

**Local Finance Board
Local Government Ethics Law
January 12, 2022**

VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS

The meeting was called to order at 9:02 am 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, Alan Avery, William Close, Dominic DiRocco, Adrian Mapp, and Idida Rodriguez were present. Ted Light arrived at 9:13 am. A quorum was present. Also present were Craig Keiser, Deputy Attorney General and staff members Dana C. Jones and Margaret Roberts, as well as members of the public.

October 20, 2021 Meeting Minutes III.A.1.

A motion was made by Mr. Avery, second by Mr. DiRocco to approve minutes. A roll call was taken: 4 affirmative. Mr. Mapp and Mr. Close abstained. Consideration of this matter was deferred to the February 9, 2022 Meeting.

December 8, 2021 Meeting Minutes III.A.2. A motion was made by Mr. Mapp, second by Mr. Avery to approve with correction the proposed minutes of the December 8, 2021 meeting. Specifically, the proposed minutes are corrected to reflect October Meeting date as October 20, not October 10. A roll call was taken: 5 affirmative. Mr. DiRocco abstained. Motion passed.

Concerning the matter of III.A.3. A motion was made by Mr. DiRocco, second by Mr. Mapp to authorize an investigation into one local government officer. A roll call was taken: 5 affirmative. Mr. Avery recused. Motion passed.

Concerning the matter of III.A.4. A motion was made by Ms. Rodriguez, second by Mr. Mapp to authorize an investigation of three local government officers. A roll call was taken: 6 affirmative. Motion passed.

At 9:12 am, a motion was made by Mr. Avery and second by Mr. Close to go into closed session for the purpose of discussing complaints and to receive related legal advice. A roll call vote was taken. 6 affirmative. Motion passed.

At 10:50 am, a motion was made by Mr. Avery and second by Mr. DiRocco to go back into open session. A roll call was taken: 7 affirmative. Motion passed.

Concerning the matter of III.A.5. A motion was made by Mr. Mapp, second by Mr. Avery to accept the Initial Decision as to the factual findings and the decision of the administrative law judge but modify the reasoning in the Initial Decision to clarify “unwarranted privilege” under subsection (c) of N.J.S.A. 40A:9-22.5, the Board’s prior cases distinguishing between advocacy and information by local government officers, and the Zisa defense. A roll call was taken: 7 affirmative. Motion passed.

The Local Finance Board then determined to take a brief recess and reconvene to consider applications.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Nicholas Bennett
Executive Secretary
Local Finance Board

NB/mr