

**Local Finance Board
Local Government Ethics Law
May 7, 2024
VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS**

The meeting was called to order at 9:08 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: 4 members were present: Chairperson Suárez, Idida Rodriguez, Dominick DiRocco, and Alan Avery were present. Board members William Close and Robert Jackson were absent. There are two vacancies. A quorum was present. Also present were DAG Craig Keiser and staff members Dana C. Jones, Shannon Hudak, Matthew Marthaler, and Cherie Saranin.

At 9:09 a.m., a motion was made by Mr. Avery 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: 4 affirmatives. Motion passed.

At 9:10 a.m. Mr. Jackson arrived in the closed session.

At 9:29 a.m. Mr. Close arrived.

Advisory Opinion 24-001 was discussed.

Advisory Opinion 24-002 was discussed.

Advisory Opinion 24-003 was discussed.

At 11:28 a.m., a motion was made by Mr. Jackson and second by Mr. DiRocco 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 to consider financing applications and to take action on the following Ethics items:

Concerning the matter of III.B.1. April 10, 2024 Meeting Minutes A motion was made by Mr. Close and second by Ms. Rodriguez to approve the minutes as submitted. A roll call was taken: 6 affirmatives. Motion passed.

Concerning the matter of III.B.2. A motion was made by Mr. Avery and second by Mr. Jackson to issue a Notice of Violation to one (1) Local Government Officer (LGO) for three (3) separate violations of N.J.S.A. 40A:9-22.5(c) and three (3) violations of N.J.S.A. 40A:9-22.5(d) and to assess a fine of \$250 for each violation, for a total fine amount of \$1,500. A roll call was taken: 6 affirmatives. Motion passed.

Concerning the matter of III.B.3. A motion was made by Mr. Jackson and second by Mr. Close to issue a Notice of Violation to one (1) LGO for a violation of N.J.S.A. 40A:9-22.6(a)(5) and to

assess a fine in the amount of \$500. The Board determined to dismiss additional claims against the same LGO for a lack of a jurisdiction and further dismissed claims following an investigation. A roll call was taken: 6 affirmatives. Motion passed.

Concerning the matter of III.B.4. A motion was made by Mr. Close and second by Mr. Avery to issue a Notice of Violation to one (1) LGO for three (3) violations of N.J.S.A. 40A:9-22.5(d) and to assess a fine of \$200 for each violation, for a total fine amount of \$600 and a Notice of Determination to one (1) LGO dismissing the complaint for a lack of a reasonable factual basis. A roll call was taken: 6 affirmatives. Motion passed.

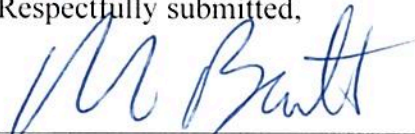
Concerning the matter of III.B.5. A motion was made by Mr. Close and second by Mr. Avery to adopt an Initial Decision of the Office of Administrative Law with modifications as a Final Agency Decision in LFB Complaint C17-027. A roll call was taken: 6 affirmatives. Motion passed.

Concerning the matter of III.B.6. A motion was made by Mr. Jackson and second by Mr. Close to adopt an Initial Decision of the Office of Administrative Law with modifications as a Final Agency Decision in LFB Complaint C19-017. A roll call was taken: 6 affirmatives. Motion passed.

Concerning the matter of III.B.7. A motion was made by Ms. Rodriguez and second by Mr. Close to adopt a proposed settlement agreement with one (1) LGO on a matter that had been transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law as a contested case in LFB Complaint C20-016. 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. Jackson to adopt a settlement in the matter of Paff v. Local Finance Board and the Township of Liberty. A roll call was taken: 6 affirmatives. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,



Nicholas Bennett
Executive Secretary
Local Finance Board