

Erie County Ethics Board

September Meeting Minutes

September 17, 2018 8 a.m. 16th Floor Rath Building

MEMBERS:

___ Steven Schwartz, Chair
___ Chris Trapp, Vice-Chair
___ Rebecca Town, Secretary
___ Warren Galloway
___ Vacant

STAFF:

___ Leslie Ortiz-Fogg, Counsel
___ Vianne Uthman, Administrative Staff

OTHERS PRESENT:

___ Ross Kostecky, Legislature Office (recording)
___ David Mineo, Erie County Water Authority

1. Meeting called to order at 8:05 a.m.
2. August 2018 meeting minutes reviewed and approved, moved by Galloway seconded by Trapp.
3. Website / Email Updates:
 - i. No request for opinions/actions were received since the last meeting.
 - ii. Updates to website: The 2017 Annual Report has been added to website. A link to the new employee disclosure form will be added and the form itself will be removed so that it will not be confused with the actual financial disclosure form.
 - iii. FOIL Requests:
 - i. A letter has been drafted in response to the 8/20/18 Szanyi re: Morton documents renewed request and will be reviewed by the Chair.
 - iv. Other communications: A financial disclosure form was submitted by a new appointment to the Erie County Water Authority and it has been reviewed by the Chair.
4. Old Business:
 - i. There has been no movement on a replacement for the vacancy on the Board.
 - ii. There is no update in the matter of Morton vs. County of Erie, et al.:
 - iii. Trapp has updated the Rules & Regulations to include Non-disclosure and Confidentiality Agreement, copies will be sent to members for their review.
 - iv.
 - a. Request to investigate person who did not disclose spousal income or employment with county, as required.
 - b. Request to investigate whether county employee used public position for personal benefit and disclosed confidential information.
 - v. The letter that is sent to all department heads informing them what employees are required to submit disclosures is out of date and excessive in length, likely resulting in more submissions than may be necessary. It is under review and will be updated prior to the submission of Financial Disclosure for 2019
5. New Business:
 - i. David Mineo, attorney for the Erie County Water Authority who is tasked with overseeing ethics spoke briefly regarding disclosure statements. There have been ongoing concerns that individuals who do not meet the Boards standards, in that they do not hold policy influencing positions, are unnecessarily submitting disclosure forms. Mr. Mineo will review their policy.
6. The meeting originally scheduled on Monday October 1, 2018 is cancelled and the next meeting will be on November 5, 2018 at 8 a.m.
7. Motion to adjourn.