

ORANGE COUNTY BOARD OF ETHICS

MINUTES

July 15, 2021

Present:

Richard B. Golden, Chair
Paul K. Johnson
Daniel B. Clarino
Jeffrey G. Berry
Gordon L. Dean
Marcus A. Horrego

Also in attendance:

James T. Towne, Board Counsel

Absent:

Raymond G. Cooper

Chair Golden called the meeting to order at 3:02 p.m.

Mr. Clarino moved to approve the minutes of June 17, 2021, as amended. Seconded by Dr. Johnson. All in favor. Carried.

Judge Berry moved to approve the June 2021 Counsel Bill, dated July 13, in the amount of \$256.25. There is a total balance due of \$1589.46. Seconded by Mr. Clarino. All in favor. Carried.

At 3:04 p.m., Dr. Johnson moved to go into Executive Session to review Request for Opinion RFO-04-21, DL-01-21, another disclosure letter submitted and the issue of two anonymous complaints. Seconded by Mr. Horrego. All in favor. Carried.

At 3:27 p.m., Dr. Johnson moved to come out of Executive Session, seconded by Mr. Horrego. All in favor. Carried.

Regarding Request for Opinion RFO-04-21, Judge Berry moved that counsel draft a letter as discussed in Executive Session. Seconded by Mr. Horrego. All in favor. Carried.

Regarding DL-01-21, Mr. Gordon moved that Counsel draft a letter as discussed in Executive Session and that the disclosure letter be attached to the individual's form and filed. Seconded by Dr. Johnson. All in favor. Carried.

Regarding anonymous complaints in general, Counsel Mr. Towne advised that Local Law No. 9 of 2018 is clear with respect to the fact that all complaints must be signed. Chair Golden abstained from the discussion of the anonymous complaints, owing to a potential conflict. Judge Berry moved that any unsigned complaints be filed in accordance with the law with no further action taken. Seconded by Mr. Clarino. All in favor. Carried.

Regarding the additional disclosure, it was agreed that the filer's letter be attached to his Financial Disclosure Form, with no further action necessary.

In other business, the issue of members signing off on disclosure forms was discussed. Orange County is unable to provide PDF access for non-county employees. Therefore, the secretary will email batches of ten forms for members to review and they will comment accordingly. Members' initials will be added to the file name for each form. Alternately, the Board members may come in to the office to initial the hard copies that have been received.

The format of future meetings was discussed, since there is no longer a provision to meet virtually due to the end of the COVID-19 State of Emergency. Chair Golden stressed that Board members may appear virtually, however, there must be a public notice published containing the physical address where the individual(s) will be.

The next meeting was scheduled for August 19, 2021, at 3:00 p.m.

At 3:38 p.m., Dr. Johnson moved that the meeting be adjourned. Seconded by Judge Berry. All in favor. Carried.