

**Local Finance Board
Local Government Ethics Law
June 12, 2024
VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS**

The meeting was called to order at 9:04 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, Idida Rodriguez, Dominick DiRocco, William Close, Robert Jackson, and Alan Avery were present. There are two vacancies. A quorum was present. Also present were DAG Craig Keiser and staff members Shannon Hudak, Davinder Gill, Matthew Marthaler, and Cherie Saranin.

At 9:05 a.m., a motion was made by Mr. DiRocco and second by Mr. Close 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 10:19 a.m., a motion was made by Ms. Suarez and second by Mr. Close 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. May 7, 2024, Meeting Minutes A motion was made by Ms. Rodriguez and second by Mr. Close to approve the minutes. A roll call was taken: 6 affirmatives. Motion passed.

Concerning the matter of III.B.2. A motion was made by Mr. Jackson and second by Mr. Close to issue a Notice of Violation to one (1) LGO for violations of N.J.S.A. 40A:9-22.5(a), N.J.S.A. 40A:9-22.5(d), N.J.S.A. 40A:9-22.5(g), and N.J.S.A. 40A:9-22.6(a) and to assess a total fine of \$650. A roll call was taken: 6 affirmatives. Motion passed.

Concerning the matter of III.B.3. A motion was made by Mr. Avery and second by Mr. Jackson to issue a Notice of Determination to one (1) LGO dismissing the complaint for a lack of jurisdiction and a Notice of Dismissal to two (2) LGOs to dismissing the complaint following an investigation. A roll call was taken: 5 affirmatives. Mr. DiRocco recused. Motion passed.

Concerning the matter of III.B.4. A motion was made by Mr. Close and second by Ms. Rodriguez to issue a Notice of Violation to one (1) LGO for violations of N.J.S.A. 40A:9-22.5(a), N.J.S.A.40A:9-22.5(c), and N.J.S.A. 40A:9-22.5(d) and to assess a total fine of \$750. A roll call was taken: 6 affirmatives. Motion passed.

Concerning the matter of III.B.5. A motion was made by Mr. Jackson and second by Mr. Close to issue a Notice of Determination to three (3) LGOs dismissing the complaint for a lack of a reasonable factual basis and a Notice of Violation to one (1) LGO for two (2) violations of N.J.S.A.

40A:9-22.5(d) and to assess a total fine of \$500. 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 transmit the matter to the Office of Administrative Law as a contested case. A roll call was taken: 6 affirmatives. Motion passed.

Concerning the matter of III.B.7. A motion was made by Mr. Jackson and second by Mr. Avery to transmit the matter to the Office of Administrative Law as a contested case. A roll call was taken: 6 affirmatives. Motion passed.

Concerning the matter of III.B.8. A motion was made by Mr. Avery and second by Mr. Jackson to issue a Notice of Violation to twelve hundred (1,200) LGOs listed as active on a local government entity roster, who are not under the jurisdiction of a local ethics board, and who were no recorded as having filed the annual Financial Disclosure Statement for 2024 as of 3 pm on Monday, June 10 as required by N.J.S.A. 40A:9-22.6 and to assess a fine of \$100. A roll call was taken: 6 affirmatives. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "N. Bennett", is written over a horizontal line.

Nicholas Bennett
Executive Secretary
Local Finance Board