

**MINUTES OF THE  
AD HOC COMMITTEE TO DEVELOP ETHICS ORDINANCE  
THURSDAY, AUGUST 18, 2011**

At a meeting of the **Ad Hoc Committee to Develop Ethics Ordinance**, held Thursday, August 18, 2011, in the Board Room, on the 9<sup>th</sup> Floor of the Administration Building, Mount Clemens, the following members were present:

Miller-Chair, Gralewski, Mocerri and Smith.

Absent and excused was Vosburg.

There being a quorum of the committee present, Chair Miller called the meeting to order at 4:02 p.m.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**AGENDA**

**MOTION**

A motion was made by Mocerri, supported by Smith, to adopt the agenda, as presented.  
**The Motion Carried.**

**DISCUSSION ON DEVELOPMENT OF ETHICS ORDINANCE**

Chair Miller said he invited Skip MacCarone to share some thoughts about the Charter process. He also invited Judge Fuca to talk about her role in chairing the Charter Commission's committee on the development of Article 2, Ethics, but she was unavailable at this time.

He noted the information that was distributed: an August 17 memorandum outlining the policies that are required by the Charter to be in an Ethics Ordinance, the existing Ethics Policy, a model Ethics Ordinance by Attorney General Mike Cox and an Ethics Handbook for Michigan Municipalities.

Skip MacCarone spoke about the Charter Commission's work on this issue.

Chair Miller overviewed his memorandum, which outlined the policies required by the Charter to be in an Ethics Ordinance and what he felt could be included from the current Code of Ethics. A detailed discussion of the content of the Code of Ethics followed.

Conflicts of Interest

Commissioners Miller, Gralewski and Smith spoke about the issue of gifts, appropriate sources and clarifying language.

Chair Miller suggested the following language: "Not accept any gifts from prohibited sources including other elected officials" and to add \$75 as a threshold for food and refreshments consumed on premises. That was agreed to by members.

Personal Disclosure for Public Servants and Vendors

Skip Maccarone noted the intention of the authors of the Charter relative to the applicability and enforcement of the Ethics Ordinance.

A discussion focusing on Section 2.3c of the Charter, Incompatible Employment, followed.

Confidential Information of the County

Commissioner Gralewski felt this section should be very specific and noted that the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) defines what is confidential.

Chair Miller referred to the Michigan Municipal League Ethics Handbook and a discussion ensued on what types of things are able to be obtained through the FOIA process.

Chair Miller asked whether the ordinance could just refer to the FOIA and Jill Smith replied yes.

Prohibiting the Use of Public Assets for Private Purposes

Committee requested a copy of the current County Vehicle Usage Policy.

Discussion took place regarding the issues and consequences of employees using personal resources for county business.

Ethics Board

Chair Miller noted that the Office of Attorney General lays out specific procedures and protocols.

Sanctions

Chair Miller stated his wish to outline sanctions and noted the existing policy does not address sanctions.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION**

A motion was made by Smith, supported by Gralewski, to adjourn the meeting at 5:29 p.m. **The Motion Carried.**

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**Corinne Bedard**  
**Committee Reporter**