

## North Dakota Ethics Commission Meeting

Minutes of July 23, 2020

Live Stream MS Teams

1. The meeting was called to order by Chair, Ron Goodman, at 9:00 a.m. The following members of the Ethics Commission were present: Ron Goodman, Cynthia Lindquist, David Anderson and Ward Koeser. Also present was the Ethics Commission legal counsel, Allyson M. Hicks, Dave Thiele, Executive Director, and Holly Gaugler, Office Manager. Also present, Karilynn Berger, Information Technology Program Administrator for NDIT. Paul Richard later joined the meeting at 9:27 a.m.
2. The agenda was discussed for this meeting with no additions.
3. The minutes of the June meeting were discussed with no changes.

**Motion:** Anderson moved to approve the minutes of June 17, 2020. Motion was seconded by Koeser. Chair Goodman called for a voice vote on the motion. The motion was approved by unanimous voice vote.

4. Office Manager, Holly Gaugler gave a budget update as of June 30, 2020. The current budget as of June 30, 2020 shows total expenditures of \$164,004 and a remaining budget at the end of the biennium, June 30, 2021, of \$58,157. Gaugler stated that budget request for the 2021-21 biennium had been submitted on July 15, 2020. The Governor's budget guidelines for the upcoming 2021-23 biennium required a 5% reduction for the Ethics Commission which was a reduction of \$25,858 from the current appropriation of \$517,155 to \$491,297. Included with the submittal of the base budget of \$491,297, was a request to increase the 2021-23 biennial budget to \$642,005 to fund salaries as well as minimal operations. The next 2021-21 biennial budget step will be to attend a meeting hosted by OMB in early fall.
5. Executive Director, Dave Thiele gave an update on his presentation to the Interim Judicial Committee on June 22, 2020. Thiele's presentation included the Commission's complaint rules and the Commission's proposed legislative changes for the 2021 Legislature. Thiele also discussed with the Commission, the final draft for Request for Attorney General's Opinion.

**Motion:** Chair Goodman requested a motion to approve the Request for Attorney General's Opinion. Koeser made a motion to approve, with a second by Lindquist. The motion was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

6. The Commission discussed several proposed changes to the draft gift rules as provided by legal counsel Allyson Hicks, the North Dakotans for Public Integrity and others. At 10:10 it was announced that the public access had become unavailable due to technical issues at which time Commission business was halted.

The Commission decided to resume discussion of proposed gift rule changes at the upcoming meeting on August 12<sup>th</sup>. Thiele would provide draft changes as discussed at this meeting and post to the website for review and further discussion.

Chair Goodman adjourned the meeting at 10:31 a.m.

Approved on Aug 12, 2020



Dave Thiele, Executive Director, North Dakota Ethics Commission