

**Local Finance Board
Local Government Ethics Law
April 10, 2024
VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS**

The meeting was called to order at 9:02 a.m. by Jacquelyn A. Suárez, 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 Suárez, Dominick DiRocco, Idida Rodriguez, Robert Jackson, William Close, and Alan Avery were present. There are two vacancies. A quorum was present. Also present were DAG Craig Keiser and staff members Dana C. Jones, Shannon Hudak, Davinder Gill, Matthew Marthaler, and Cherie Saranin.

At 9:02 a.m., a motion was made by Mr. Close and second by Mr. DiRocco to go into closed 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.

At 10:34 a.m., a motion was made by Mr. Close and second by Mr. Jackson to go into open session. A roll call was taken: 6 affirmatives. Motion passed.

The Local Finance Board then determined to take a brief recess and reconvened at 10:45 a.m. to consider financing applications and to take action on the following Ethics items:

Concerning the matter of B.1. March 13, 2024, Meeting Minutes A motion was made by Mr. Jackson and second by Mr. Avery to approve the minutes as submitted. Mr. Close's vote was not recorded due to technological issues. A roll call was taken: 5 affirmatives. Motion passed.

Concerning the matter of B.2. A motion was made by Ms. Rodriguez and second by Mr. Avery to issue a Notice of Investigation to one (1) local government officer (LGO) for alleged violations of N.J.S.A. 40:9-22.5(c) and N.J.S.A. 40A:9-22.5(d). Mr. Close's vote was not recorded due to technological issues. A roll call was taken: 5 affirmatives. Motion passed.

Concerning the matter of B.3. A motion was made by Mr. Jackson and second by Mr. Avery to issue a Notice of Violation to one (1) LGO for 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:9-22.6(a)(3), and to assess fines in an aggregate amount of \$500. Mr. Close's vote was not recorded due to technological issues. A roll call was taken: 5 affirmatives. Motion passed.

Concerning the matter of B.4. Matter deferred to May.

Concerning the matter of B.5. A motion was made by Mr. Jackson and second by Ms. Rodriguez to issue a Notice of Dismissal to two (2) LGOs following an investigation into alleged violations of N.J.S.A. 40A:9-22.6(a)(1). Mr. Close's vote was not recorded due to technological issues. A roll call was taken: 5 affirmatives. Motion passed.

Concerning the matter of B.6. Matter deferred to May.

Concerning the matter of B.7. A motion was made by Mr. DiRocco and second by Mr. Close to issue a Notice of Violation to two (2) LGOs for violations of N.J.S.A 40A:9-22.5(d) and N.J.S.A. 40A:9-22.5(e) and to assess fines in an aggregate amount of \$100. A roll call was taken: 6 affirmatives. Motion passed.

Concerning the matter of B.8. A motion was made by Mr. Close and second by Mr. Jackson to issue a Notice of Violation to one (1) LGO for a violation of N.J.S.A 40A:9-22.5(c) and to assess a fine of \$200. A roll call was taken: 6 affirmatives. Motion passed.

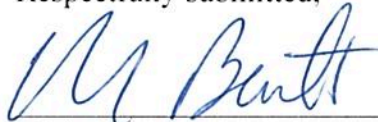
Concerning the matter of B.9. A motion was made by Mr. Avery and second by Mr. Close to issue a Notice of Violation to one (1) LGO for a violation of N.J.S.A 40A:9-22.5(c) and to assess a fine of \$200. A roll call was taken: 6 affirmatives. Motion passed.

Concerning the matter of B.10. Matter deferred to May.

Concerning the matter of B.11. A motion was made by Mr. Avery and second by Mr. Jackson to adopt with modification the Initial Decision issued by the Office of Administrative Law in LFB Complaints C17-023/C17-026 as a Final Agency Decision. A roll call was taken: 6 affirmatives. Motion passed.

Concerning the matter of III.B.6. A motion was made by Mr. Avery and second by Mr. Close to rescind the Notices of Violations issued to nineteen (19) LGOs due to roster errors and to waive the fines assessed to five (5) LGOs as part of the 2023 FDS enforcement. A roll call was taken: 6 affirmatives. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,



Nicholas Bennett
Executive Secretary
Local Finance Board