

Erie County Ethics Board

January 2015 Meeting Minutes

January 12, 2015

8:00 a.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Steven Schwartz, Chair
Chris Trapp, Vice-Chair
Kim Bowers, Secretary via conference call
Anna Falicov
Rebecca Town
Jeremy Toth, Ex-Officio

STAFF PRESENT: Tami Burns-DiCioccio, Administrative Staff

1. Meeting called to order at 8:15 a.m. Review and approval of November 2014 minutes:
 - Motion made by Rebecca Town and seconded by Steven Schwartz to approve the November minutes as written. All present voted in favor and the motion passed.
2. Website / Email Updates:
 - Will be updating website site with balance of 2014 meeting minutes.
 - Will be adding 2015 meeting dates and new section for 2015 meeting minutes.
 - Email – no updates.
3. Communications:
 - FOIL request by Paul Wolf for Chris Jacobs' financial disclosure –Steven Schwartz reviewed the sequence of communications.
 - Steve Schwartz will follow up with a response to Paul Wolf's concerns.
4. Old Business:
 - Review & Revise responses to follow-up requests for information on financial disclosures
 - i. Review follow up letters for wording based on concerns received about the letters; provide more detail within the letter to clarify when no response is required. Anna Falicov will prepare for the March meeting.
 - Code of Ethics (drafted by Davis): review and compare to our current Code
 - i. Will be deferred to future meeting as time permits.
5. New Business:
 - All were in favor of changing meetings to the following for 2015: January, March, April, May, June, July, September, November with the stipulation that that if a meeting needed to be held in an off month, the Board would do so on the 1st Monday of the month as normally scheduled. Note: September '15 meeting moved to the 14th;
 - Annual Report to Legislature: Steven Schwartz will include the number of meetings, the board members and what business was conducted in 2014. Included will be the number of disclosures that were filed and reviewed as well as Communications received and followed upon. A Final version will be forwarded to the Board for the March meeting.

- Annual Election of Officers
 - i. Anna Falicov made a motion to re-elect the slate of officers as presented:
 - 1. Steven Schwartz – Chairman
 - 2. Chris Trapp – Vice Chairman
 - 3. Kim Bowers - Secretary
 - ii. Rebecca Town seconded the motion.
 - iii. All were in favor and the motion passed.
 - Rizzo request to attend vendor conference at their expense
 - i. The Board finds that accepting the offer of expenses paid by this vendor to attend its Show would violate the Code of Ethics. Therefore, the Board of Ethics will not sign off on the Grainger Approval Letter (template attached). However, the County could approve and pay expenses to attend this Show as part of normal duties and responsibilities for Mr. Rizzo.
 - ii. Chris Trapp made a motion to deny the request and Anna Falicov seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.
6. Next meeting will be March 2, 2015. Motion to adjourn was made by Chris and seconded by Rebecca. All present voted in favor and the meeting was adjourned at 9:05 a.m.