

ULSTER COUNTY BOARD OF ETHICS

DATE: November 1, 2022

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: Dylan Gallagher, Temporary Chair
Lara Kasper-Bukareff
Robert Nuzzo
Deborah Schneer

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Dean McGee

OTHERS ATTENDING: Judy Riley, Secretary to the Board of Ethics
Joseph DiFalco, Citizen
Richard Williams, Esq, Assistant County Attorney

The Meeting was called to order at 5:00pm. The Board Members introduced themselves.

Motion was made to take up Mr. DiFalco's matter first and allow him to address the board, Dylan Gallagher 1st, Deborah Schneer 2nd, unanimously approved.

Mr. DiFalco addressed the board with regard to his complaint. He feels it has been too long and he has not received a response from the Board. Discussed his concerns regarding conflicts of interest. Dylan reminded Mr. DiFalco that the Board submitted a FOIL request for additional information which was denied. It was stated that the Board consists of newly appointed members. They have now heard his complaint and will review it and a determination will be made. Mr. DiFalco exited the meeting at 5:20pm.

Richard Williams, Esq. from the Ulster County Attorney's Office provided some guidance regarding the Open Meetings Law, including entering and exiting Executive Session, virtual meetings under extraordinary circumstances, and the Board's ability to request Opinions from the County Attorney's office when needed.

The Board voted in a temporary Chair for the meeting. Motion was made to appoint Dylan Gallagher as the temporary Chair for the meeting, Robert Nuzzo 1st, Lara Kasper-Bukareff 2nd, unanimously approved. (Dylan G. abstained)

The Board discussed their obligation to appoint another Board member per the Ulster County Ethics Law. A motion was made to take the matter up when all board members are present and everyone can bring in a nomination, Dylan Gallagher 1st, Deborah Schneer 2nd, unanimously approved.

The Chair asked if anyone had any revisions to the minutes from the August 29, 2022 meeting. No discussion. Motion to approve the minutes from the August 29, 2022 Board of Ethics Meeting, Dylan Gallagher 1st, Robert Nuzzo 2nd, unanimously approved.

The Board discussed Old Business and entered into Executive Session at 5:44 pm, Motion to enter Executive Session, Dylan Gallagher 1st, Lara Kasper-Bukaroff 2nd, unanimously approved.

5:54pm Motion to Exit Executive Session Dylan Gallagher 1st, Deborah Schneer 2nd, unanimously approved.

Motion was made: Complaint #1 – to have some of the Board members research the issues related to the complaint; Complaint #2 – to table the complaint until there is a Quorum due to Lara Kasper-Bukaroff recusing herself; both complaints to be tabled until next month, Dylan Gallagher 1st, Lara Kasper-Bukareff 2nd, unanimously approved.

The Board discussed new business and entered into Executive Session at 5:55pm, Motion to enter into Executive Session, Dylan Gallagher 1st, Robert Nuzzo 2nd, unanimously approved.

6:30pm Motion to Exit Executive Session, Dylan Gallagher 1st, Robert Nuzzo 2nd, unanimously approved.

Motion was made to table the Request for Advisory Opinion and address it at a brief interim meeting when there is a full quorum due to Lara Kasper-Bukareff having to recuse herself, Dylan Gallagher 1st, Deborah Schneer 2nd, unanimously approved.

With regard to the Complaints forwarded from the Town of Gardiner Ethics Board – Motion was made to send a letter to complainant to request: 1) supporting evidence of the allegation regarding #4 of Complaint A; 2) more information regarding the lawsuit against the Town and the private resident referenced in some of the complaints; and 3) information as to how the individuals in the complaints were personally pursuing and facilitating a legal action against the town and the private resident, Dylan Gallagher 1st, Lara Kasper-Bukareff 2nd, unanimously approved.

6:35pm – Motion to re-enter into Executive Session, Dylan Gallagher 1st, Robert Nuzzo 2nd, unanimously approved.

7:06pm Motion to Exit Executive Session, Dylan Gallagher 1st, Lara Kasper-Bukareff 2nd, unanimously approved.

7:06pm Motion to adjourn meeting, Dylan Gallagher 1st, Lara Kasper-Bukareff 2nd, unanimously approved.