Erie County Ethics Board Meeting Minutes

## **DPW Conference Room 1419A**

J	ulv	6.	2020	8	a.m.:	
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MEMBERS:	Steven Schwartz, Chair Chris Trapp, Vice-Chair Rebecca Town, Secretary Brian Downey Ellen Kennedy
STAFF: EXCUSED:	Leslie Ortiz-Fogg, Counsel David Bojanowski
OTHERS PRESENT:	Ross Kostecky, Legislature Office (recording)

- 1. Meeting call to order at 8:06 am.
- 2. April 2020 meeting minutes review and approved on motion of Trapp seconded by Downey.
- 3. Website / Email Updates:
  - i. Request for opinions/actions:
    - i. There has been a request for an investigation of elected official's use of county resources for political campaign (5/17/2020 link to campaign site on Office communication). Member Trapp will review and research for the next meeting.
    - ii. Follow-up on previous requests for opinions: usual requests for clarification and guidance on submitting Financial Disclosures
  - ii. Updates to website: Minutes, agenda, Annual Report
  - iii. FOIL Requests: NONE
  - iv. Other communications: Erie Community College is updating their Ethics Policy and requests a review to make sure it complies with the new law. Ortiz-Fogg will follow up.

## 4. Old Business:

- i. Environment &Planning had previously asked for an opinion regarding potential conflicts of interest of new hire who was a previous board member of an organization they have dealings with. There is no update.
- ii. In the former County Legislator Morton Stipulation the fine will remain and will be part of a separate collections action.
- **iii.** There are currently 14 delinquent Submissions of Disclosures (14 of 319 not received as of 6/29/2020-Mostly Sewage, ECC &Central Police Board)
- 5. New Business:
  - i. Letter to delinquent filers invoking fines will be sent. The Board confirmed the current level of the fine and the language of the letter was accepted with minor edits on motion of Trapp seconded by Kennedy. The Board with cc heads of departments.

"Section 9. Penalties. (Local Law 2-2018)

a. Any individual, required to file a disclosure statement pursuant to section 8(a) or 8(b), who knowingly and willfully fails to file an annual statement of financial disclosure or who knowingly and willfully with intent to deceive makes a false statement or gives information which such individual knows or should have known to be false on such statement of financial disclosure filed pursuant to this section, shall be assessed a

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- civil penalty in an amount not to exceed twenty thousand dollars. Assessment of a civil penalty hereunder shall be made by the Erie County Board of Ethics. "
- ii. Financial Disclosure Forms will be reviewed after meeting (Preliminary Review scheduled June 15 cancelled) The Board approved for Swartz to take any files home that require a follow up ca.
- iii. Next meeting scheduled for Monday, August 3, 2020 at 8 a.m., followed by September 14, 2020
- 6. No public comments
- 7. Motion to adjourn made at 8:29 am by Trapp, seconded by Town.
- 8. Review of Financial Disclosures

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