

## Government Affairs Committee Meeting

September 25, 2014, 7:30 PM

Present: Chair, Frank Mollo Hickey, Samuel Saverine, Victoria Elliot, Deborah Kovall, Marie, Knudsen, Candace Jones-Pacholski

Absent: Andrew Goldstein

The meeting was called to order at 7:27 PM. A motion was made by Victoria Elliot to accept the minutes of September 10, 2014. Motion passed.

A discussion of available training programs for elected officials and municipal employees was held including those provided by Connecticut Conference of Municipalities (CCM) and the University of Connecticut. A motion was made by Victoria Elliot to recommend to the Board of Selectmen at a minimum that workshops be held for elected officials and municipality employees in: Ethics, Accountability, and Conflicts of Interest; FOIA – What Board, Commission, & Committee Members Must Know; as well as UCONN's workshop training for Land Use Commission Members. Motion passed unanimously. Further discussion recommended that these workshops be held for existing officials and employees and not just newly elected or appointed personnel. In addition it is recommended that other workshops offered by CCM or

UCONN be approved as needed by elected officials and municipality employees.

A discussion of the possibility of the formation of an Ethics Commission and Ethics regulations was held. The group agreed a Harwinton Ethics Commission was indeed needed and will be recommended to the Board of Selectmen. Board of Ethics Policies and Procedures from Monroe, East Lyme and Litchfield were discussed. Candace Jones-Pacholski moved to recommend the Litchfield Board of Ethics be recommended as a model for the development of Harwinton's Board of Ethics Policies and Procedures. Moreover, it was recommended that at the time of approval and passage of such a Board of Ethics Policies and Procedures, all municipality employees and all existing commission or committee members be provided with a copy of the Board of Ethics Policies and Procedures and each be required to sign off on receipt of same. In addition all newly elected or appointed or hired staff should receive a copy when hired, or made a member of a committee or commission. Motion was passed.

There was a brief discussion about the minutes of the September meeting not being available on the website.

The next meeting will be held on October 9, 2014 at 7:30 PM.

Submitted By: Candace Jones-Pacholski, Secretary