

West Virginia Ethics Commission

Meeting Minutes July 11, 2024

The July 11, 2024, 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. Commissioners and the public were invited to attend in person, via video link, and via telephone.

Present

Robert J. Wolfe, Commission chairperson
D. Blake Carter, Jr., Commission member (by telephone)
Joshua Cottle, Commission member (by telephone)
Lynn Davis, Commission member
Karen Disibbio, Commission member (by telephone)
Suzan Singleton, Commission member (virtually)
Terry L. Walker, Commission member (by telephone)
Kimberly B. Weber, Executive Director
Theresa M. Kirk, General Counsel
M. Ellen Briggs, Executive Assistant

Absent

Robert Harman, Commission member

Approval of Minutes

Ms. Davis made a motion to approve the minutes of the Commission's June 6, 2024, meeting. Ms. Disibbio seconded the motion, and the motion carried as follows:

Carter – aye
Cottle – aye
Davis – aye
Disibbio – aye
Singleton – aye
Walker – aye
Wolfe – aye

Recap of Previous Month

Ms. Weber provided a summary of news and developments relating to the Ethics Commission during the previous month.

Employment Exemption Requests

Ms. Weber asked the Commission to ratify the following temporary employment exemptions that she had granted since the last Commission meeting.

EE 2024-43

James T. Collins, Assistant Chief Engineer of Construction and Materials, Department of Transportation, Division of Highways

EE 2024-44

Thomas N. Caldwell, Jr., Utility Supervisor, Department of Transportation, Division of Highways

EE 2024-45

Taylor Thompson, Transportation Engineer, Department of Transportation, Division of Highways

EE 2024-46

Devin M. Piraino, Transportation Engineering Tech Senior, Materials Office Coordinator, Department of Transportation, Division of Highways

EE 2024-47

Chris Williams, Transportation Engineering Analyst Senior, Department of Transportation, Division of Highways

EE 2024-48

Brandon Raines, Transportation Engineering Associate Senior, Department of Transportation, Division of Highways

EE 2024-49

Trevor Armes, Transportation Geologist Trainee, Materials Control, Soils, and Testing Division, Department of Transportation, Division of Highways

EE 2024-50

Donn Cyrus, Lab Coordinator, Materials Laboratory, Department of Transportation, Division of Highways

EE 2024-51

Terry Dunford, Lottery Supervisor, West Virginia Lottery

Mr. Carter moved that Employment Exemptions 2024-43 through 2024-51 be ratified. Ms. Davis seconded the motion, and the motion carried as follows:

Carter – aye
Cottle – aye
Davis – aye

Disibbio – aye
Singleton – aye
Walker – aye
Wolfe – aye

Advisory Opinion 2024-04

Mr. Wolfe called upon Ms. Weber to present [Advisory Opinion 2024-04](#) to the Commission for consideration. Ms. Weber presented the proposed Advisory Opinion and answered questions from the Commission. Ms. Singleton made a motion that the Advisory Opinion be approved as presented. Ms. Disibbio seconded the motion, and the motion carried as follows:

Carter – aye
Cottle – aye
Davis – aye
Disibbio – aye
Singleton – aye
Walker – aye
Wolfe – aye

Advisory Opinion 2024-05

Mr. Wolfe called upon Ms. Kirk to present [Advisory Opinion 2024-05](#) to the Commission for consideration. Ms. Kirk presented the proposed Advisory Opinion. Ms. Davis made a motion that the Advisory Opinion be approved as presented. Mr. Carter seconded the motion, and the motion carried as follows:

Carter – aye
Cottle – aye
Davis – aye
Disibbio – aye
Singleton – aye
Walker – aye
Wolfe – aye

Contract Exemption 2024-03

Mr. Wolfe called upon Ms. Kirk to present [Contract Exemption 2024-03](#) to the Commission for consideration. Ms. Kirk presented the proposed Contract Exemption. Mr. Carter made a motion that the Contract Exemption be approved as presented. Ms. Disibbio seconded the motion, and the motion carried as follows:

Carter – aye
Cottle – aye
Davis – aye

Disibbio – aye
Singleton – aye
Walker – aye
Wolfe – aye

Contract Exemption 2024-04

Mr. Wolfe called upon Ms. Weber to present [Contract Exemption 2024-04](#) to the Commission for consideration. Ms. Weber presented the proposed Contract Exemption and answered questions from the Commission. The requester, Mr. Roscoe Adkins, Executive Director of the Logan County Development Authority, was present at the meeting via telephone and answered questions for clarification. Mr. Carter made a motion that the Contract Exemption be approved as presented. Ms. Davis seconded the motion, and the motion carried as follows:

Carter – aye
Cottle – aye
Davis – aye
Disibbio – aye
Singleton – aye
Walker – aye
Wolfe – aye

Approve Purchasing Card Monthly Report

The Commission reviewed the purchasing card monthly report for May 2024. Ms. Weber reported that invoices were available for review and recommended that the purchases be approved. A motion was made by Ms. Davis to approve the report as presented. Ms. Disibbio seconded the motion, and the motion carried as follows:

Carter – aye
Cottle – aye
Davis – aye
Disibbio – aye
Singleton – aye
Walker – aye
Wolfe – aye

Proposed Legislative Rules Governing Lobbyists and Forms

Ms. Kirk reported on proposed Legislative Rules governing lobbyists, Title 158, Series 12, Lobbying, and Title 158, Series 20, Forms. Ms. Kirk discussed the technical changes to the Rules and outlined one substantive provision relating to the grassroots lobbying provision. She reported that the Rule is out for public comment, and that only one comment has been received, to date. A motion was made by Ms. Davis that the Commission authorize staff to file the proposed legislative rules with the Secretary of

State's Office, if only technical changes are made after the public comment period has ended. Ms. Singleton seconded the motion, and the motion carried as follows:

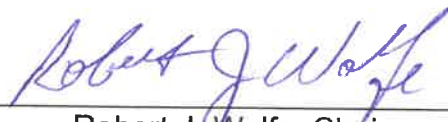
Carter – aye
Cottle – aye
Davis – aye
Disibbio – aye
Singleton – aye
Walker – aye
Wolfe – aye

Adjournment

Ms. Singleton made a motion to adjourn, and Mr. Carter seconded the motion. The motion carried as follows, and the meeting was adjourned.

Carter – aye
Cottle – aye
Davis – aye
Disibbio – aye
Singleton – aye
Walker – aye
Wolfe – aye

The foregoing minutes of the West Virginia Ethics Commission were approved at the Commission's August 1, 2024, meeting.



Robert J. Wolfe, Chairperson
West Virginia Ethics Commission

ATTEST:



M. Ellen Briggs, Executive Assistant
West Virginia Ethics Commission