Local Finance Board
Local Government Ethics Law
October 14, 2026
VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS

The meeting was called to order at 9:02 a.m. by Michael Rogers, Chairperson. Nicholas Bennett, Executive Secretary, stated that in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act, C.10:4-6 et seq., proper notice was given to the Secretary of State, the *Star-Ledger* and the *Times of Trenton*. A roll call was taken: **6** members were present: Chairperson Rogers, Dominick DiRocco, William Close, Idida Rodriguez, Robert Jackson, and Ryan Cooper were present. Alan Avery was absent. There is one vacancy. A quorum was present. Also present were Deputy Attorney General Zachary Aboff, and staff members Matthew Marthaler, Gina Picciano, Anna-Marie Chiwanga, and Sanjana Inamdar, and Division of Local Government Services intern Eric Viola.

At 9:02 a.m., a motion was made by Mr. Close and second by Ms. Rodriguez to go into executive session for the purpose of discussing complaints, requests for advisory opinions, and to receive related legal advice. A roll call vote was taken: 6 affirmatives. Motion passed.

Advisory Opinion AO26-008 was discussed by the Board.

Chairperson Rogers identified a conflict with a discussion item and subsequently exited the meeting at 9:40 a.m. He returned to open session.

Mr. Close exited the meeting at 9:43 a.m.

At 9:47 a.m., a motion was made by Mr. Jackson and second by Mr. DiRocco to go into open session. A roll call was taken: 4 affirmatives. Motion passed.

Concerning the Matter of B.1. September 9, 2026 Meeting Minutes. A motion was made by Ms. Rodriguez and second by Mr. Jackson to adopt the minutes as submitted. A roll call was taken: 5 affirmatives, 2 absent (Close, Avery). Motion passed.

Concerning the Matter of B.2. A motion was made by Mr. DiRocco and second by Mr. Jackson to issue a Notice of Determination to one (1) local government officer (LGO) dismissing the complaint for lack of a reasonable factual basis. A roll call was taken: 5 affirmatives, 2 absent (Close, Avery). Motion passed.

Concerning the Matter of B.3. A motion was made by Ms. Rodriguez and second by Mr. Jackson to issue a Notice of Determination to one (1) LGO dismissing the complaint for lack of a reasonable factual basis. A roll call was taken: 5 affirmatives, 2 absent (Close, Avery). Motion passed.

Concerning the Matter of B.4. A motion was made by Mr. Jackson and second by Ms. Rodriguez to issue a Notice of Determination to one (1) LGO dismissing the complaint for lack of a reasonable factual basis. A roll call was taken: 5 affirmatives, 2 absent (Close, Avery). Motion passed.

Concerning the Matter of B.5. A motion was made by Ms. Rodriguez and second by Mr. DiRocco to issue a Notice of Dismissal to one (1) LGO dismissing the complaint following an investigation. A roll call was taken: 5 affirmatives, 2 absent (Close, Avery). Motion passed.

Items B.6, B.7, and B.8 were deferred until six members were present.

Concerning the Matter of B.9. A motion was made by Mr. Jackson and second by Ms. Rodriguez to issue a Notice of Dismissal to one (1) LGO dismissing the complaint following an investigation. A roll call was taken: 5 affirmatives, 2 absent (Close, Avery). Motion passed.

Concerning the Matter of B.10. A motion was made by Ms. Rodriguez and second by Mr. Jackson to adopt the proposed settlement of C19-018, a matter that had been transmitted to the OAL as a contested case. A roll call was taken: 5 affirmatives, 2 absent (Close, Avery). Motion passed.

Concerning the Matter of B.11. A motion was made by Mr. DiRocco and second by Ms. Rodriguez to waive fines assessed to two (2) individuals who had been found in violation of the Financial Disclosure Statement (FDS) filing requirement in 2026 and who had requested an administrative hearing citing general excuses following the subsequent successful filing of the FDS. A roll call was taken: 5 affirmatives, 2 absent (Close, Avery). Motion passed.

Following the conclusion of the review of applications on the agenda, the Board considered items B.6, B.7, and B.8.

Concerning the Matter of B.6. A motion was made by Mr. Close and second by Mr. Jackson to issue a Notice of Violation to one (1) LGO finding violations of N.J.S.A. 40A:9-22.5(g) and N.J.S.A. 40A:9-22.5(f) and assessing a fine of $500 for each violation for a total fine of $1,000. A roll call was taken: 6 affirmatives, 1 absent (Avery). Motion passed.

Concerning the Matter of B.7. A motion was made by Mr. Close and second by Mr. Jackson to issue a Notice of Violation to one (1) LGO finding a violation of N.J.S.A. 40A:9-22.5(c) and assessing a fine of $500 for the violation. A roll call was taken: 6 affirmatives, 1 absent (Avery). Motion passed.

Concerning the Matter of B.8. A motion was made by Mr. Jackson and second by Mr. Cooper to issue a Notice of Violation to one (1) LGO finding violations of N.J.S.A. 40A:9-22.5(c), N.J.S.A. 40A:9-22.5(f), and N.J.S.A. 40A:9-22.5(g) and assessing a fine of $500 for each violation for a total fine of $1,500. A roll call was taken: 6 affirmatives, 1 absent (Avery). Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Nicholas Bennett
Executive Secretary
Local Finance Board