

ORANGE COUNTY BOARD OF ETHICS

MINUTES

February 16, 2023

The meeting was held at the Board of Ethics' office located at 40 Matthews Street, Suite 101, Goshen, NY 10924.

Chair Johnson called the meeting to order at 3:15 p.m.

Agenda Item I – Roll Call: Roll call was taken by Secretary LaVelle and a quorum was present:

Present:

Paul K. Johnson, Chair
Daniel B. Clarino
Gordon L. Dean
Marcus A. Horrego

Also in attendance:

Christine Taylor, Towne Law
Board Counsel – via Phone

Absent:

Jeffrey G. Berry

Agenda Item II – Approve Minutes from January 19, 2023, Meeting: Mr. Dean moved to approve the minutes, which was seconded by Mr. Horrego. All in favor. Carried.

Agenda Item III – Approve Counsel Bill for January 2023: Chair Johnson reviewed Counsel's January 2023 invoice in the amount of \$707.50, which included a current amount of \$301.25 and an outstanding amount of \$406.25. Mr. Clarino made a motion to pay the invoice as submitted. This motion was seconded by Mr. Horrego. All in favor. Carried.

Agenda Item IV – Update on Financial Disclosure Forms: Secretary LaVelle advised the Board that there will be at least 395 Financial Disclosure Form filers this year. There have been 147 forms completed and returned to date. Board Members have started to review and approve the submitted forms.

Secretary LaVelle reviewed Resolution No. 303 of 2022 which outlines all County positions, elected positions, and County Boards that if an individual is in the position or on a Board, they would be required to file a Financial Disclosure Form. Two separate questions have come up this past month regarding Board Members Required to file.

DFAO-01-23 – A question was brought forth by Mr. Clarino regarding the individual's answers to questions 3b and 4b. Secretary LaVelle reviewed a draft letter which will be sent to the individual. Chair Johnson advised that the individual did appear to answer 3b appropriately as asked by the question but did not answer question 4b appropriately. Secretary LaVelle will send the reviewed letter to the individual requesting that they clarify their answer to question 4b.

At 3:18 p.m., Mr. Horrego moved to enter Executive Session. The motion was seconded by Mr. Dean. All in favor. Carried.

At 3:30 p.m., Mr. Clarino moved to come out of Executive Session which was seconded by Mr Dean. All in favor. Carried.

Agenda Item V – Review of Disclosure Letter DL-02-23: This Disclosure Letters and supporting documentation was reviewed by the Board.

Agenda Item VI – Review of Request for Opinion RFO-03-23: This Request for Opinion was reviewed by the Board along with supporting documentation.

Agenda Item VII – Response to Executive Session: Response to Executive Session: A motion was made by Chair Johnson for Secretary LaVelle to draft letters to the individuals involved with the above referenced DL-02-23 and RFO-03-23, in accordance with the discussion held in Executive Session. This motion was seconded by Mr. Clarino. All in favor. Carried.

At 3:34pm, Ms. Taylor left the meeting.

Agenda Item VIII – Review of County Executive’s Annual Report: Chair Johnson reviewed the Board of Ethics’ annual report for 2022 which has been submitted to the County Executive’s Office.

Agenda Item IX – Review of Suggested Changes to Disclosure Form: Chair Johnson discussed the proposed changes to question #5 of the Disclosure Form, which should make the form more user friendly. Chair Johnson also shared with the Board his discussion with the Legislative Members of the Rules, Enactments and Intergovernmental Relations committee regarding the form changes. Chair Johnson stressed to the Rules Committee, the willingness of the Board of Ethics to work with the Legislature to make any changes to the form that they may deem appropriate.

Agenda Item X – Follow Up Old Business: No old business to discuss.

Agenda Item XI - Any Other Business That May Come Before the Board: As requested by Chair Johnson, Secretary LaVelle will send out an updated Board of Ethics’ Member listing.

Agenda Item XII – Schedule Next Meeting: The next meeting is scheduled for March 16, 2023.

At 3:49 p.m., Mr. Dean moved that the meeting be adjourned which was seconded by Mr. Horrego. All in favor. Carried.