

ORANGE COUNTY BOARD OF ETHICS

MINUTES

January 20, 2022

The meeting was held both at the Board of Ethics office and via Zoom due to the rise in Covid-19.

Present:

Richard B. Golden, Chair – In person
Paul K. Johnson – via Zoom
Daniel B. Clarino – via Zoom
Gordon L. Dean – via Zoom
Jeffrey G. Berry – via Zoom
Marcus A. Horrego – via Zoom

Also in attendance:

Christine Taylor, Towne Law
Board Counsel – via ZOOM

Absent:

Chair Golden called the meeting to order at 3:08 p.m.

Agenda Item A – Approve Minutes from December 16, 2021 Meeting: Mr. Clarino moved to approve the minutes of December 16, 2021. Seconded by Mr. Dean. All in favor. Carried.

Agenda Item B – Approve Counsel Bill for December 2021 and Update on Counsel's Contract: Chair Golden reviewed Counsel's December 2021 bill in the amount of \$512.50. There remains an outstanding balance of \$4,356.96 as The Towne Law Firm, P.C.'s contract remains outstanding with the County. This issue was discussed as it prevents Counsel from being paid. Secretary LaVelle advised the Law Department attorney for the Board of Ethics explained that he is working on the contract, and it should be through the County's contract process in a few weeks. Chair Golden advised that if the Board does not see progress with the contract within the next few weeks, he will intervein with the Law Department. Mr. Horrego moved to approve the December 2021 Counsel bill which was second by Judge Berry. All in favor. Carried.

Agenda Item C – Update on 2020 Financial Disclosure Forms and Review of an Individual's Disclosure Form: The status of 2020 Financial Disclosure Forms was reviewed with all Members. Members were provided with a statistical breakdown which revealed there remain 53 Disclosure Forms for the Board to review, 210 Disclosure Forms which have been reviewed and approved by the Board, and 130 Disclosure Forms that are currently with the Board for review. Chair Golden reviewed each Member's progress with completing their review of the Disclosure Forms. Secretary LaVelle will resend Board Members any outstanding forms that they have not yet approved.

At 3:13 p.m., Mr. Horrego moved to go into executive session which was seconded by Dr. Johnson. All in favor. Carried.

At 4:05 p.m., Mr. Clarino moved to come out of Executive Session, which was seconded by Judge Berry. All in favor. Carried.

Agenda Item C: Review of an Individual's 2020 Disclosure Form: A letter will be drafted by the Board to the individual requesting that they amend their answer to this question in accordance with the discussion in Executive Session.

Agenda Item D: Review RFO-07-21: A motion was made by Chair Golden for Towne Law to draft a letter to the individual involved in RFO-07-21, rendering an Advisory Opinion of Approval in accordance with the discussion in Executive Session. Seconded by Dr. Johnson. All in favor. Carried.

Agenda Item E: Review RFO-08-21: A motion was made by Chair Golden for Towne Law to draft a letter to the individual involved in RFO-08-21, rendering an Advisory Opinion of Approval, in accordance with the discussion in Executive Session. Seconded by Mr. Horrego. All in favor. Carried.

Agenda Item F: Review of Disclosure Letters DL-01-22 and DL-02-22 : Regarding both DL-01-22 and DL-02-22, a motion was made by Chair Golden, in accordance with the discussion in Executive Session, for the Board to issue letters to the individuals involved in DL-01-22 and DL-02-22 advising that there does not appear to be any ethical concern in their disclosures and that their concerns will be filed as an addendum to their 2020 Annual Financial Disclosure Forms. The motion was seconded by Mr. Clarino. All in favor. Carried.

Review of 2 Individual's Disclosure Forms: Regarding both forms, Chair Golden made a motion, in accordance with the discussion in Executive Session, that the Board issue letters to both individuals seeking more information about the exact titles and positions their relatives hold within the County. Once this is received by the Board, Secretary LaVelle will request the relevant job specifications from County Human Resources so that the Board can review the job specifications to ascertain whether any ethical conflict of interest may exist. This motion was seconded by Judge Berry. All in favor. Carried.

Agenda Item G – Review Annual Report: The Board reviewed a draft version of the Annual Report which is due to the County Executive's Office. Chair Golden made a motion that the Board allow him the authority to finalize and submit the report without further action of the Board. This motion was seconded by Judge Berry. All in favor. Carried.

Agenda Item H – Other Business That May Come Before the Board: No other business noted.

Agenda Item I – Schedule Next Meeting: The next meeting is scheduled for February 17, 2022

At 4:10 p.m., Dr. Johnson moved that the meeting be adjourned. Seconded Judge Berry. All in favor. Carried.