

ORANGE COUNTY BOARD OF ETHICS

MINUTES

January 21, 2021

The meeting was held via Zoom, due to social distancing requirements, and called to order by Chair Gail Sicina at 3:11 p.m.

Present:

Gail Sicina
Paul K. Johnson
Richard B. Golden
Marcus A. Horrego
Jeffrey G. Berry
Daniel B. Clarino

Also in attendance:

James T. Towne, Jr., Board Counsel
Christine Taylor, Co-Counsel

Absent:

Raymond G. Cooper

Dr. Johnson moved to approve the minutes of December 17, 2020. Seconded by Judge Berry. All present in favor. Carried.

Dr. Johnson moved to approve the December 2020 Counsel Bill in the amount of \$1947.50. Seconded by Judge Berry. All present in favor. Carried.

Mr. Horrego arrived at 3:14 p.m.

At 3:14 p.m., Dr. Johnson moved to go into Executive Session to review the following items from the December 2020 meeting: Complaint C-03-20, Requests for Opinion RFO-14-20 and RFO-15-20, and Disclosure Letter DL-04-20. Seconded by Mr. Golden. All in favor. Carried.

At 3:15 p.m., Dr. Johnson moved to come out of Executive Session, seconded by Judge Berry. All in favor. Carried.

Regarding Complaint C-03-20, Dr. Johnson moved that Counsel draft a letter informing the individual that the issue is not under the Board's jurisdiction. Seconded by Mr. Golden. All in favor. Carried.

Regarding Request for Opinion RFO-14-20, Mr. Golden moved that Counsel draft an advisory opinion as discussed in executive session. Seconded by Judge Berry. All in favor. Carried.

Regarding Request for Opinion RFO-15-20, Judge Berry moved that Counsel draft a letter as discussed in executive session. Seconded by Mr. Golden. Mr. Horrego abstained. All others in favor. Carried.

Regarding Disclosure DL-04-20, Mr. Golden moved that a letter be sent as discussed in executive session. Seconded by Dr. Johnson. All in favor. Carried.

Chair Sicina reported there are still three delinquent filers. One form was received following the Board's correspondence to the District Attorney's office on January 14, 2021. No further action will be taken at this time.

Chair Sicina presented the 2020 Annual Report. Mr. Golden moved that the report be approved as written and forwarded to the County Executive's office. Seconded by Judge Berry. All in favor. Carried.

Chair Sicina advised the Board that the resume of the prospective member was forwarded to the County Executive's office for their action. Chair Sicina will stay on the Board until the new member begins.

Chair Sicina advised the Board that the Law department brought to her attention that the Counsel's contract can only be extended for two one-year extensions as opposed to one two-year extension.

Mr. Golden agreed to serve as co-Chair of the Board, along with Dr. Cooper, upon the resignation of Chair Sicina. Mr. Golden will be issued an Orange County email account.

Chair Sicina advised the Board that we are still waiting for the local law to be filed in Albany that would allow electronic filing and electronic signatures as discussed at the October and November 2020 meetings.

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 18th, 2021.

At 3:30 p.m., Mr. Horrego moved that the meeting be adjourned. Seconded by Mr. Clarino. All in favor. Carried.