

***** PUBLIC SESSION *****

NEW HAMPSHIRE EXECUTIVE BRANCH ETHICS COMMITTEE

**SHEEHAN PHINNEY BASS + GREEN PA
MOOSILAUKE ROOM**

**April 1, 2015
8:10 AM**

Meeting called to order by Chairman Joseph DiBrigida, Jr.

Present: Dale Kuehne, Alan Johnson, Dorothy Graham

Excused Absence: James Normand

Also present: Associate Attorney General Richard Head and Attorney General Joseph Foster

- Committee discussed a request for an advisory opinion regarding attendance at overseas meetings and conferences for which all costs are reimbursed or waived. Several factors were discussed, such as the time allocated to non-business related activities. Alan noted that there aren't any checks and balances and maybe a supervisor should make the call on approving or disapproving these types of trips. Other considerations discussed included the nexus between the public official's role and the purpose of the trip, and whether other participants have similar job functions as the New Hampshire official. It was agreed to table the discussion until the next meeting, and the Committee members will review opinions of the Legislative Ethics Committee to determine if any guidance has been issued to elected officials and legislative staff.
- The Committee discussed a separate request for overseas travel. The committee decided by a 4-0 vote that expense reimbursement request was allowed by the State's ethics code.
- The committee members reviewed the draft minutes of the February 4, 2015 meeting and approved them.
- The committee discussed the new complaint form and Dorothy Graham pointed out two small typographical errors
- Richard Head gave an update on the status of SB 250. The Bill passed the Senate on 3/12 and the House had a hearing 3/31/15 where a small amendment was suggested. Alan Johnson attended the hearing and noted that he informed the Senate committee that our Committee has had long periods of time when it had unfilled vacancies. He noted that it is hard to get members due to schedules and the voluntary nature of the Committee. There was a brief discussion about any members whose terms are coming up and it was noted the terms of Chairman DiBrigida's and Dale Kuehne will expire this year. The Attorney General's Office will follow up with regarding their reappointment.

- The next meeting is scheduled for May 6, 2015 at 8:00 a.m. at Sheehan Phinney Bass + Green.

Meeting adjourned at 9:15 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted

Jennifer Cawelti
Recording Secretary