

ORANGE COUNTY BOARD OF ETHICS

MINUTES

May 18, 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 3:19 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
Jeffrey G. Berry
Melissa Bonacic

Also in attendance:

Christine Taylor, Towne Law
Board Counsel – via Zoom

Absent:

Marcus A. Horrego

Agenda Item II – Approve Minutes from April 20, 2023, Meeting: After the Board reviewed the minutes, Mr. Dean moved to approve them, which was seconded by Mr. Clarino. All in favor. Carried.

Agenda Item III – Approve Counsel Invoices for March and April 2023: Chair Johnson reviewed Counsel's March invoice in the amount of \$102.50 and April invoice in the amount of \$973.75. Secretary LaVelle explained there were still questions regarding the February invoice and outstanding charges listed on the February, March, and April invoices. Secretary LaVelle suggested the Board move to pay the current charges on the March and April invoices but not any of the outstanding charges until they are settled. Mr. Clarino made a motion to pay the current charges on the March and April invoices as submitted. This motion was seconded by Judge Berry. All in favor. Carried.

Agenda Item IV – Statistical Review of Financial Disclosure Forms: Secretary LaVelle reviewed the progress made regarding the collection of the 2022 Annual Statement of Financial Disclosure Forms. It is expected that there will be 407 Disclosure Form filers this year. 355 forms have been received so far and of this number, 279 have been reviewed and approved by the Board, 16 are still under Board review, and 60 are still waiting to be reviewed. There are 52 individuals who have not yet filed their form.

At 3:23 p.m., Mr. Clarino moved to enter Executive Session. The motion was seconded by Ms. Bonacic. All in favor. Carried.

Agenda Item V - Executive Review of New Member's Questions: Agenda Item IXa. DFAO-04-23 and IXb. DFAO-05-23 were moved to be reviewed under Agenda Item V. The Board reviewed these items and answered other questions from the new member to the Board.

Agenda Item VI – Review of Complaints, a. C-01-23 and b. C-02-23: These Complaints and supporting documentation of the Complaints were reviewed by the Board.

Agenda Item VII – Review of Requests for Opinion; a. RFO-06-23, b. RFO-07-23, c. RFO-08-23, and d. RFO-09-33: These Requests for Opinion and supporting documentation for the Requests For Opinion were reviewed by the Board.

Agenda Item VIII – Review of Disclosure Letters, a. DL-03-23, and b. DL-04-23: These Disclosure Letters and supporting documentation for the Disclosure Letters were reviewed by the Board.

At 4:11 pm, Mr. Dean moved to exit the Executive Session. This motion was seconded by Judge Berry. All in favor. Carried.

Agenda Item X – Response to Executive Session: A motion was made by Judge Berry for Counsel Taylor to draft letters to the individuals involved with the above referenced C-01-23, C-02-23, and RFO-06-23 and RFO-09-23 and for Secretary LaVelle to draft letters to the individuals involved with the above referenced RFO-07-23, RFO-08-23, DL-03-23 and DL-04-23 all in accordance with the discussion held in Executive Session. This motion was seconded by Ms. Bonacic. All in favor. Carried.

Agenda Item XI – Follow Up Old Business, a. Oaths of Office and b. Any Other Old Business: Secretary LaVelle advised the Board that the County Clerk has Oaths of Office on file for all Members of the Board of Ethics. Secretary LaVelle provided each Member with a copy of their signed Oath. There was no other old business to discuss.

Agenda Item XII – Any Other Business That May Come Before the Board: No new business in front of the Board.

Agenda Item XIII – Schedule Next Meeting: The next meeting is scheduled for June 15, 2023.

At 4:15 p.m., Judge Berry moved that the meeting be adjourned, which was seconded by Mr. Dean. All in favor. Carried.