

**RULES SPECIAL INVESTIGATIVE COMMITTEE**  
**MINUTES**  
**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2022**  
**3:30 P.M.**

PRESENT: Paul Ruskiewicz, Chairman  
Michael Amo, Barry J. Cheney, Thomas J. Faggione, Kevin W. Hines, Michael D. Paduch,  
Kathy Stegenga

ALSO

PRESENT: Katie Bonelli, Chairwoman  
Glenn R. Ehlers, Legislator  
Betsy N. Abraham, Legislative Counsel  
Langdon Chapman, County Attorney  
Damian Brady, Chief Assistant County Attorney  
Erin Sztendor, Budget Analyst  
Bill Fioravanti, CEO, Orange County Industrial Development Agency  
Susan R. Katzoff, Esq., Bousquet Holstein, PLLC  
Joseph J. Porcello, Esq., Bousquet Holstein, PLLC (via-telephone)

Mr. Ruskiewicz opened the meeting at 4:03 p.m. and requested everyone stand for the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag and a moment of silence. All members were present with the exception of Legislator Sierra, who was absent.

Mr. Ruskiewicz presented Susan R. Katzoff, Esq., Bousquet Holstein, PLLC and Attorney for the Orange County Industrial Development Agency (IDA) and Joseph J. Porcello, Esq., Bousquet Holstein, PLLC (via-telephone) who will provide an update on the Orange County Industrial Development Agency (IDA).

Ms. Katzoff introduced herself to the committee and provided a brief overview of her background in public finance, her representation of Industrial Development Agencies, Municipalities and other quasi-governmental agencies throughout New York State. She has been working with the Orange County Industrial Development Agency for several months and has received a great deal of history and background on the prior board and the transgressions that took place. Her partner Mr. Porcello is her litigation partner, as she is not a litigator, but the two work together on matters that crossover between public finance and litigation. Due to attorney-client privilege issues with the Orange County Industrial Development Agency, they will do their best to answer questions in terms of where they currently stand with their review and investigation.

Mr. Porcello introduced himself to the committee and provided a brief overview of his background principally as a commercial litigator; however, he does handle a variety of civil litigation for companies either by prosecuting claims or defending them. In addition, he also handles this for municipal entities and IDA's. In terms related to the matter of the Orange County Industrial Development Agency and potential litigation, they have reviewed the Rules Special Investigate Committee Report and the New York State Comptroller and Orange County District Attorney's Report on the Joint Investigation of the Orange County Industrial Development Agency (IDA) and the large volume of documentation provided by the Orange County Attorney. They are expecting to make a recommendation to the Orange County Industrial Development Agency later today in regard to potential claims against various defendants.

Mr. Paduch asked if the new board hired their firm by unanimous vote. Mr. Chapman replied yes.

Mr. Ruskiewicz added that he along with a few of his fellow legislators had questions in regard to the draft report. At this time, he would ask for a motion to enter into executive session under attorney/client privilege.

Mr. Faggione moved to enter into executive session invoking attorney/client privilege, seconded by Ms. Stegenga.

Committee entered into executive session at 4:09 p.m.

Mr. Faggione moved to leave executive session, seconded by Mr. Cheney.

Committee left executive session at 4:43 p.m.

Mr. Ruskiewicz commented that after discussions with Ms. Katzoff and Mr. Porcello a Teams meeting will be held to get further updates and from that point they will move forward with setting up interviews with Mr. McCarey and Mr. Vona.

The meeting adjourned at 4:45 p.m.