

Erie County Ethics Board Meeting
Minutes

November 1, 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

STAFF: Leslie Ortiz-Fogg, Counsel
Kayla Witherspoon, Support Staff

EXCUSED: Heather Gresham

OTHERS PRESENT: Ross Kostecky, Legislature Office (recording)

Meeting called to order at 8:41 am.

October, 2021 Meeting Minutes reviewed and minutes approved on motion of Kennedy, seconded by Downey.

Website / Email Updates:

- A. Request for opinions/actions: Request from County Legislator Vinal for opinion on accepting part-time position at ECMCC doing No-Fault arbitration of denied bills. We have been informed that the ECMCC budget does not come before the Legislature. Therefore, we approve of Legislator Vinal's outside work -time position at ECMCC doing No-Fault arbitration of denied bills as long as not conflicting in time or authority as a Legislator and if anything related to his or her work comes before the Legislature must recuse him or herself. This must also be reported on her Annual Financial Disclosure.
- B. Updates to website: Minutes and agenda updated.
- C. FOIL Requests: 10/5/21 Request from MacKinnon for all ethical complaints against Comptroller Mychajliw responded on 10/20/21.

If a FOIL request is made in the future, we will identify the person making the request and what documents are being requested. We will also send a copy of the Board's response to the subject of the complaint. If the request is for complaints, both the cover letter and the information request will include the disclaimer that a complaint is not evidence of an ethics violation. We will redact phone numbers from any documents provided. Our minutes will identify the complainant and the subject of the complaint.
- D. Other communications: NONE

4. Old Business:

- A. Final review of Financial Disclosure with changes for 2021. Motion to approve final version of Financial Disclosure made by Trapp, and Seconded by Schwartz.

5. New Business:

- A. Letter requesting Chief Ethics Officer. Motion made to send letter to County Executive requesting that a Chief Ethics Officer (CEO) be appointed made by Trapp, Seconded by Kennedy.

- B. Review of Law 2 (2018) and Board of Ethics Rules & Regulations: For review at next meeting
- C. Next meeting scheduled for Monday, December 6, 2021 at 8:30 a.m. (May be cancelled if lack of business.)

6. No Public Comments: None

7. Motion to adjourn at 9:27 a.m. by Trapp, Seconded by Kennedy.