Erie County Ethics Board

Meeting Minutes - DRAFT

March 6, 2023 8:30 a.m:

**Budget Conference Room (16th Floor) – Rath Building**

Members: \_\_x\_Chris Trapp, Chair

\_\_x\_Brian Downey, Vice Chair

\_\_x\_Heather Gresham

\_\_x\_Ellen Kennedy

\_\_x\_Taunya Abaya, Secretary

Full Contingent 8:36 AM

Staff: \_\_x\_Aaron Rubin, Counsel

\_\_x\_William Licata

Excused: \_\_\_

Others Present:

**MEETING MINUTES NOTES IN BOLD:**

1. Meeting call to order. **Called to Order 8:36AM**

2. February meeting Minutes for review, corrections, and approval

a. Special February meeting minutes for review, corrections, and approval - **Hold February 15, 2023 Minutes until the April Meeting, pending revisions by the Ethics Board Members.**

3. Website / Email Updates (Witherspoon/Chair):

a. Request for opinions/actions:

1. Request of Town of Wales -**The Town of Wales has four members and not a 5th member. Asked (CT) and Ethics Board for an opinion, this should be handled by Town of Wales.**

b. Updates to website: Minutes, agenda – **Withhold approval for February 6, 2023 and February 15, 2023 – need to have everyone’s input.**

c. FOIL Requests -  **Bill Licata to check Website for FOIL Requests.**

d. Other communications:

4. Old Business:

a. Chief Ethics Officer Update - **Board would like to get advertisements out this week. UB Law, Minority Bar and Women’s Bar have not charge or cost associated with postings. Erie County Bar Association has a $75 fee which (CT) will handle until Erie County Personnel reimburse.**

b. Status of annual financial disclosure forms - **Bill Licata did not send out to Department Heads because did not receive a final draft from Erie County Ethics Board.**

c. Changes to annual financial disclosure forms, if any – **Question as to including or excluding dependents portion.**

5. New Business:

a. Annual report to Legislature – **Erie County Ethics Board will receive an Annual Report of the Erie County Legislature make sure we all look at that.**

b. Content of minutes – **Final approval of minutes is subject to Erie County Ethics Board review.**

c. Nepotism -  **Erie County Ethics Board has made proposals to the Erie County Legislature. Two issues; 1) Hiring relatives and 2) Supervising relatives. Ethics Board sends a formal document to the Erie County Ethics Board every year and no changes made. (EK) will invite April Baskins to May 2023 meeting for real dialogue, Erie County Ethics Board will send her information so there are no surprises.**

**d. Taunya Abaya reported her research on three people working with Erie County and sitting on or potentially sitting on Amherst Town Board. County Law Section 411 says that an official holding elected office cannot be elected to another office. The three in question were appointed by County Executive and do not hold elective office. Question is whether each disclosed this in the Financial Disclosure Forms. (TA) and (CT) will work on correspondence to the person requesting a formal decision by the Erie County Ethics Board. Taunya did send something out.**

6. Public Comments - **No public comments.**

7. Motion to adjourn – **Motion by** **Heather Gresham and Brian Downey made a motion to adjourn.**

8. Next meeting April 3, 2023 at 8:30 a.m., 16th floor ECH