

Erie County Ethics Board Meeting
Minutes

July 12, 2021 8:30 a.m.:

Conference Room 1601 (16th Floor)- Rath Building

MEMBERS: Steven Schwartz, Chair
Chris Trapp, Vice-Chair
Brian Downey, Secretary
Ellen Kennedy
Heather Gresham

STAFF: Leslie Ortiz-Fogg, Counsel
David Bojanowski, Support Staff

EXCUSED: None

OTHERS PRESENT: Ross Kostecky, Legislature Office (recording)

1. Meeting called to order at 8:32 am.
2. June, 2021 Meeting Minutes reviewed and ending time corrected, corrected minutes approved on motion of Kennedy, seconded by Trapp.
3. Website / Email Updates:
 - A. Request for opinions/actions: Follow-up on previous requests for opinions and new requests- All requests for opinions or actions responded to by Chair
 - B. Updates to website: Minutes, agenda (some delays due to IT problems); Employee Ethics form removed from website to reduce confusion
 - C. FOIL Requests: NONE
 - D. Other communications: 6/23/21 Letter of retraction of fine notice sent to Dr. Hoddick, at his request, noting that a requirement for filing 2020 Financial Disclosure was sent in error, due to a mistake by the Department of Health who listed him although his term of appointment had been completed December, 2019.
4. Old Business:
 - A. Follow-up on communications with Board of Elections and notices for candidates for public office. David Bojanowski is getting contact information for Mr. DiNoto who is an independent candidate for Sheriff, and who must file a financial disclosure.
 - B. Review of Financial Disclosures to date including candidates for public office. The balance of disclosures was reviewed by Trapp, Kennedy and Schwartz on June 23, 2021. Mr. McElroy did file the Financial Disclosure. It was post-marked on 6/10/21, but didn't get checked in until 7/2/21 because of mail problems. It was not so late as to need any other action. Leslie Ortiz-Fogg reviewed the documentation and law and determined that we can only enact a fine for non-compliance.
 - C. Results of follow-ups of disclosures:
Number of Disclosures Reviewed: 319
Number of Disclosures designated for Follow up: 27
Results of Follow-ups:
Resolved by providing missing information: 18

Resolved by further review and contact with filer: 4

Letters sent identifying potential conflicts of interest and notifying them of need to report potential conflicts with Clerk of the Legislature and County Attorney: 5
The Board felt these letters were sufficient.

5. New Business:

A. General review of Financial Disclosure for potential changes for 2021:

Misunderstanding of need for Financial Category of value of Real Estate.

Other items: Review will be continued at next meeting.

B. Next meeting scheduled for Monday, August 2, 2021 at 8:30 a.m. It may be cancelled if insufficient issues for meeting, and then the next meeting would be on Monday, September 13, 2021 at 8:30 a.m.

6. No Public Comments

7. Motion to adjourn at 9:00 a.m. by Trapp, Seconded by Gresham.

DRAFT