

CHAUTAUQUA COUNTY ETHICS BOARD MEETING MINUTES

DATE: October 16, 2019
LOCATION: Room 333, Gerace Office Building, 3 North Erie Street, Mayville, New York 14757

TIME: 4 – 6 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: John Lloyd
Susan Dilks
David Rowe
Rose Sebouhian
Mary Kay Szejbka

OTHERS PRESENT: Amanda Gallagher from the County Executive's Office
Kristen Wright from the County Law Department
David Monteleone
Christine Monteleone
Julie Delcamp
Susan Baldwin
Karen Engstrom
Greg Rater

CALL TO ORDER & PUBLIC NOTIFICATION:

Rose called the meeting to order at 4 p.m.

Amanda confirmed proper public notification was completed as the notice of today's meeting was sent out to the local media on October 1, 2019. She also confirmed that the meeting appeared in the Briefly section of the Post-Journal on October 10, 2019 and the Community Notebook section of the Observer on October 14, 2019. The meeting agenda and notice were also posted to the county website on October 1, 2019.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Rose motioned to approve the September 10, 2019 minutes, which was approved by Susan and seconded by John. All in favor.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD:

Members of the public were present to speak out against the wind turbine projects in Arkwright, Charlotte, Cherry Creek, and Villenova.

Rose thanked them for coming to express their views and explained that the Chautauqua County Ethics Board does not have jurisdiction over Town and Village officials and employees.

Greg Rater, owner of Slab City Organics, spoke about the issues his business has been having with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYS DEC). This was in follow-up to his two previous presentations to the Board.

The Board reiterated that its powers are outlined in the Code of Ethics and it has no jurisdiction over the NYS DEC. The Board suggested that Greg review the Code. Based on his situation, if there is a certain section of the Code that he feels has been violated, he should submit in writing a description of the suspected violation and the section of the Code believed to be violated. Greg's contact information was obtained so a copy of the Code of Ethics and Violation Reporting Form could be re-sent to him.

UPDATE ON NYS AUDIT:

Amanda said there is no new information on the audit and a meeting to discuss their final report has not been scheduled yet.

She also said that the County's Compliance/Privacy Officer has been auditing county government locations to make sure they have New York State General Municipal Law Article 18 Sections 800 – 809 posted in their offices as required by State law. The Compliance/Privacy Officer has only completed about 22 percent of posting checks and so far seven office locations have failed and six have passed. Amanda said the Compliance/Privacy Officer hopes to have all department office locations checked by the end of the year.

REVIEW CORRESPONDENCE AND COMPLAINTS:

Amanda reported that she has not received any correspondence for the Board through the County Executive's Office.

STATUS OF FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE STATEMENTS:

Amanda reported that for the period of August 24, 2019 to September 30, 2019 there were three forms that were approved by the Board and filed with the Clerk of the Legislature and County Clerk. She said that she has eight forms (five new appointment forms and three amended forms) for the Board's review today. The Ethics Board reviewed the eight forms. Of these forms, seven were found to be complete and one was found to be incomplete. Amanda will work with Rose to have an incomplete form notice letter sent to the one individual.

REVIEW DRAFT QUESTION AND ANSWER ABOUT THE CODE OF ETHICS:

Amanda and Kristen presented the Board with their revised question and answer about signing contracts with the county. The Board reviewed and approved this question being updated on the “Questions Received about the Chautauqua County Code of Ethics and Financial Disclosure” sheet.

2019 ANNUAL REPORT PREPARATION:

Dave and Rose’s terms will both expire on 1/31/2020. During the meeting, Dave and Rose indicated that they would like to be re-appointed for another term.

The Board then set the following tentative meeting dates for next year: April 8, 2020; May 20, 2020; June 17, 2020; and Sept. 16, 2020. All meetings would be held at 4 p.m. in the Gerace Office Building in Mayville, N.Y.

NEXT MEETING:

The Board’s next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 8, 2019 at 4 p.m. in the Gerace Office Building, 3 N. Erie St. in Mayville, N.Y. Room TBD.

MEETING ADJOURNED:

Rose motioned to adjourn the meeting at 6 p.m., which was seconded by John. All in favor.

Minutes prepared by Amanda Gallagher and respectfully submitted to John Lloyd.