

TCMA Ethics Committee
November 19, 2019, 9:00 a.m.
Conference Call

Members present included: TCMA Ethics Committee Chair Nick Finan, Executive Director of Management Services/City Secretary, Texas City; Ethics Vice Chair Hugh Walker, Deputy City Manager, Bryan; Dion Miller, City Manager, Tulia; Melissa Valadez-Cummings, Assistant City Manager, Cedar Hill; Bret Bauer, Member in Transition; Nate Smith, City Administrator Fairfield; Zina Tedford, City Secretary, Shavano Park; Corby Alexander, City Manager, La Porte; Deval Allums, Account Executive, Ameresco; Allen Barnes, City Administrator, Stephenville; Vicky Chiavetta, Deputy City Manager, Coppell; Kevin Evans, City Manager, McGregor; Jerry Flemming, City Manager, Iowa Park; Bob Hart, City Manager, Corinth; Paul Hofmann, City Manager, Bellaire; Tink Jackson, City Manager, La Marque; Theo Melancon, City Manager, Dayton; Edward Wylie, Deputy City Manager, Pharr

TML staff: Kim Pendergraft

Nick Finan called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. and thanked everyone for participating.

Code of Ethics

Nick Finan reviewed the ICMA approved changes to Tenet 1 and 2. **On a motion by Bret Bauer and a second by Hugh Walker, the Committee unanimously recommends to the Board that TCMA adopt the changes as presented.**

The Committee reviewed and discussed proposed changes to ICMA Tenets 5 and 6. **Nick will submit comments to ICMA.**

Tenet 5. Submit policy proposals to elected officials; provide them with facts and advice on matters of policy as a basis for making decisions and setting community goals, and uphold and implement local government policies adopted by elected officials.

- ICMA proposed a change to replace “facts and advice” with “technical and professional advice.” The Committee recommends “facts and professional advice.” The term “facts” should be included in the statement.
- Tenet 5 should also include language to reflect the “knowledge” of the member.

Tenet 6. Recognize that elected representatives of the people are entitled to the credit for the establishment of local government policies; responsibility for policy execution rests with the members.

- The Committee recommends that both policy and goals be stated to make clear that members are responsible for policy execution of the governing body as well as the community goals.

Subcommittee Reports

1. Rules of Procedure for Enforcement. Tink Jackson stated that the subcommittee will be scheduling monthly meetings to develop proposed changes.
2. Response to Non-member Code of Ethics Violations. Nate Smith stated that a draft letter is being reviewed. Zina Tedford also would like to serve on the subcommittee.
3. Online 101 Ethics Course Review. Kevin Evans reported that the review is 50 percent complete and hopes to have it completed by December 31.

Ethics Complaint

Nick updated the Committee on the status of a public censure and a recent complaint received.

Training

Nick reminded the Committee that the Ethics Train the Trainer event is scheduled on December 6 in Austin and encouraged Committee members to attend.

The meeting adjourned at 10:00 a.m.