Commission for fiscal year 2016-2017. A motion for ratification of these contracts was given by Commissioner Disibbio, and a second was given by Commissioner Tweel. The motion carried.

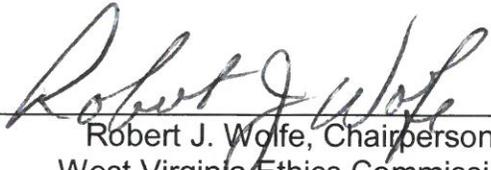
WHEREUPON, Chairperson Wolfe called upon Ms. Weber to present Employment Exemption requests.

WHEREUPON, Ms. Weber presented Employment Exemption 2016-07 requested by Mark A. Imbrogno, Deputy General Counsel, Office of the Governor; Employment Exemption 2016-08 requested by Brittany L. Vascik, Deputy General Counsel, Office of the Governor; Employment Exemption 2016-09 requested by Lawrence J. Malone, Director of Policy, Office of the Governor; Employment Exemption 2016-10 requested by Charles O. Lorensen, Chief of Staff, Office of the Governor; and Employment Exemption 2016-11 requested by Robert E. Queen, Director of Intergovernmental Affairs, Office of the Governor. After discussion, Commissioner Disibbio made a motion that Employment Exemptions 2016-07, 2016-08, 2016-09, 2016-10, and 2016-11 be ratified. Commissioner Tweel gave a second, and the motion carried.

WHEREUPON, Commissioner Ireland asked for an update on the two vacant positions on the Commission. Chairperson Wolfe advised that the Acting Secretary of the Department of Administration has been contacted.

WHEREUPON, Chairperson Wolfe stated there were no more items for discussion. Commissioner Disibbio made a motion to adjourn, and Commissioner Walker seconded. The meeting was adjourned.

The foregoing minutes of the West Virginia Ethics Commission were approved at the June 2, 2016, meeting.



Robert J. Wolfe, Chairperson
West Virginia Ethics Commission

ATTEST:



M. Ellen Briggs, Special Assistant
to the Executive Director
West Virginia Ethics Commission