

CITY OF STAMFORD
Board of Ethics
Stamford Government Center
(Meeting held virtually via Zoom)
June 21, 2023
Minutes

This Meeting was recorded, and the audio recording is available from the Board of Ethics and the City of Stamford. Such audio recording is intended to be the official public record of the Meeting and not these minutes, and such recording is incorporated into these minutes by reference and made a part hereof. These minutes summarize the proceedings and are not intended as verbatim notes.

Present Members:

Allan Lang, Chair
Monica Smyth, Member
Christine Dzujna, Member
Laura Indellicati, Member
Benjamin Folkinshteyn, Member
Dennis Torres, Member
Kevin Quinn, Alternate

Other:

Stephen Conover, Counsel
Kimberly Hawreluk, Human Resources Processing Technician
Various members of the public

The meeting was called to order by Chair Lang at 7:04 p.m.

1. Chairman Lang presented the May 17, 2023, Board of Ethics ("BOE") Meeting Draft Minutes for review and approval. Subject to a suggested revision made by Mr. Quinn, Mr. Folkinshteyn moved to approve the minutes, Ms. Indellicati seconded, all others in favor. The motion passed.
2. With regard to the third agenda item, Representative Dakary Watkins did not appear at the meeting to submit his request for an advisory opinion.
3. Chairman Lang introduced the draft advisory opinion prepared for Frances Lane with regard to her request for an opinion in connection with an upcoming vote relative to her role on the Stamford Affordable Housing Trust Fund Board. Mr. Conover suggested revisions that would better explain the Housing Trust Fund Board and how it relates to and is a part of the City of Stamford. Ms. Indellicati made the necessary changes and shared them onscreen with the BOE. Ms. Dzujna moved to approve the opinion, Mr. Folkinshteyn seconded, all others in favor. The motion passed.

4. Chairman Lang introduced the draft advisory opinion prepared for Bonnie Kim Campbell with regard to her request for an opinion in connection with her role voting on the annual allocation plan created by the Stamford Community Development Office, a department within the City of Stamford government that administers federal housing assistance for Stamford's neighborhoods. Subject to suggested revisions that would better explain how the Office relates to the City of Stamford, Ms. Indellicati moved to approve the opinion, Mr. Torres seconded, all others in favor. The motion passed.
5. Chairman Lang introduced the draft advisory opinion prepared for Jody Bishop-Pullan with regard to her request for an opinion in connection with an invitation from Inspirica's Executive Director that she serve on their advisory board. Mr. Folkinshteyn moved to approve the opinion without any needed revisions, Ms. Indellicati seconded, all others in favor. The motion passed.
6. Chairman Lang asked Ms. Smyth whether a request for an extension was required to complete an investigation of the three complaints being handled by the investigative committee for which she is chair. She answered in the negative.
7. Chairman Lang introduced the Annual Board of Ethics Report for review and comment. Ms. Indellicati suggested that the BOE seek clarification of the definitions in the Code of Ethics ("Code") of "private interests" and members of the public." It was agreed that the Annual Report will be revised to reflect the BOE's intention to submit suggested Code revisions to the Code Revision Committee. Subject to the suggested revisions, Mr. Folkinshteyn moved to approve the Report, Ms. Indellicati seconded, all others in favor. The motion passed.
8. Chairman Lang noted that the investigation of a complaint received on May 19, 2023, could not yet begin due to the extraordinary circumstances under which all BOE members were already engaged on active investigating committees. Chairman Lang moved for an extension of 60 days beyond the original deadline to complete the investigation, Mr. Folkinshteyn seconded, all others in favor. The motion passed. Chairman Lang appointed Mr. Folkinshteyn, Mr. Torres, and Mr. Quinn to the investigative committee for this complaint.
9. Chairman Lang noted that the past twelve months was the busiest the BOE has ever experienced in terms of investigations handled and advisory opinion requested. He thanked all BOE members for their hard work. He also reflected on his 17 years on the BOE as he announced his intention to retire from the Chairman role and leave the BOE. He will not attend the next meeting and Ms. Dzujna will act as temporary Chairperson at the next meeting while the role is permanently filled.

Chairman Lang adjourned the meeting at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine Dzujna, Secretary