Appropriations Committee

Chairman Mortimer, Infurna, Brodeur, Tramontozzi, Forbes, Wright, McAteer-Margolis, Medeiros, Conn, Boisselle
Absent: Seaboyer
In attendance: City Solicitor Robert Van Campen

Appropriations Committee called to order by Chairman Mortimer at 8:05 p.m. Order No. 10-37, APPOINTMENT Of: Robert J. Van Campen, Esq., City Solicitor to serve as the liaison of the City of Melrose to the Massachusetts State Ethics Commission in accordance with Chapter 28 of the Acts of 2009

Alderman McAteer-Margolis moves to recommend, 2nd by President Boisselle.

Alderman Medeiros motions to suspend the rules to have Atty. Van Campen address the committee, 2nd by Alderman Forbes. All in favor.

Atty. Van Campen says the state legislature enacted changes to the Conflict of Interest Law. Each municipality must appoint a liaison to the State Ethics Commission to coordinate training to all municipal employees. Training is online and must be completed by April 2, 2010.

Alderman Medeiros says she is sure there are costs associated with this and asks if people can do the training at home. Atty. Van Campen says yes. The Commission suggests group training but the wrinkles are being worked out. The Massachusetts Municipal Association has stressed that the state must pay for costs associated with training. Alderman Medeiros asks for highlights of the law. Atty. Van Campen says the law itself remains unchanged but online training is required every two years, and all municipal employees are required to receive a summary of the law. Alderman Medeiros asks if this position will interfere with his other duties as City Solicitor. Atty. Van Campen says no; he can handle it.

Alderman Brodeur says as City Solicitor Atty. Van Campen already has significant duties dealing with this. He asks if under the reform package his only responsibility is being the liaison. Atty. Van Campen says yes.

President Boisselle asks how he will know when an employee has completed the online training. Atty. Van Campen says the employee has to sign a form and present it to the City Clerk who in turn submits it to the SEC.

Alderman McAteer-Margolis asks if special municipal employees must also take the training. Atty. Van Campen says yes, as well as the Board of Aldermen and contractors hired by the City; it's pretty broad.

On the motion to recommend, All in favor.

Alderman Brodeur motions to adjourn, 2nd by Alderman Forbes. All in favor.

Appropriations Committee adjourns at 8:14 p.m.

Maribeth Harrington
Clerk of Committees