

ULSTER COUNTY BOARD OF ETHICS

DATE: October 8, 2024

TIME: 6:00 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
Taane Pegg
Paul Tully

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Deborah Schneer
Brigid Walsh
Anne Zahradnik

OTHERS ATTENDING: March Gallagher, UC Comptroller
Judy Riley, Secretary to the Board of Ethics

The Meeting was called to order at 6:06pm by Robert Nuzzo, Acting Chair.

The Chair asked if anyone had any revisions to the minutes from the August 13, 2024 meeting. No discussion. Motion to approve the minutes from the August 13, 2024 Board of Ethics Meeting, Paul Tully 1st, Stephanie Ellis 2nd, unanimously approved.

The Acting Chair introduced Taane Pegg, which was the Board of Ethics' nomination for the last vacant Board position.

Old Business:

6:08pm Review of Complaint (C-2024-004): Motion was made to table this matter as Deborah Schmeer was ill and was working on this matter, Taane Pegg, 1st, Paul Tully 2nd, unanimously approved.

Ulster County Comptroller March Gallagher addressed the Board stating that she was not happy that the Complaint was not yet resolved as she filed it back in June. The Chair explained that a decision has been made by the Board but a process needs to be followed per the Ethics Law which the Board is in the process of doing. The Comptroller asked if it was possible for the Board to meet prior to November to finish the matter? The Acting Chair stated that he would speak to Deborah Schmeer to see if they could arrange something sooner. He apologized for the inconvenience.

Judy Riley gave an update regarding the 2023 Financial Disclosure Forms. 1) The Elected Officials' Financial Disclosure forms are now on the County website. 2) There are approximately 35 forms outstanding - does the Board want to send a letter to those filers whose forms are outstanding? Yes, the Board would like a letter drafted and sent. 3) Does the Board want Judy to give the Comptroller the 2023 Financial Disclosure Forms that the Board currently has or wait until the Board has all forms?

Motion was made to provide the 2023 Financial Disclosure Forms currently in possession by the Board to the Comptroller, Stephanie Ellis 1st, Paul Tully 2nd, unanimously approved.

6:11pm The Comptroller exited meeting.

6:11pm Motion was made to enter into Executive Session to discuss a request for advisory opinion (AO-2024-007) received by the Board, Taane Pegg 1st, Stephanie Ellis 2nd, unanimously approved.

6:17pm Motion was made to exit Executive Session, Stephanie Ellis 1st, Taane Pegg 2nd, unanimously approved.

Motion was made that pursuant to discussion in Executive Session regarding request for advisory opinion AO-2024-007, the Board has determined that there is no conflict of interest but will advise the individual to use caution in the administration of their functions as a county employee. A letter will be drafted and sent. Robert Nuzzo 1st, Taane Pegg 2nd, unanimously approved.

6:18pm The board discussed a last-minute request it received. Motion was made to table review of the request due to the volume of content since the Board did not have enough time to review all of the information, Robert Nuzzo 1st, Stephanie Ellis 2nd, unanimously approved.

6:22pm Motion to adjourn meeting, Robert Nuzzo 1st, Taane Pegg 2nd, unanimously approved.