

**Minutes of the January 4, 2018
Meeting of the West Virginia Ethics Commission**

The January 4, 2018, meeting of the West Virginia Ethics Commission was called to order in the Commission's office at 210 Brooks Street, Charleston, West Virginia, at 10:00 a.m. by Chairperson Robert J. Wolfe. Present in person were Chairperson Wolfe and Commissioner Larry Tweel. Participating by telephone were Commissioners Lynn Davis, Karen Disibbio, Robert Harman, Betty S. Ireland, Suzan Singleton, and Terry Walker. Commissioner Monté Williams was absent. Executive Director Rebecca L. Stepto, General Counsel Kimberly B. Weber, Staff Attorney Theresa M. Kirk, 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 November 2, 2017, Commission meeting minutes.

WHEREUPON, Commissioner Tweel made a motion to approve the minutes of November 2, 2017. Commissioner Singleton gave a second, and the motion passed.

WHEREUPON, Ms. Stepto gave a recap of the previous month.

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

WHEREUPON, Ms. Stepto presented Employment Exemption 2017-032 requested by Nicholas Payne, Environmental Resource Specialist III, Division of Mining and Reclamation, Department of Environmental Protection; Employment Exemption 2017-033 requested by Jennifer J. Meeks, General Counsel, West Virginia Health Care Authority; Employment Exemption 2017-034 requested by Lewis A. Halstead, Deputy Director, Division of Mining and Reclamation, Department of Environmental Protection; Employment Exemption 2017-035 requested by Harry O. Yates, Attorney II/Disclosure Officer, State Tax Department; Employment Exemption 2017-037 requested by Ali A. Sadeghian, Regional Design Engineer, Engineering Division, Division of Highways, and Employment Exemption 2017-038 requested by Jeffrey W. McLaughlin, Technical Analyst, Department of Environmental Protection, Office of Oil and Gas. Commissioner Tweel made a motion that Employment Exemptions 2017-32, 2017-33, 2017-34, 2017-35, 2017-37, and 2017-38 be ratified. Commissioner Ireland gave a second, and the motion carried.

WHEREUPON, Chairperson Wolfe asked Ms. Kirk to present Advisory Opinion 2018-01.

WHEREUPON, Ms. Kirk presented proposed Advisory Opinion 2018-01 to the Commission for consideration. After discussion, a motion was made by Commissioner Tweel to accept proposed Advisory Opinion 2018-01 as presented. Commissioner Singleton gave a second. After further discussion, a motion was made by

Commissioner Tweel to amend the Opinion. Commissioner Ireland gave a second, and the motion carried. A motion was made by Commissioner Tweel and a second was given by Commissioner Ireland that Advisory Opinion 2018-01 be approved with one amendment. The motion carried. Further discussion took place, and a motion was made by Commissioner Ireland to make a second amendment. Commissioner Tweel gave a second, and the motion carried. A motion was made by Commissioner Ireland that Advisory Opinion 2018-01 be approved with the two amendments. Commissioner Tweel gave a second, and the motion carried.

WHEREUPON, Chairperson Wolfe asked Ms. Stepto to present the proposed changes to Procedural Rule, Title 158, Series 16, governing the investigation and administration of complaints by the Probable Cause Review Board.

WHEREUPON, after discussion, a motion was made by Commissioner Tweel that the proposed changes to Procedural Rule, Title 158, Series 16, be approved. Commissioner Disibbio gave a second, and the motion carried.

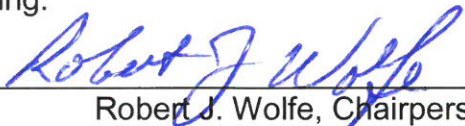
WHEREUPON, the Commission reviewed purchases on the P-Card monthly report for October and November. Commissioner Tweel moved and Commissioner Disibbio seconded that the report be accepted. The motion carried.

WHEREUPON, a motion was made by Commissioner Tweel that the Commission go into executive session pursuant to W. Va. Code § 6-9A-4(b)(2)(A), relating to matters arising from the appointment, employment, retirement, promotion, transfer, demotion, disciplining, resignation, discharge, dismissal or compensation of a public officer or employee. Commissioner Ireland gave a second, and the motion carried. All staff, except Ms. Stepto, left the meeting room. Ms. Stepto left the meeting room for a portion of the meeting.

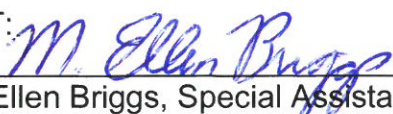
WHEREUPON, the Commission returned to public session, and staff returned. Chairperson Wolfe stated there were no more items for discussion.

WHEREUPON, Commissioner Tweel made a motion to adjourn, and Commissioner Ireland seconded. The motion passed, and the meeting was adjourned.

The foregoing minutes of the West Virginia Ethics Commission were approved at the Commission's February 1, 2018, meeting.



Robert J. Wolfe, Chairperson
West Virginia Ethics Commission

ATTEST: 

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