



Minutes of the September 18, 2020, 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.; Meri N. Lowry; Dennis R. Marble; and William J. Schneider, Esq.

Staff: Jonathan Wayne, Executive Director, and Phyllis Gardiner, Assistant Attorney General

Commissioner Lee convened the meeting at 10:09 a.m. Ms. Lowry and Ms. Gardiner attended the meeting via Zoom videoconferencing. The meeting was livestreamed via YouTube.

The Commission considered the following items:

1. Orientation for New Commission Members

Mr. Lee welcomed Mr. Hastings, Mr. Marble and Mr. Schneider to the Commission. Mr. Lee and Ms. Lowry each introduced themselves and gave brief biographical summaries. The Commission staff introduced themselves and gave brief overviews of their respective responsibilities. Ms. Gardiner introduced herself and gave an overview of her role with the Commission.

Mr. Wayne provided an overview of the Commission's areas of jurisdiction: campaign finance and administration of the Maine Clean Election Act (MCEA); lobbyist disclosure; and legislative ethics. Mr. Wayne outlined the typical matters that the Commissioners make determinations on: requests for waiver of late-filing penalties; complaints (*e.g.*, unregistered PACs, missing disclosure statements, incomplete financial reports, etc.); adjudicatory proceedings arising out of complaints; appeals by candidates seeking MCEA funds; other enforcement issues (*e.g.*, staff review of financial reports, audits of MCEA candidates, etc.); and major decisions concerning public policy (statute proposals and rulemakings). Mr. Wayne also discussed the Commission's history of non-partisan decision making and the prohibition on communications on matters pending before the Commission (Commission Rules, Chapter 1, §8).

Adjournment

Mr. Lee made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hastings, to adjourn. The motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 12:07 p.m.

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