

**Town of Southbury
Public Hearing
Town Hall, Room 205
December 17, 2009
(Subject to Approval)**

PRESENT: First Selectman H. William Davis, Jr.
Selectman Edward H. Gittines, III
Selectman Carol S. Hubert
Selectman Chad A. Landmon
Selectman Joseph Santonocito
Selectman John O. Turk

First Sel. Davis opened the Public Hearing on December 17, 2009 at 7:30 p.m. The Public Hearing was held for the purpose of hearing comments on the proposed Code of Ethics/Conflict of Interest Ordinance.

First Sel. Davis read the legal notice for the Public Hearing and asked if anyone wished to speak for or against the proposed Code of Ethics/Conflict of Interest Ordinance.

In answer to a question from the floor First Sel. Davis described the proposed Code and Sel. Hubert noted that the proposed ordinance was modeled on Woodbury's Code.

1. Charlotte Shapiro of 629A Heritage Village representing the Southbury League of Women Voters spoke first. She announced that they would be celebrating the 90th Birthday of the League in January. Ms. Shapiro reminded the Board that the League of Women Voters was formed in 1920 when the Nineteenth Amendment to the Constitution for women's suffrage was passed.

Ms. Shapiro then raised questions concerning the Ethics Commission in Section J. of the proposed Code. She suggested the Ethics Commission should be established before any ethics complaint arises so as to avoid any conflict over the selection of the members of the Commission.

Also, Ms. Shapiro felt the Board of Selectmen should not act as the Ethics Commission (before one is appointed) because the Board of Selectman is the final Court after the Commission makes its decision. And, she felt, any complaints should first be considered informally before an appointed Ethics Commission.

Also, Ms. Shapiro felt that having two members of the Board of Selectman on the Ethics Commission and only one other person could reflect on the impartiality and neutrality of the Ethics Commission.

2. John Michaels of 147 Mansion House Road made the following comments on the proposed ordinance: in Section B.2. the words "if it is not insignificant" should be added to modify "financial interest"; in Section J. the Ethics Commission should have four members (2 Republicans and 2 Democrats) in order to avoid political mischief; in Section K.2. the question of timing should be considered when voiding a contract for conflict of interest (A contract might have already been partially executed.); and the proposed Code is only concerned with conflicts of interest, not ethical behavior or cases of moral turpitude or criminal conviction.

There being no one else who wished to comment on the proposed Code of Ethics/Conflict of Interest Ordinance, First Sel. Davis closed the Public Hearing at 7:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jocelyn Bagger