

ORANGE COUNTY BOARD OF ETHICS

MINUTES

February 18, 2021

The meeting was held via Zoom, due to social distancing requirements, and called to order by Chair Gail Sicina at 3:07 p.m.

Present:

Gail Sicina
Paul K. Johnson
Richard B. Golden
Raymond G. Cooper
Jeffrey G. Berry

Also in attendance:

James T. Towne, Jr., Board Counsel

Absent:

Marcus A. Horrego
Daniel B. Clarino

Mr. Golden moved to approve the minutes of January 21, 2021. Seconded by Dr. Johnson. All in favor. Carried.

Dr. Johnson moved to approve the January 2021 Counsel Bill in the amount of \$461.25. Seconded by Dr. Cooper. All in favor. Carried.

At 3:09 p.m., Mr. Golden moved to go into Executive Session to review Request for Opinion RFO-01-21. Seconded by Judge Berry. All in favor. Carried.

At 3:14 p.m., Mr. Golden moved to come out of Executive Session, seconded by Dr. Johnson. All in favor. Carried.

Regarding Request for Opinion RFO-01-21, Mr. Golden moved that the matter be held over until next month to obtain more information. Seconded by Dr. Cooper. All in favor. Carried.

Chair Sicina reported that there are 374 2020 Financial Disclosure Statements being mailed out on February 25th. There will also be an electronic version available on the Board of Ethics web page. IT inserted required fields into the form so that, if a section is left blank, the filer will be alerted when they hit the “submit” button. Dr. Johnson asked if the members would be able to review the on-line version of submitted forms, rather than coming to the office to initial hard copies. Mr. Golden asked the secretary to contact IT to see if they can develop a way to circulate the incoming forms to the board members and, additionally, to be able to affix an initial

signifying it was reviewed. Dr. Cooper noted that, in PDF format, there is a section for commenting that the members could use to sign off on the form. He also suggested a password-protected file that the members could access. Doctor Johnson asked if a question that was answered “to the best of my knowledge”, i.e. could also be rejected in the on-line version. It was agreed that those types of issues can be handled on a case-by-case basis.

Mr. Golden inquired about the status of the new Board of Ethics member. Chair Sicina advised that, if the issue is on the Rules Committee agenda, he will be appointed at the March meeting. He will then be invited to the March Board of Ethics meeting.

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 18, 2021.

At 3:29 p.m., Mr. Golden moved that the meeting be adjourned. Seconded by Judge Berry. All in favor. Carried.