

ULSTER COUNTY BOARD OF ETHICS

DATE: November 12, 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: Anne Zahradnik, Acting Chair
Deborah Schneer
Stephanie Ellis
Taane Pegg
Paul Tully (via phone – non-voting)

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Robert Nuzzo
Brigid Walsh

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

The Board unanimously agreed to have Anne Zahradnik fill in as Acting Chair for this meeting. The Acting Chair called the meeting to order at 6:03. (Paul Tully joined the meeting via phone and abstained from all voting).

The Acting Chair asked if anyone had any revisions to the minutes from the October 8, 2024 meeting. No discussion. Motion to approve the minutes from the October 8, 2024 Board of Ethics Meeting, Deborah Schneer 1st, Taane Pegg 2nd, unanimously approved.

Old Business:

6:05pm A motion was made to enter into Executive Session to discuss the Complaint/Request which was tabled from the Board's previous meeting, Taane Pegg 1st, Deborah Schneer 2nd, unanimously approved.

6:19pm Motion was made to exit Executive Session, Stephanie Ellis 1st, Deborah Schneer 2nd, unanimously approved.

Motion was made that the Board of Ethics found no pecuniary interest nor conflict of interest stated with particularity on the complaint/request for advisory opinion. Taane Pegg 1st, Stephanie Ellis 2nd, unanimously approved.

New Business:

6:20pm Motion was made to enter into Executive Session to discuss a Complaint received by the Board, Stephanie Ellis 1st, Deborah Schneer 2nd, unanimously approved.

6:32pm Motion was made to exit Executive Session, Stephanie Ellis 1st, Deborah Schneer 2nd, unanimously approved.

Motion was made that in review of the complaint and based on the information provided the Board will send a letter to complainant stating that violations of constitutional rights are not within the scope of responsibility of the Ulster County Ethics Board.

6:34pm Motion was made to enter into Executive Session to discuss a Request for Advisory Opinion received by the Board, Stephanie Ellis 1st, Deborah Schneer 2nd, unanimously approved.

6:37pm Motion was made to exit Executive Session, Stephanie Ellis 1st, Deborah Schneer 2nd, unanimously approved.

Motion was made that in review of the information provided, the Board determined that there is no conflict of interest, Deborah Schneer 1st, Stephanie Ellis 2nd, unanimously approved.

6:37pm Motion was made to enter into Executive Session to discuss a Request for Advisory Opinion received by the Board, Taane Pegg 1st, Deborah Schneer 2nd, unanimously approved.

6:52pm Motion was made to exit Executive Session, Stephanie Ellis 1st, Deborah Schneer 2nd, unanimously approved.

Motion was made to request additional information about the subject of the inquiry's relationship with the Affordable Housing Conservancy; what specifically is the Affordable Housing Conservancy; what are the duties and responsibilities of the Investment Advisory Board; what is the relationship between the Investment Advisory Board and the Affordable Housing

Conservancy; and the subject's position in each and elaboration on the potential concerns that might constitute a conflict of interest. Taane Pegg 1st, Deborah Schneer 2nd, unanimously approved.

The Board discussed emails they were copied on which included complaints from the Chestnut Manor Tenants and determined the issues were not in the scope of the Board of Ethics. Motion was made to allow the proper authorities to respond, Deborah Schneer 1st, Taane Pegg 2nd, unanimously approved.

The Board discussed a request from the Ulster County Comptroller for the Annual Reports of the Board of Ethics for the previous 5 years. Last year the Board provided the Comptroller with Annual reports through 2021. Motion was made to provide the Ulster County Comptroller with the 2022 Annual Report and the 2023 Annual Report once it is approved by the Board. Stephanie Ellis 1st, Deborah Schneer 2nd, unanimously approved.

The Board reviewed the draft of the 2023 Annual Report and motion was made to approve the 2023 Annual Report of the Board of Ethics and have it filed with the Ulster County Legislature and the County Executive, Stephanie Ellis 1st, Taane Pegg 2nd, unanimously approved.

Board member Paul Tully told the Board that he will be in Florida January – March. Options were discussed on how he could possibly attend the meetings via phone vs. videoconference. The Board will table this discussion until the December meeting.

Update regarding an advisory opinion the Board addressed in June 2024. The Board received correspondence stating that the individual resigned from the Orange County Land Trust. Nothing for the Board to follow up on.

7:04pm Motion to adjourn meeting, Taane Pegg 1st, Stephanie Ellis 2nd, unanimously approved.