

**Ethics Board**  
**March 16, 2009**

Mayor Marsh called the meeting to order.

**A. Roll Call**

Present at roll call were Mayor Marsh, Alderpersons Mark Coplien, Dan Henke, and Kent Kallembach, Cathy Maurer, Jerry Dahlen, and Jim Belke. Also present were City Attorney Ewald, Alderpersons Jan Lefevre and Chuck Koch, Fire Chief Rausch, DPW Finkenbinder, Eric Wild, Tony Anglin, and Tere Dunlap of the Monroe Times.

**B. Correction of Minutes**

None

**C. Business:**

**1. Discuss and render advisory opinion regarding whether or not hiring Badger State Fire & Safety Equipment, which is owned and operated by two current City employees, is an ethics violation**

DPW Finkenbinder explained. This is for fire extinguisher services. Alderperson Coplien said that he doesn't have an issue with this as long as we get quotes from others and theirs is the same or less expensive. Alderperson Henke asked if they are competing apples to apples. Questions and discussion took place. One of the owners of Badger State Fire & Safety, Eric Wild, is employed by the Street Department for which DPW Finkenbinder has indirect control through the Streets Supervisor, and both owners, Eric Wild and Tony Anglin, are employed by the Fire Department for which DPW Finkenbinder has no control. Neither of them holds supervisory positions. DPW Finkenbinder said they will perform annual inspections of fire extinguishers, refilling and replacing as needed, and upon completion of some other certifications, inspect fire safety equipment for the City of Monroe. Tony Anglin said they also plan to sell fire & safety type equipment, which would be offered to the City at the same prices as offered to others. DPW Finkenbinder said he is only looking at hiring them for annual inspections and servicing at this time. Jerry Dahlen asked if they are getting any training from the Fire Department that would help them get their certifications. Eric Wild responded no. Attorney Ewald said that any decisions to be made regarding the scope of the work to be performed by Badger State Fire & Safety needs to be determined by someone else at the City. Mayor Marsh posed a question regarding if they should mention when they go out for their business that they also work for the Fire Dept. Attorney Ewald said this would be an issue. They shouldn't even wear City

tshirts when promoting their business. More questions and discussion took place. Mayor Marsh wants to see something that states they hold the City harmless if they are injured, as they are not required to carry work comp insurance. Alderperson Henke said that he doesn't want the City to pay for injuries they may receive while doing their private business. Motion made by Alderperson Coplien and seconded by Jerry Dahlen that the board renders the opinion that the circumstances described tonight are not a violation of the ethics code on the condition that they not be put in a position of decision making authority in the scope of the work they will do for city. Motion carried with all aye votes, except Alderperson Henke voted no.

**D. Business presented by members:**

Alderperson Coplien asked if this issue would come back to committee. DPW Finkenbinder indicated no, but that he will consult with Mayor Marsh and will take the quote that is in the best interest of the city.

**E. Adjournment**

Motion made by Alderperson Coplien and seconded by Alderperson Henke to adjourn. Motion carried.

Carol J. Stamm, CMC, WCMC  
City Clerk

