

# ULSTER COUNTY BOARD OF ETHICS

DATE: May 6, 2024

TIME: 5:00 PM

PLACE: Ulster County Human Services Complex  
100 Development Court, Building #2, Suite 400  
(Veterans Agency Entrance)  
Kingston, New York

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Robert Nuzzo, Acting Chair  
Stephanie Ellis  
Deborah Schneer  
Paul Tully  
Anne Zahradnik

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

OTHERS ATTENDING: Judy Riley, Secretary to the Board of Ethics

The Meeting was called to order at 5:05pm by Robert Nuzzo, Acting Chair.

Introduction of the new Board Members Paul Tully and Stephanie Ellis.

The Chair asked if anyone had any revisions to the minutes from the January 29, 2024 meeting. No discussion. Motion to approve the minutes from the January 29, 2024 Board of Ethics Meeting, Deborah Schneer 1<sup>st</sup>, Anne Zahradnik 2<sup>nd</sup>, unanimously approved.

Old Business:

Judy gave an update regarding the 2022 Financial Disclosure Forms – 1 outstanding that is being filed today with the Clerk of the Legislature. Bob stated he will come in to review once it is received. Motion was made to Archive the 2022 Financial Disclosure Forms pending receipt of the last outstanding document. Anne Zahradnik 1<sup>st</sup>, Deborah Schneer 2<sup>nd</sup>, unanimously approved.

Judy asked the Board if she had permission to post the 2022 Financial Disclosure Forms for the Elected Officials on the website after they are redacted pursuant to the Ethics Law. Motion to have the 2022 Financial Disclosure Forms of the Elected Officials redacted and posted to the Ulster County Board of Ethics website. Deborah Schneer 1<sup>st</sup>, Anne Zahradnik 2<sup>nd</sup>, unanimously approved.

New Business:

The Board discussed the County Comptroller's request for copies of all of the 2022 Financial Disclosure Forms. The Chair explained how the Board provided the documents she requested last year pursuant to the Ethics Law. The Board reviewed that previous response and agreed to send a similar letter. Bob will draft letter. Motion was made to send correspondence as discussed to the County Comptroller, Deborah Schneer 1<sup>st</sup>, Anne Zahradnik 2<sup>nd</sup>, unanimously approved.

Review of Request for Advisory Opinion (A-2024-001)

5:15 pm Motion was made to go into Executive Session to discuss a complaint received by the Board, Anne Zahradnik 1<sup>st</sup>, Deborah Schneer 2<sup>nd</sup>, unanimously approved.

5:38 pm Motion was made to exit Executive Session, Anne Zahradnik 1<sup>st</sup>, Deborah Schneer 2<sup>nd</sup>, unanimously approved.

Motion was made to send correspondence regarding matter A-2024-001 recommending that the individual request a waiver in writing from the County Executive or the Chair of the Ulster County Legislature pursuant to the Ulster County Ethics Law Section 44-9(B); or provide the Board of Ethics with specific details demonstrating entitlement to the position by clear and convincing evidence, including who selected them to the position pursuant to Ethics Law Section 44-9(C). Anne Zahradnik 1<sup>st</sup>, Deborah Schneer 2<sup>nd</sup>, unanimously approved.

Review of Complaint (C-2024-002) – Robert Nuzzo recused himself from the matter.

5:42 pm Motion was made to go into Executive Session to discuss a complaint received by the Board, Anne Zahradnik 1<sup>st</sup>, Stephanie Ellis 2<sup>nd</sup>, unanimously approved.

5:52 pm Motion was made to exit Executive Session, Deborah Schneer 1<sup>st</sup>, Stephanie Ellis 2<sup>nd</sup>, unanimously approved.

Motion was made to send correspondence to individual as discussed in Executive, Anne Zahradnik 1st, Stephanie Ellis 2<sup>nd</sup>, unanimously approved (Bob Nuzzo abstained).

Review of Request for Advisory Opinion (A-2024-002)

5:55 pm Motion was made to go into Executive Session to discuss a complaint received by the Board, Anne Zahradnik 1st, Stephanie Ellis 2<sup>nd</sup>, unanimously approved.

5:59 pm Motion was made to exit Executive Session, Deborah Schneer 1<sup>st</sup>, Stephanie Ellis 2<sup>nd</sup>, unanimously approved.

Motion was made to send correspondence to requester that the Board determined that there was no conflict of interest, Anne Zahradnik 1st, Deborah Schneer 2<sup>nd</sup>, unanimously approved.

Review of Complaint (C-2024-003) – Robert Nuzzo recused himself from the matter.

6:00 pm Motion was made to go into Executive Session to discuss a complaint received by the Board, Stephanie Ellis 1st, Paul Tully 2<sup>nd</sup>, unanimously approved.

6:27 pm Motion was made to exit Executive Session, Deborah Schneer 1<sup>st</sup>, Anne Zahradnik 2<sup>nd</sup>, unanimously approved.

Motion was made to send correspondence to complainant as discussed in executive session, Deborah Schneer 1<sup>st</sup>, Anne Zahradnik 2<sup>nd</sup>, unanimously approved. (Bob Nuzzo abstained).

Review of Request for Advisory Opinion (A-2024-003) - Robert Nuzzo recused himself from the matter.

6:28 pm Motion was made to go into Executive Session to discuss a complaint received by the Board, Anne Zahradnik 1<sup>st</sup>, Deborah Schneer 2<sup>nd</sup>, unanimously approved.

6:36 pm Motion was made to exit Executive Session, Deborah Schneer 1<sup>st</sup>, Anne Zahradnik 2<sup>nd</sup>, unanimously approved.

Motion was made that the requesting agency may proceed with the hiring of the person in question as discussed in executive session, Anne Zahradnik 1st, Stephanie Ellis 2<sup>nd</sup>, unanimously approved. (Bob Nuzzo abstained).

The Board discussed the 2023 Financial Disclosure Forms were due May 1<sup>st</sup>. Judy should receive the documents soon from Personnel. Once Judy receives them she will split them between the members to review. Judy will contact the Board members via email.

The Ulster County Legislative Chair made appointment to the Board, Brigid Walsh, who should be confirmed soon by the Legislature. Once she is approved, the Board may nominate their member to the Board. In the past the Board discussed nominating Taane Pegg to the Board. Judy had a copy of his resume in case the Board members wanted to review. He is 27 years old and recently passed the Bar and is now an attorney. If the Board would like to invite him to the next meeting to meet him it can be arranged. Only Deborah and Bob know him. Taane is still interested in being appointment. Judy will email the members a copy of Taane's resume for review and if anyone wants to meet him in person the Board can invite him to the next meeting.

Judy mentioned that she is currently drafting the 2023 Board of Ethics Annual Report and hopes to have for their review soon.

6:45pm Motion to adjourn meeting, Bob Nuzzo 1<sup>st</sup>, Deborah Schneer 2<sup>nd</sup>, unanimously approved.