

ORANGE COUNTY BOARD OF ETHICS

MINUTES

October 22, 2020

The meeting was held in Conference Room 110 at 40 Matthews Street, Goshen, NY 10924, due to social distancing requirements, and called to order by Chair Gail Sicina at 3:05 p.m.

Present:

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

Absent:

Jeffrey G. Berry
Marcus A. Horrego
Daniel B. Clarino

Also in attendance:

James T. Towne, Jr., Board Counsel
(by Microsoft Teams)

Dr. Johnson moved to approve the minutes of September 24, 2020. Seconded by Dr. Cooper. All in favor. Carried.

Dr. Cooper moved to approve the Counsel Bill for September 2020 in the amount of \$871.25. Seconded by Dr. Johnson. All in favor. Carried.

At 3:10 p.m., Dr. Cooper moved to go into Executive Session to review Request for Opinion RFO-13-20. Seconded by Dr. Johnson. All in favor. Carried.

At 3:20 p.m., Mr. Golden moved to come out of Executive Session, seconded by Dr. Johnson. All in favor. Carried.

Regarding Request for Opinion RFO-13-20, Dr. Johnson moved that a letter be drafted by Counsel as discussed in executive session. Seconded by Mr. Golden. All in favor. Carried.

Chair Sicina advised that of the 9 delinquent filers submitted to the District Attorney for further action, there are still 5 delinquent filers who have not filed. Chair Sicina was informed that one of the delinquent filers is very ill. The consensus was that this filer will not be pursued.

Mr. Golden moved that Local Law No. 9 of 2018 be amended to state that filers must refer to the General Services list of entities who have a contract with Orange County, "Searchable Supplier

List”, before completing their Financial Disclosure Statements. Seconded by Dr. Johnson. All in favor. Carried.

Mr. Golden moved that electronic or scanned signatures be accepted on the Financial Disclosure Statement in lieu of an original signature. Seconded by Dr. Cooper. All in favor. Carried.

Mr. Golden moved to ask the Legislature to authorize and request the Information Technology department to create an online, fillable Financial Disclosure Statement that can be submitted electronically. Seconded by Mr. Cooper. All in favor. Carried.

Counsel was requested to draft a letter to the Legislature for their consideration regarding the above three issues.

Chair Sicina reported that the two Board members whose terms are expiring December 31, 2020, Dr. Paul K. Johnson and Mr. Richard B. Golden, have agreed to serve three more years. A memo will be sent to the County Executive and Legislature regarding these nominations.

Chair Sicina advised the Board that the budget for 2021 was reduced by five thousand dollars for Counsel fees. The category Legal Fees was re-classified under Maintenance Contracts.

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 19, 2020.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:10 p.m.