

Erie County Ethics Board
Meeting Minutes

June 3, 2024 8:40 a.m:

Budget Conference Room (16th Floor) – Rath Building

Members: _X_Chris Trapp, Chair
 _X_Brian Downey, Vice Chair (8:52)
 _X_Heather Gresham (8:50)
 _X_Ellen Kennedy
 _E_Taunya Abaya, Secretary

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

Others Present:

1. Meeting call to order at 8:50 a.m. when quorum present.
2. May meeting Minutes for review, corrections, and approval on hold pending participants.
3. Website / Email Updates (Piazza/Chair):
 - a. Updates to website: Minutes, agenda: CEO to check to make certain that they are all filed and timely.
 - b. FOIL Requests
 1. Luther re Keane: Chair and CEO responded that there were no documents responsive to the request in existence.
 - c. Other communications:
 1. Town of Cheektowaga complaint: Determined that it was a matter of local concern and outside of the scope of review by the County Ethics Board.
4. Old Business:
 - a. Changes to annual financial disclosure forms, if any (hold): Discussion by Board with respect to sporting events and attendance by Legislators and others.
 - b. Ethics Presentation status - exception reference with respect to attendance at events. That could be interpreted as including Sabres, Bills, Bandits, etc. games, as it pertains to “related to duties”. The term about local transportation for “related duties.” Must discuss travel reimbursement. That was the issue we had a few years ago with the County Comptroller. It depends on who is paying for the service. Travel reimbursement by the County is not the issue. It is when it comes from vendors or potential vendors: The Board consensus was that nothing further needed to be added to the presentation which was well prepared with respect to tickets and travel.
 - c. Request to revise Ethics Code regarding definition of spouse and relative (hold): Continue for future meetings.
 - e. Annual Report: to be finalized at a future meeting.
5. New Business:
 - a. Financial Disclosure Reviews: paper copies were reviewed by the Board at the meeting with electronic copies to be done by each member.
6. Public Comments: None and no public present for the meeting.
7. Motion to adjourn: Motion by Gresham, seconded by Kennedy, approved 4-0 at 9:40 a.m.

8. Next meeting July 1, 2024 at 8:40 a.m., 16th floor ECH