

IOWA ETHICS AND CAMPAIGN DISCLOSURE BOARD

An Independent Agency of the Executive Branch

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BOARD MEMBERS:
James Albert, Chair
John Walsh, Vice Chair
Carole Tillotson
Jonathan Roos
Mary Rueter
Elaine Olson

Meeting Minutes

ZOOM MEETING

(per Iowa Code section 21.8)

Thursday, February 25, 2021, at 12:00 p.m.

[Zoom Meeting Link](#)

I. **CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Albert calls meeting to order at 12:06 PM. Section 21.8 explains the need for holding the meeting via Zoom due to public health emergency, we request the public to mute their computers to limit background noise.

Roll call, present are Elaine Olson, Mary Rueter, Jon Roos, John Walsh and Carole Tillotson. Also in attendance are Mike Marshall, Andrew Greenberg, Jason Hacker and Nancy Wood.

II. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Motion by Elaine, to approve open and closed session minutes of meetings held on November 19, 2020. Second by Mary Rueter. Approved unanimously.

III. **DIRECTOR'S UPDATE**

We expect within the next week or so to sign the contract for our new web reporting system. We have gone through with Jason Hacker and Nancy Wood's help a detailed RFP indicating what we wanted the system to do and put that out and ended up receiving one response. From our current vendor. They have a very high knowledge of what our needs are. They've been working with us for 14 / 15 years. We expect to get that all ironed out next week.

IV. **LEGISLATIVE UPDATE**

Things did calm down after the election cycle and spinning back up now that the legislature is in session. Both bills have passed the House unanimously. One of the bills has passed the senate state government committee and is on the senate calendar and has been attached to the house bill. One bill was to bring federal campaign signs into our jurisdiction. Currently the FEC does not have any federal regulations for federal campaign signs. The second bill was to add real estate to the list of business interactions that state officials and employees are prohibited from engaging in with respect to companies or individuals that their departments have business with. That was a loophole that Megan discovered several years ago that the Board has been trying to close. That is the bill that is on the senate calendar with the house bill attached.

V. **ADMINISTRATIVE RULES—Approve Adoption and Filing**

Andrew Greenberg stated that we chose to have a public hearing and you have to wait an additional 30 days after the hearing to keep it open. If adopted today we can get it adopted and filed for publication on March 24th with earliest publication effective date of April 28th. Motion by Carole Tillotson for proposed clean-up of Board's rules to conform to Iowa Code to approve what was previously adopted. Second by Elaine Olson. All Ayes, unanimously approved.

VI. REQUESTS FOR WAIVER OF CIVIL PENALTIES (RULE 351 IAC 4.60)

STATE COMMITTEES (Rule 351 IAC 4.59(3))

1. Benton County Republican Central Committee
2. Creasman for House 2020
3. Democratic Women of Buchanan County (PAC)

COUNTY AND LOCAL COMMITTEES (Rule 351 IAC 4.59(2))

1. Alex Smith for Waukee Schools

SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT (Rule 351 IAC 4.59(4))

1. Timi Brown-Powers
2. Ryan Howard for Iowa
3. Friends for Landon

VERIFIED STATEMENT OF REGISTRATION (VSR) ASSESSMENTS

1. First District Congressional Democratic Iowa
2. The Hawkeye PAC
3. Sammons Enterprises, Inc. PAC
4. Southwest Iowa Renewable Energy PAC
5. US Cellular Corp. PAC

Chairman Albert requested we pull the State Committee waiver from the Democratic Women of Buchanan County out for additional discussion. Motion by Mary Rueter that we accept the recommendations of our Executive Director, Mike Marshall, regarding the request waivers with the exception of Democratic Women of Buchanan County to approve waivers. Second by Elaine Olson. All ayes, motion passes unanimously.

Chairman Albert felt The Democratic Women of Buchanan County fell within our guidelines for exceptions. Granting this waiver would be consistent with what we have done in the past. Carole Tillotson moves that that waiver be accepted and no fines imposed. Second by Mary Rueter.

VII. CLOSED SESSION

In accordance with the provisions of Iowa Code 21.5(1) "c" and "g", the Board may move into closed session to discuss:

1. Complaint against Liz Cox regarding alleged failure to report campaign contributions.
2. Complaint against Bart Richmond for Sheriff regarding alleged violations of Iowa Code sections 68A.405 and 68A.505

Motion to move to closed session by Elaine Olson and second by John Walsh

Roll Call: John Walsh, Carole Tillotson, Jonathan Roos, Mary Rueter, Elaine Olson, James Albert, All ayes. Moved to session at 12:30 PM.

VIII. **RETURN TO OPEN SESSION-** Review of Discussion in Closed Session and entertain motions.

In regards to complaint #1 against Liz Cox, a motion to dismiss claims given the quick response by the candidate was made by Carole Tillotson, second by Mary Rueter. All ayes, Motion carries.

In regards to complaint #2 against Bart Richmond, a motion by John Walsh to dismiss both allegations for lack of legal sufficiency. Second by Elaine Olson. No further discussion. All ayes, motion carries.

IX. **ADJOURNMENT**

Motion by Mary Rueter to adjourn. Second by Elaine Olson. All ayes, motion carries. The board adjourns at 1:16 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Nancy Wood

Nancy Wood
Board Secretary

Approved 5/26/2021