

**Local Finance Board
Local Government Ethics Law
August 10, 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. There are two vacancies. A quorum was present. Also present were DAG Craig Keiser and staff members Dana C. Jopes and Margaret Roberts.

Two local government officers were given the opportunity to make a brief statement to the Board before it votes on the respective complaints in which each was named. One local government officer decided to rely on his written submission to the Board, the other was unexpectedly detained at his employment and was unable to call in to the meeting.

At 9:07 am, a motion was made by Mr. DiRocco, 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 affirmative. Motion passed.

AO 22-007 (a) & (b) and AO 22-008 were discussed.

At 10:58 am, a motion was made by Mr. Avery, second by Mr. Close to go into open session. A roll call was taken: 6 affirmative. Motion passed.

The Local Finance Board then determined to take a brief recess and reconvened at 11:10 am to consider financing applications and take action on the following Ethics items:

July 13, 2022 Meeting Minutes III.A.1. A motion was made by Mr. Avery, second by Mr. Mapp to approve minutes. A roll call was taken: 6 affirmative. Motion passed.

Concerning the matter of III.A.2. A motion was made by Mr. Avery, second by Mr. Mapp to authorize an investigation of one local government officer for alleged violations of subsections (a), (c) and (d) of N.J.S.A. 40A:9-22.5. A roll call was taken: 5 affirmative. Mr. DiRocco recused.

Concerning the matter of III.A.3. A motion was made by Mr. Mapp, second by Ms. Rodriguez to authorize an investigation of one local government officer for alleged violations of subsections (c) and (d). A roll call was taken: 6 affirmative. 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 one local government officer for alleged violation of subsection (c). A roll call was taken: 6 affirmative. Motion passed.

Concerning the matter of III.A.5. A motion was made by Mr. Avery, second by Mr. Mapp to issue a Notice of Violation to one local government officer for two violations of subsection (d) and imposing a fine of \$500 per violation for a total fine of \$1,000. A roll call was taken: 6 affirmative. Motion passed.

Concerning the matter of III.A.6. A motion was made by Mr. Close, second by Mr. Avery to issue a Notice of Violation to one local government officer for violation of subsection (h) and imposing a fine of \$500. A roll call was taken: 6 affirmative. Motion passed.

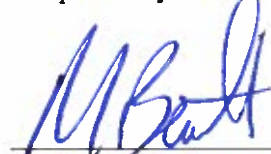
Concerning the matter of III.A.7. A motion was made by Mr. Mapp, second by Mr. Close to issue a Notice of Violation to one local government officer for violations of subsections (d) and (e) and imposing a fine of \$150 per violation for a total fine of \$300. A roll call was taken: 6 affirmative. Motion passed.

Concerning the matter of III.A.8. A motion was made by Mr. Avery, second by Mr. Mapp to issue a Notice of Violation to one local government officer for nine (9) violations of subsection (d), imposing a fine of \$100 per violation for a total fine of \$900, which fine is waived due to reasonable reliance on the advice of counsel, and to issue a Notice of Determination to two local government officers, dismissing the complaints for lack of a reasonable factual basis. A roll call was taken: 6 affirmative. Motion passed.

Concerning the matter of III.A.9. A motion was made by Mr. DiRocco, second by Mr. Avery to issue Notices of Violation to each of two local government officers for a single violation of subsection (d) and imposing a fine of \$200, and to issue a Notice of Dismissal to one local government officer following an investigation of alleged violations of subsections (c) and (d). A roll call was taken: 6 affirmative. Motion passed.

Concerning the matter of III.A.10. A motion was made by Mr. Mapp, second by Mr. Close to issue a Notice of Violation to one local government officer for violation of subsection (c) and imposing a fine of \$500. A roll call was taken: 6 affirmative. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,



Nicholas Bennett
Executive Secretary
Local Finance Board