

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
OF THE ETHICS COMMISSION
STATE OF OKLAHOMA
HELD JULY 11, 2014

- Call to Order Upon notice with agenda being properly posted at the Commission office at least twenty-four (24) hours prior to the commencement of the meeting and notice being filed at least 48 hours in advance with the Office of the Secretary of State, a regular meeting of the Ethics Commission of the State of Oklahoma ["Commission"] was called to order on Friday, July 11, 2014, at 10:00 a.m. Vice-Chair Karen Long ["Long"] opened the meeting, which was held in Room 432A, State Capitol Building, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.
- Determination of Quorum Roll was called to determine the existence of a quorum for the transaction of business. Commissioners answering present were: Long, Jo Pettigrew ["Pettigrew"], and M. Robert McKinney ["McKinney"]. A quorum of members was declared. Commissioner Thomas Walker ["Walker"] entered the meeting after the Executive Director's report.
- Staff & Visitors Commission staff members present were Lee Slater ["Slater"], Ashley Kemp ["Kemp"], Rebecca Frazier ["Frazier"], Geoffrey Long ["Long"] and Roberta Hale ["Hale"].
- Observing all or part of the meeting: Stephanie Black, OEC Legal Intern; Glenn Coffee, Attorney; Denise Davick, Attorney; Caroline Dennis, Senate staff; Glenn Hightower, Oklahoma County Democrats; Barbara Hoberock, Tulsa World; Shawn Ashley, E Capitol News and Marie Price, Legislative Reporter.
- Introductions and Announcements No introductions. Executive Director Slater notified the Commission that Commissioner Walker had a meeting conflict and would be late in attendance.
- Consideration, Discussion and Possible Action on Minutes for Regular Meeting and Executive Session held on June 13, 2014. Pettigrew moved to approve minutes of the June 13, 2014, regular meeting and executive session. McKinney seconded. Roll was called and the vote was as follows: Pettigrew – yes, McKinney – yes, Long – yes. **Motion carried.**
- Consideration, Discussion and Possible Action on Ratification of Agency Expenditures for the month of June, 2014. McKinney moved for ratification of the agency expenditures. Pettigrew seconded. Roll was called on the motion and the vote was as follows: McKinney – yes, Pettigrew – yes, Long – yes. **Motion carried.**
- Administration of Oath of Office to Commissioner Long. Director Slater conducted the oath of office presentation, swearing in Commissioner Karen Long who was re-appointed by the Speaker of the House, Jeff Hickman, for the term of July 2014 through July 2018.

Executive Director's Report.

Slater pointed out that the Commission has five monthly meetings scheduled before making a final determination on any amendments to the Ethics Rules in January 2015. He said that would fit with the process the Commission used during the past year to give greater focus to each area of possible amendments. He said that there were four major areas to consider: (1) treatment of political parties; (2) user fees and fees/tuition for training; (3) administrative compliance fees; (4) miscellaneous changes in the newly promulgated Rules.

Slater said the agency budget had been cut by .12%, or a total of \$900 for FY 2015.

Deputy Director Kemp said the Ethics Commission has been collaborating extensively with OMES regarding the acquisition of new software and expressed appreciation for the assistance of Mike Widell, Melvin Mungai and Shauna Cole. Kemp stated the Commission issued a Statement of Work to 25 vendors and received responses which have been evaluated and provided to OMES with a vendor recommendation. OMES will issue the purchase order for the software.

Slater reported that the number of state officers and employees filing Statements of Financial Interests had climbed to 7,005, leaving 433 more to be filed. He said that was 94% compliance, compared to 60% compliance the previous year.

Slater reported appreciation expressed to the Commission by Debra A. Charles, General Counsel for the Administrative Office of the Courts, for the Commission's recommendations on a code of ethics for courtroom interpreters, and also to Roberta Hale by Christie Miller, for her assistance in helping her file a campaign contributions and expenditures report for the first time.

He said that he had spoken to the Bail Bondsmen Association in Tulsa and to the Oklahoma Public Human Resources Association since the last Commission meeting.

Slater said that Pam Williams would begin her work as compliance officer on August 1, 2014.

General Counsel's Report

General Counsel Frazier discussed *Riddle v. Hickenlooper*, a 10th Circuit Court of Appeals ruling regarding disparate contribution limits in Colorado. Frazier explained that Commission staff had analyzed this ruling, and that it would not impact the Commission's recently promulgated campaign finance rules.

Consideration, Discussion and Possible Action on Commission Policy with respect to

Discussion was tabled until the August 2014 meeting to allow input from all Commission members. In addition, possible action may include the Commission scheduling a Public Hearing at a future date to allow

On-line Availability of Financial Disclosure Statements

members of the groups that file the statements of disclosure to discuss their comments and/or concerns regarding online availability of such forms.

Consideration, Discussion and Proposed Action on Closed/Executive Session

McKinney moved to go into Closed/Executive session. Walker seconded. Roll was called and the vote was as follows: McKinney – yes, Walker – yes, Pettigrew – yes, Long – yes. **Motion carried to go into Executive/Closed session at 10:45 a.m.**

Possible Action to Return to Open Session

Walker moved to reconvene in open session at **12:52 p.m.** McKinney seconded. Roll was called and the vote was as follows: Walker – yes, McKinney – yes, Pettigrew – yes, Long – yes. **Motion carried.**

Commissioner Walker made the following motion: Madam Chair, I move the Commission to determine that the information received in support of Complaint 14-010 provides an adequate basis for the belief that a campaign finance violation of Ethics Commission rules may have occurred and that an investigation of the suspected violation is warranted and that we authorize an investigation to be conducted, with the authority to issue subpoenas.

McKinney seconded. Roll was called and the vote was as follows: Walker – yes, McKinney – yes, Pettigrew – yes, Long – yes. **Motion carried.**

Consideration, Discussion and Proposed Action on Commission Policy with regard to Ethics Interpretations for third parties.

Commissioners discussed the possibility of developing a policy in regard to Ethics Interpretations for third parties.

New Business

No new business.

Director Slater notified the Commission that he would not be in attendance for the currently scheduled August 8, 2014, meeting. The commissioners discussed rescheduling the meeting to August 15, 2014.

McKinney made a motion to reschedule the August meeting to August 15, 2014. Pettigrew seconded. Roll was called and the vote was as follows: McKinney – yes, Pettigrew – yes, Walker – yes, Long – yes.

Adjournment

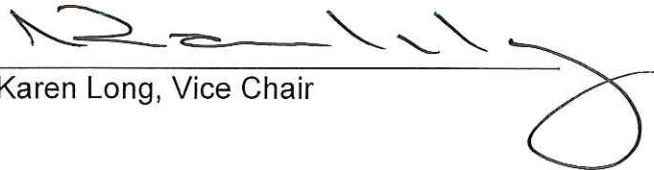
Pettigrew moved to adjourn. McKinney seconded. Roll was called and the vote was as follows: Pettigrew – yes, McKinney – yes, Walker – yes, Long – yes. **Motion carried.**

Meeting ended at **1:09 p.m.**



LEE SLATER, Executive Director

Approved on Behalf of the Commission:



Karen Long, Vice Chair