



# TOWN OF NEWTOWN

## BOARD OF ETHICS

Special Meeting

Wednesday, February 3, 2016 at 6:30

pm

Newtown Municipal Center – Meeting Room 1

3 Primrose Street, Newtown, CT

The Board of Ethics held a special meeting on Wednesday, February 3, 2016 in meeting room #1 at the Newtown Municipal Center, Newtown. The meeting was called to order at 6:45pm

**Present:** Joyce Murty, Jackie Villa, Suzanne Copp, James Stringer, Alternate Laurie Kilchevsky

**Absent:** Parker Reardon

### 1. Review and Approval of Minutes:

In the last paragraph of the first page of the Minutes from December 3, 2015, it should read “charter revisions”.

**Motion:** Laurie Kilchevsky motioned to accept the December 3, 2015 minutes with the noted corrections. James Stringer seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

### 2. Meet Potential New Alternate Member

Potential member was not available to come to tonight’s meeting. Potential member may be eligible for regular member opening.

### 3. Correspondence Inward/Outward

**Motion:** James Stringer motioned to endorse the reply letter from the Board of Ethics to the Board of Selectman regarding their November letter. Suzanne Copp seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

### 4. Old Business

#### Continue to Review Charter Revisions that were submitted to CRC

Mrs. Villa will contact Mary Ann Jacob, Legislative Council chairman, regarding the Board of Ethics changes that were submitted to the Charter Revision Commission (CRC) to see if all submitted changes were accepted by the CRC.

#### Continue to work on Clarifying Procedures for Issuing a Complaint/Website

Mrs. Villa will email town clerk’s office about putting link on website as voted on in last month’s minutes.

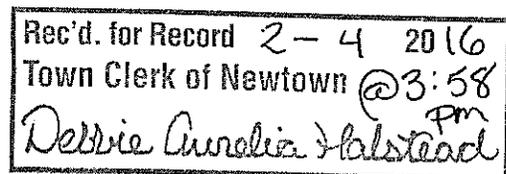
### 5. New Business

There will be an FOI informational meeting on March 1<sup>st</sup> in the Board of Education offices.

Adjournment: There being no further business, James Stringer motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:40 pm. Joyce Murty 2<sup>nd</sup>. All approved.

Respectfully Submitted,

Aileen Barreto, Clerk





## TOWN OF NEWTOWN

### OFFICE OF THE FIRST SELECTMAN

November 5, 2015

Jaqueline Villa  
P.O. 127  
Stevenson, CT 06491

Dear Board Members:

In accordance with a resolution passed by the Newtown Board of Selectmen ("Selectmen") at its meeting on November 2, 2015, I have been authorized to refer the following matter to the Board of Ethics ("Board") for an advisory opinion as to whether the situation described herein represents a violation of the Newtown Code of Ethics ("Code") by any of the individuals involved and, if so, what the recommendation of the Board would be as to such violation.

The facts as known by the Selectmen are hereinafter summarized. On or about October 20, 2015, the attached information ("Attachment 1") was posted on a social media site by Carey Schierloh, who is employed by the Town of Newtown ("Town") as a part-time clerk in the office of the Registrar of Voters. A copy of the job description for this clerk is attached hereto for your review. ("Attachment 2") While the Selectmen do not claim to know exactly how this information came into the Ms. Schierloh's possession, there have been public statements made indicating that she received the information from a member or members of the then-setting Board of Education ("BOE"). The information posted is possibly confidential information of the BOE, but is not information related to the office of the Registrar of Voters. Further, the information contained in Attachment 1 relates to events that occurred, and which the public decisions regarding the issues covered therein were concluded, several months prior to release of the information in question.

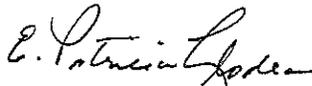
The Selectmen request that the Board review and investigate this matter in its totality and advise the Selectmen as to:

1. Whether by the disclosure of the information contained in Attachment 1 there has been a violation of the Code by any of the parties involved; and
2. If so, what the Board would recommend as the appropriate action of the Selectmen for such violation.

Given that the Selectmen must ultimately make a decision as to the appropriate ramifications for any violations of the Code that may be found by the Board, the Selectmen wish to make it clear that they have not developed an opinion regarding the answers to the questions posited to the Board. Those questions remain in the purview of the Board. Upon receipt of the Board's opinion, the Selectmen will take such action as it deems appropriate.

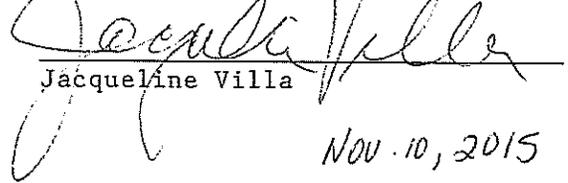
Thank you in advance for your consideration of this matter. The Selectmen would, however, urge the Board to act as expeditiously as possible, given the importance of the issues in question.

Sincerely,



E. Patricia Llodra  
First Selectman

Received in person by:



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Jacqueline Villa

NOV. 10, 2015



## TOWN OF NEWTOWN

### BOARD OF ETHICS

December 7, 2015

E. Patricia Llodra, First Selectman  
Board of Selectman  
Town of Newtown  
Newtown Municipal Center  
3 Primrose Street  
Newtown, CT 06470

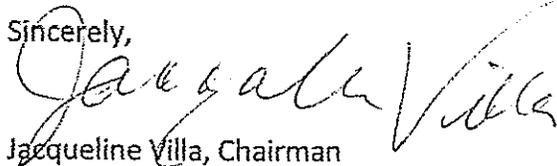
Dear Board Members,

The Board of Ethics (the "Board") is in receipt of your letter dated November 5, 2015. At a regular meeting held on December 3, 2015, the Board considered your request for an advisory opinion as to whether certain actions taken by a town employee violated the Newtown Code of Ethics (the "Code of Ethics") and, if so, what action the Board recommended be taken by the Newtown Board of Selectmen. After consideration and, based upon the advice of the Town Attorney David Grogins, the Board determined that your request did not fall within the purview of an advisory opinion under Section 4-60(g) of the Town Charter.

The contemplated action for which you are requesting an advisory opinion is action by another town employee that has already occurred. It is our determination that the responsibility of the Board is only to consider whether this action was a violation of the Code of Ethics by the submission of a complaint under Section 4.60 (d) of the Town Charter. If you wish further comment from the Board, please submit such a complaint, and the Board will consider the complaint in compliance with Chapter §303-6 A. of the Town Code.

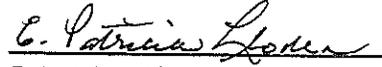
Please be advised any allegations received by the Board of Ethics are confidential and, therefore, shall not be disclosed to any third party (Chapter §303-7).

Sincerely,



Jacqueline Villa, Chairman  
Board of Ethics, Town of Newtown  
P.O. Box 127  
Stevenson, CT 06491  
jacfab5@aol.com

Received in person by:



E. Patricia Llordra  
December 8, 2015

cc: James Stringer, Vice Chairman  
Suzanne Copp  
Linda Dixon  
Joyce Murty  
Parker Reardon  
Laurie Kilchevsky