

Erie County Ethics Board
Meeting Minutes

July 11, 2022 8:30 a.m:

Dept. of Social Services Conference Room (7th Floor) – Rath Building

Members: ___ Chris Trapp, Chair
 ___ Brian Downey, Vice Chair
 ___ Heather Gresham
 ___ Ellen Kennedy
 ___ Taunya Abaya

Staff: ___ Kayla Witherspoon

Excused: ___ Chris Trapp, Chair
 ___ Richard Stanton, Counsel

Others Present: _____

1. Meeting called to order at 8:40 a.m.
2. June meeting Minutes for review, corrections and approval - Motion to accept June meeting minutes by Abaya, seconded by Kennedy
3. Website / Email Updates (Witherspoon/Chair):
 - a. Request for opinions/actions:
 - b. Updates to website: Minutes, agenda
 - c. FOIL Requests: NONE
 - d. Other communications:
 1. Request to investigate instance of nepotism – The Board was requested to investigate an instance of nepotism on the part of a County employee. Currently there are no regulations in the Code of Ethics which address nepotism; therefore, this Board has no authority to investigate this. Motion moved by Kennedy, Abaya seconded that the complainant be advised that the issue is not in the Board's purview. Motion passed.
4. Old Business:
 - a. Chief Ethics Officer Update - There is no update regarding the position of Chief Ethics Officer
 - b. Date for return of completed Disclosures: May 16, 2022
 - c. Annual Report – review: The Board suggested formatting changes to the Annual Report -- Gresham motioned to accept Annual Report changes, seconded by Abaya.
5. New Business:
 - a. Review of Law 2 (2018) and Board of Ethics Rules and Regulations - There were no more suggestions for Law 2 and Board of Ethics Rules and Regulation except for a minor discrepancy which was corrected.
 - b. Candidate confirmation letter for Election Commissioners – Witherspoon's predecessor will send a copy of the confirmation letter – will be sent in 2023
 - c. Next meeting scheduled for Monday September 12, 2022 at 8:30 a.m.
6. Public Comments - There were no public comments.
7. Motion to adjourn – Gresham moved and Abaya seconded the meeting be adjourned at 9:04 a.m.
8. Review of Disclosure Forms that have been received - Board members reviewed the remaining Financial Disclosure Forms.