

ORANGE COUNTY BOARD OF ETHICS

MINUTES

October 19, 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
Melissa Bonacic
Gordon L. Dean
Marcus Horrego
Judge Jeffrey Berry

Also in attendance:

Christine Taylor, Towne Law
Board Counsel – via Zoom

Absent:

Agenda Item II – Approve Minutes from September 21, 2023, Meeting: After the Board reviewed the minutes, Mr. Horrego moved to approve them, which was seconded by Ms. Bonacic. All in favor. Carried.

Agenda Item III – Approve Counsel Invoice for September 2023: Chair Johnson reviewed Counsel’s September 2023 invoice in the amount of \$293.75. A review of the invoice revealed there is no back balance owed to Towne Law. Mr. Clarino made a motion to pay the September invoice as submitted. This motion was seconded by Ms. Bonacic. All in favor. Carried.

Agenda Item IV – Review of Legislative Budget Meeting by Chair: Chair Johnson shared with the Board his meeting with the Legislature regarding the Board of Ethics’ 2024 budget. Chair Johnson gave a brief presentation of the budget changes which reflected a \$454 increase over the 2023 budget. He also discussed the decrease in contractual expenditures, explaining that the Board of Ethics strives to only ask for what the Board needs and is committed to zero based budgeting. There were no questions from the Legislature.

Agenda Item V – Financial Disclosure Forms:

a. Statistical Review: 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 421 Disclosure Forms filed this year. 415 forms have been received so far and of this number, 408 have been reviewed and approved by the Board, 5 forms are still under Board review, and 2 forms were just submitted by new employees. There are 6 individuals who have not yet filed their forms. 4 of these individuals are delinquent filers and have been referred to the DA for follow up and 2 individuals are new to the County or a Board and need to file.

At 3:25 p.m., Ms. Bonacic moved to enter Executive Session. The motion was seconded by Mr. Dean. All in favor. Carried.

b. Review of Delinquent Filers – Notification to DA: Secretary LaVelle reviewed the progress that has been made in obtaining delinquent forms. A Board Member volunteered to reach out to an individual to help obtain the form of a delinquent filer.

c. Review of Individual Disclosure Form – DFAO-08-23: This Disclosure Form, along with all submitted documentation, was reviewed by the Board.

Agenda Item VI - Review of Requests for Opinions:

a. RFO-13-23 - This Request for Opinion, along with all submitted supporting documentation, was reviewed by the Board.

b. RFO-14-23 - This Request for Opinion, along with all submitted supporting documentation, was reviewed by the Board.

c. RFO-15-23 - This Request for Opinion, along with all submitted supporting documentation, was reviewed by the Board.

d. RFO-16-23 - This Request for Opinion, along with all submitted supporting documentation, was reviewed by the Board.

Agenda Item VII – Review of DL-06-23: This Disclosure Letter, along with all submitted supporting documentation, was reviewed by the Board.

At 4:02 p.m., Mr. Clarino moved to exit the Executive Session. This motion was seconded by Ms. Bonacic. All in favor. Carried.

Agenda Item VIII – Response to Executive Session: A motion was made by Chair Johnson for Counsel Christine Taylor to draft letters to the individuals involved with the above referenced DFAO-08-23, RFO-13-23, RFO-14-23 and for Secretary LaVelle to draft letters to the individuals involved with the above referenced RFO-15-23, RFO-16-23, and DL-06-23, all in accordance with the discussion held in Executive Session. This motion was seconded by Ms. Bonacic. All in favor. Carried.

At 4:03 p.m., Mr. Clarino exited the meeting.

Agenda Item IX – Follow Up on Any Old Business: None noted.

Agenda Item X – Any Other Business That May Come Before the Board: None noted.

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

At 4:04 p.m., Judge Berry moved that the meeting be adjourned, which was seconded by Mr. Dean. All in favor. Carried.