



City of Kingston Board of Ethics

Allen Nace, *Chair*
Michael Decker
Charlotte Adamis
John Douglas Getman

ETHICS BOARD MINUTES **September 5, 2024** **City Hall Conference Room 1**

The meeting of the Board of Ethics was called to order by Chairman Allen Nace at 4:11 p.m.

Roll Call: Present: Allen Nace, Chair; Charlotte Adamis, John “Doug” Getman, Michael Decker Also present: Assistant Corporation Counsel Matt Jankowski, Ethics Board Clerk Amee Peterson

Minutes: The minutes from the May 9, 2024, meeting were received and reviewed by the board members. Motion to approve the minutes: Charlotte; seconded by Doug. Unanimously approved.

Agenda:

Old Business:

Review of existing complaints. All complaints have been resolved. There are no new complaints.

New business:

Status of disclosures and status of non-compliance.

Matt: Individuals who needed corrections.

Charlotte: All letters have been sent.

Review and revision of Rules and Regulations of the Board of Ethics.

Charlotte: Mike and she started the task force. Andrea felt it was not up to the task force to make recommendations. Use the original Rules and Regs and make recommendations/suggestions made by Mike and Charlotte.

Handling of confidential information: must stay on City property.

- Financial disclosures remain with the clerk.
- Complaints are to stay with Corp Counsel.

Meetings minutes should be posted on the website. Amee will get it up to date.

Status of Task Force review:

Preliminary version of new code:

Employee sanctions - should we be imposing sanctions

Have they reviewed the code prior to completing the financial disclosure?

Can grant waivers - unless it violated Article 18

Municipalities shouldn't have an ethics board without the ability of enforcement

Matt: 49-7 subsection A Board can impose civil penalties

Allen: Promote reality and perception of integrity before an occurrence

Charlotte: A code is only as good as it has teeth. Is not enforceable

Matt: Should make every effort to avoid the appearance of impropriety

Allen: a community member complains - because it appears unethical, filed with the Clerk's office, handed over to the Ethics Board, and there is no finding, it may erode the public's trust in government. We must adopt clear standards. Must be understood by the general public.

Discussion regarding board members, commissioners, department heads completing financial disclosure statements. They were due in February and options were discussed.

Training:

Charlotte: Enforcement because someone doesn't show up for training seems heavy-handed.

Michael: Doesn't support mandated training.

Matt: Difficult to require elected officials to take training. City Council make requirements. Ethics

Board can make a recommendation to them that they require elected officials to attend a training.

Allen to Matt: page 256 - in book *NYSBA - Municipal Ethics in New York: A Primer for Attorneys and Public Officials*

Amea will submit the Rules and Regulations to the website when finalized.

Allen: Purpose: no changes

Scope: Establish a Meeting Agenda

- A. Call to Order
- B. Pledge
- C. Moment of Silence
- D. Roll Call
- E. Address Minutes of Previous Meeting

- F. New Business
 - 1. Communications
 - 2. Disclosures
 - 3. Request for Advisory Opinions
 - 4. New Complaints
- G. Old Business
 - 1. Review Existing Complaints
 - 2. Review Existing Disclosures
 - 3. Other
- H. Adjournment

Responsibilities:

Meet to compile annual report

Meet with Mayor no later than January 15th of each year

Meet two times per year

Meet in December to compile for January?

Clerk will provide the list no later than January? February? 15th

Letter will be sent to applicant giving 30-day grace period/extension of notification before further action is taken

Need to review no later than March 30th for the purpose of coming together to review financial disclosures.

Section C: Once Board makes determination, BOE secretary will notify them that they're out of compliance. Letter will indicate that additional action is needed if 30-day extension requirement is not met. Interviews will be conducted.

Matt: See what the task force says after the public hearing.

Motion to Adjourn: 5:36 Doug Getman; Second: Michael Decker; passed 4 - 0

Respectfully submitted,

Amea Peterson