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ETHICS COMMITTEE MEETING NOTES FROM JUNE 24, 2025

Members of the Ethics Committee met on June 24, 2025 at the Clallam County Courthouse. The following Commissioners were in attendance:

Commissioner Jeff Tozzer, Dist 1
Commissioner Bill Benedict, Dist 1
Commissioner Cathy Walde, Dist. 3
Commissioner Rod Fleck, District 3
And myself

The meeting convened at about 1:00 pm.

Attorney Dee Boughton was not present initially. We were expecting a report from Dee on his conversations with other county civil division attorneys such as Clark County.

Commissioner Tozzer submitted his analysis of the Clallam County Code of ethics. Overall, while it looked good he said, it needed to have more language directed at applying to elected officials. Commissioner Tozzer also presented his view that having the code of ethics as part of the Charter will make it harder for Commissioners to change or otherwise to circumvent ethics as it applies to them.

Commissioners Benedict and Fleck presented their thoughts that having the Code of Ethics as part of the Code instead is better suited.

Attorney Boughton did appear back online and essentially had little update. He did relay that Prosecutor Nichols had a conversation with the Prosecutors of Clark and King counties recently and that they shared their concerns about due process issues if a finding is made by an ethics committee against an official. This led to an extended conversation among all of the committee about how officials could be represented in defending themselves against allegations. Would it wind up being cost prohibitive?

Would the county have to pay for an attorney to present the finding and for an attorney to defend the accused?

These questions and more were discussed but left unanswered. It was decided to allow Attorney Boughton to finish his attempts to discuss with Civil Attorneys from other counties that could help answer the questions.

There was some public comment and the committee established the next meeting date.

Respectfully submitted,

Ron Cameron