

January 9, 2017  
Board of Ethics  
Town of Ridgefield

**Special Meeting, minutes for December 22, 2016, Approved**

Present :

- Bart Van de Weghe
- Barbara Safran
- John Zembron
- Greg McLaughlin
- Geoff Harrington
- Town Official

Absent

- None

Committee Chairman Bart Van de Weghe called the special meeting to order at 7:03 pm

Business at hand:

- The Board of Ethics held a meeting to evaluate the request for an advisory opinion, by a town official, concerning an upcoming event scheduled for a town vote in the near future. The request was reviewed by those present, with input for clarification from the town official, and then closed with only Board of Ethics members present.
- The five board members present determined the request for advisory opinion contained two elements of concern and should be parsed, thus requiring separate opinions for each.
- Following preliminary review of the construct of each concern, two members recused themselves from voting on the first issue, and one member recused themselves from voting on the second issue. Both members were permitted to participate in the discussion of the issues with the consent of the three other Board members.
- According to the by-laws of the Ethics Commission, a quorum of at least four members present and voting is required to issue an advisory opinion. With two members recusing themselves from the vote the Board did not have a quorum and therefore could not issue an advisory opinion on the first of the two issues.
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- A four member quorum was present and the commission was able to reach a conclusion with a majority vote on the second issue.
- The advisory opinion will be forthcoming and forwarded in confidentiality, to the requesting party, prior to the date of the scheduled event-of-concern.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Geoff Harrington, Secretary