

Erie County Ethics Board
Meeting Agenda

February 5, 2024 8:40 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
 _E_Taunya Abaya, Secretary

Staff: _X_Aaron Rubin, Counsel
 _X_Barb Piazza, Chief Ethics Officer

Others Present: Brian Bray, Department of Personnel Commissioner

1. Meeting call to order a 8:42 a.m.
2. Election of Officers
 - a. Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary – Trapp was re-elected as Chair, Downey was re-elected as Vice Chair, and Abaya was re-elected as Secretary – all unanimously
3. November meeting Minutes for review, corrections, and approval – Motion by Gresham, seconded by Kennedy to approve the November minutes – approved unanimously
 - a. Note that December meeting was work session simply to discuss future meetings and January meeting was cancelled due to lack of a quorum
4. Website / Email Updates (Piazza/Chair):
 - a. Updates to website: Minutes, agenda – Brian Bray to work with Piazza to update the website – the Board then discussed the inclusion of the 2018 Local Law onto the website and the development and placement of materials on an archived section of the website.
 - b. FOIL Requests - None
 - c. Other communications:
 1. Erie County Sewer District Board of Managers – missing sending forms to some individuals – only one individual was affected.
 2. Referral of complaint to Social Services – the referral was made
 3. Peter Reese complaint regarding posting of minutes and agendas – Piazza corrected the postings and noted that January was cancelled due to illnesses and absences which precluded a quorum – in the future, in the event that someone wishes to attend the meeting, the meeting will be posted on the door setting forth the time and location and cancellation, if relevant. Exactly where to post the notice will be discussed with the County Executive's office.
5. Old Business:
 - a. Changes to annual financial disclosure forms, if any
 1. Removal of children information and add information with respect to trusts involving any child – Motion by Kennedy, seconded by Gresham to delete the names and ages of children from the financial disclosure form, approved unanimously. Piazza to work on a definition of domestic partner – Gresham suggested adding Board of Ethics at the top of the form and to include the minutes from the last meeting on the website with the notice that they are a draft – Downey proposed providing more space for answers on 6a and he questioned the

reference to past employment on page 4, section d. Downey also suggested more line spacing on page 6, section h and to add pages after page 8 for additional information to be added.

- b. Ethics Presentation status – Piazza prepared a PowerPoint presentation and will share it with the Board.
- c. April Baskin update – Piazza met with Rubin on the nepotism issue and the contractor concern, with Rubin bringing back more information for the Board.

6. New Business:

- a. Setting of Annual Disclosure timeline
 - 1. February 1, 2024: Letters to Department Heads regarding policy makers, etc. – Piazza is sending out the request letters to the parties
 - a. Department Heads
 - b. Election Candidates
 - c. Board members: Sewer Districts, ECWA, ECC, etc.
 - d. Elected Officials
 - 2. April 1, 2024: Letters and forms to individuals
 - 3. May 15, 2024: Disclosure Forms due
- b. Request to revise Ethics Code regarding definition of spouse and relative – see above
- c. Financial Disclosure forms for Citizen Salary Review Committee – will be sent out

7. Public Comments - none

8. Motion to adjourn – Gresham requested that the door be closed and a sign put up to advise people that the meeting is open – her concern was due to the construction outside the door which made hearing more difficult – Gresham also suggested a message be added to the website explaining what the Board of Ethics does – Motion by Downey, seconded by Gresham to adjourn the meeting at 10:13 a.m., approved unanimously.

9. Next meeting April 1, 2023 at 8:40 a.m., 16th floor ECH