



# Minutes

Appendix A

A TELECONFERENCE MEETING of the CENTRAL ELECTION AND SEARCH COMMITTEE was held on Wednesday, January 15, 2020 at 3:00 p.m.

Present: B. Dony, P.Eng., Chair  
N. Hill, P.Eng., President  
D. Brown, P.Eng., Past President

Staff: D. Abrahams, General Counsel  
R. Martin, Manager, Secretariat  
D. Smith, Director, Communications  
D. Power, Secretariat Administrator

Regrets: D. Mortazavi, P.Eng.  
S. Nagrare, P.Eng.

**CALL TO ORDER** Notice having been given and a quorum being present, B. Dony, Chair, called the meeting to order.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA** Moved by President Hill, seconded by Past President Brown:  
**That the agenda be approved as presented.**

**CARRIED**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE JANUARY 9, 2020 MEETING** Moved by Past President Brown, seconded by President Hill:  
**That the minutes of the January 9, 2020 meeting be approved as presented.**

**CARRIED**

**CANDIDATE COMPLAINT AGAINST ANOTHER CANDIDATE** A. Imani, a candidate for Eastern Region, objected to a statement made by Councillor Boone during the January 6<sup>th</sup> candidate's debate wherein he indicated to Chantal Chiddle, the third candidate for Eastern Region, that she would make a good councillor and that, for the record, he would be voting for her and that she could count on that support from him. A. Imani referred to the PEO election procedures that state "Councillors may use their positions to encourage candidates to stand for PEO office and members to participate in the election process but may not endorse candidates for PEO election." It was the opinion of A. Imani that Councillor Boone had clearly endorsed Chantal Chiddle.

A. Elliot, Chief Elections Officer, responded to A. Imani stating that as the procedures are silent as to what, or what does not, constitute endorsing she sought the opinion of PEO's legal counsel who provided the following response:

“But, if the prohibition does exist, I’m not sure that disclosing one’s personal voting intentions during a debate amounts to much of an endorsement. It’s arguable, but it’s hardly at the same level of, say, including one’s name on a written list of those supporting someone’s candidacy and urging others to vote for them.”

It was the opinion of legal counsel that no further action was required. When this opinion was passed on to A. Imani by the CEO he advised that he wished to make a formal complaint against Councillor Boone. The CESC therefore scheduled a January 15<sup>th</sup> teleconference meeting to discuss this matter.

Following discussion it was agreed by consensus that B. Dony would respond to A. Imani advising that the Central Election and Search Committee had met to consider his complaint. The Committee reviewed his comments and concurred with legal counsel – i.e., disclosing one’s personal voting intentions during a debate is not sufficient to constitute an endorsement.

The Committee agreed to include this issue in its report on the elections to Council with a recommendation that a definition of endorsement be included in next year’s procedures to provide clarity.

President Hill will communicate with Council to remind Councillors of the policy within the Election Publicity Procedures that Councillors may not endorse candidates for PEO election.

Moved by Past President Brown, seconded by President Hill:

**That the Central Elections and Search Committee move in-camera.**

**CARRIED**

**OTHER BUSINESS**

There was no other business brought forward for discussion.

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

To be determined.

There being no further business, the meeting concluded.

These minutes consist of two pages.

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B. Dony, P.Eng., Chair