



Minutes of the April 27, 2022 Meeting of the
Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices
45 Memorial Circle, Augusta, Maine

Present: William A. Lee III, Esq., Chair; David R. Hastings, Esq.; Sarah LeClaire, Esq.; Dennis R. Marble; and William J. Schneider, Esq.

Staff: Jonathan Wayne, Executive Director; and Jonathan R. Bolton, AAG

Commissioner Lee convened the meeting at 9:05 a.m., which was livestreamed via YouTube.

The Commission considered the following items:

1. Ratification of the March 30, 2022 Minutes

Mr. Schneider moved to adopt the minutes as presented. Mr. Lee seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.

2. Request for Waiver of Late-Filing Penalty – Lobbyist Kenneth Fredette

Mr. Wayne said Kenneth Fredette registered as a lobbyist for Voatz on February 4. Mr. Fredette was required to file the March Lobbyist report on March 15 but did not file it until March 22. The preliminary penalty is \$100. Mr. Fredette is seeking a waiver because he has not lobbied more than eight hours for this client and there was no bill for him to lobby.

The Commissioners discussed that Mr. Fredette, who is a former legislator, has a lot of experience, this is a minimal penalty and the importance of filing monthly lobbyist reports on time.

Mr. Lee moved to find that Kenneth Fredette, a registered lobbyist, violated the March 15, 2022 filing deadline by one week to assess a penalty of \$100 pursuant to 3 M.R.S. § 319. Mr. Schneider seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.

3. Recommendation of Penalty for Failure to Register – Timothy Keenan and Howard Patten

Mr. Wayne said every election year there are approximately 500 candidates who qualify for the ballot and are required to register with the Commission. The Candidate Registrars started contacting unregistered candidates in February. The two remaining unregistered candidates are Timothy Keenan and Howard Patten, who qualified for the ballot on March 7 and 14 respectively. Multiple letters were sent to both of them. The final letter on April 15 informed

them of a preliminary penalty of \$100 and that they were being placed on the April 27 meeting agenda. Neither of them has contacted/responded to the Commission staff. Mr. Wayne said there is a possibility that neither of them are serious candidates, but they still need to register and file campaign finance reports.

The Commissioners discussed further steps if these two candidates did not register.

Mr. Lee moved to find that Timothy Keenan and Howard Patten violated 21-A M.R.S. § 1013-A(1)(A) by failing to timely register with the Commission and assess a \$100 penalty against each of them pursuant to 21-A M.R.S. §1020-A(1). Mr. Marble seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.

Other Business

This is Mr. Lee's last meeting. The Commissioners and the Commission staff thanked him for his service and presented him with a plaque and gift certificate.

Adjournment

Mr. Lee made a motion, seconded by Mr. Marble, to adjourn. The motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 9:48 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
/s/ Jonathan Wayne
Jonathan Wayne, Executive Director