

Erie County Ethics Board
Meeting Minutes
March 9, 2020 8 a.m. 16th Floor Budget Conference Room

MEMBERS:

Steven Schwartz, Chair via phone
Chris Trapp, Vice-Chair
Rebecca Town, Secretary
Brian Downey
Ellen Kennedy

STAFF:

Leslie Ortiz-Fogg, Counsel
David Bojanowski, Administrative Staff

EXCUSED:

OTHERS PRESENT:

Ross Kostecky, Legislature Office (recording)

1. Meeting call to order at 8:05 a.m.
2. February 2020 meeting minutes reviewed and approved with one amendment.
3. Website / Email Updates:
 - i. Request for opinions/actions: 2/19 public request for ways to review or receive electronic copies of Financial Disclosures answered on 3/3 responded to by saying how to make Foil requests and that Forms are not currently available electronically.
 - ii. Updates to website included Draft Minutes from February and the March Agenda. Prior year financial disclosure removed and will be updated with new Form.
 - iii. FOIL Requests: 2/20 requests for Financial Disclosures and any ethical complaints for four persons responded to on 3/3 with a request for additional information to ask who the request pertained to so the board can determine if they were individuals who were required to file and also what years they were seeking. They also requested a waiver of the fees that was denied.
 - iv. Other communications: The Board received a request for an opinion from a County agency that wants to offer a position that would review a contract agency on which the candidate currently serves on its board of directors. This clearly presents a conflict. The individual should be asked to resign from the board and all committees. In addition, all responsibilities for that contract agency be removed from this position including access to any reports. Additionally, the candidate should have no responsibility for anything related to that contract agency.
4. Old Business:
 - i. No updates on follow-up from smaller Political Parties who may need to file disclosures.
 - ii. David Bojanowski followed up with Departments for lists required to be submitted with names of those required to complete 2019 Disclosure Forms. Chair Schwartz followed up with calls. Although many were late, all departments have since submitted lists that will be reviewed for completeness.
 - iii. Confirmation of 2020 Financial Disclosure Form for calendar 2019 and scheduled for distribution which should be done in person or by mail on March 23, 2020. Departments should not be asked to distribute or collect forms.
 - iv. Review and Update of Cover Letter accompanying Financial Disclosure was reviewed and updated with minor edits. Motion to approve by Trapp seconded by Downey.

5. New Business:
 - i. (Schwartz) Draft of Annual Report to County Executive and Legislature distributed and awaits final comments from Board members by March 16, 2020.*
 - ii. Next meeting scheduled for Monday, April 6, 2020 at 8 a.m. The meeting may be cancelled if there is no substantial business. Chair and Vice-Chair are authorized to conduct business in the interim.
6. No public comments
7. Motion to adjourn by Trapp seconded by Kennedy. Meeting adjourned 8:37 a.m.