

**Local Finance Board**  
**Local Government Ethics Law**  
**May 14, 2025**  
**VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS**

The meeting was called to order at 9:01 a.m. by Michael Rogers, 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 Rogers, Dominick DiRocco, Alan Avery, and Idida Rodriguez were present. William Close and Robert Jackson were absent. There are two vacancies. A quorum was present. Also present were Deputy Attorneys General Craig Keiser and Zachary Aboff, and staff members Cherie Saranin, Anna-Marie Chiwanga, Shannon Hudak, and Gina Picciano.

At 9:01 a.m., a motion was made by Mr. Avery and second by Ms. Rodriguez 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.

William Close arrived at 9:02 a.m. in closed session.

Robert Jackson arrived at 9:18 a.m. in closed session.

Advisory Opinion AO25-005 was discussed in closed session.

At 9:29 a.m., a motion was made by Mr. Jackson and second by Ms. Rodriguez to go into open session. A roll call was taken: 6 affirmatives. Motion passed.

**Concerning the matter of B.1. April 9, 2025, Meeting Minutes** A motion was made by Mr. Close and second by Mr. DiRocco to approve the minutes. A roll call was taken: 6 affirmatives. Motion passed.

**Concerning the Matter of B.2.** A motion was made by Mr. Jackson and second by Mr. DiRocco to issue a Notice of Determination to three (3) Local Government Officers (LGOs) dismissing the complaint for a lack of a reasonable factual basis. A roll call was taken: 6 affirmatives. Motion passed.

**Concerning the Matter of B.3.** A motion was made by Mr. Avery and second by Mr. Jackson to issue a Notice of Determination to two (2) LGOs dismissing the complaint for a lack of a reasonable factual basis. A roll call was taken: 5 affirmatives and 1 abstention (Close). Motion passed.

**Concerning the Matter of B.4.** A motion was made by Mr. Jackson and second by Mr. Avery to issue 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 B.5.** A motion was made by Mr. Avery and second by Mr. DiRocco to issue a Notice of Determination to three (3) LGOs dismissing the complaint for a lack of a reasonable factual basis. A roll call was taken: 6 affirmatives. Motion passed.

**Concerning the Matter of B.6.** A motion was made by Ms. Rodriguez and second by Mr. Close to issue a Notice of Determination to two (2) LGOs dismissing the complaint for a lack of a reasonable factual basis. A roll call was taken: 6 affirmatives. Motion passed.

**Concerning the Matter of B.7.** A motion was made by Mr. Close and second by Ms. Rodriguez to issue a Notice of Investigation to one (1) LGO for a possible violation of N.J.S.A. 40A:9-22.5(d). A roll call was taken: 6 affirmatives. Motion passed.

**Concerning the Matter of B.8.** A motion was made by Mr. Jackson and second by Mr. Avery to issue a Notice of Violation to two (2) LGOs. For LGO(A), finding one (1) violation of N.J.S.A. 40A:9-22.5(c) and one (1) violation of N.J.S.A. 40A:9-22.5(d), and to assess a fine of \$500 per violation for a total fine of \$1,000, and for LGO(B) one (1) violation of N.J.S.A. 40A:9-22.5(c), and to assess a fine of \$500. The remaining claims were dismissed for lack of a reasonable factual basis and lack of jurisdiction. A roll call was taken: 5 affirmatives and 1 abstention (DiRocco). 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 one (1) violation of N.J.S.A. 40A:9-22.5(d) and one (1) violation of N.J.S.A. 40A:9-22.5(e), and to assess a fine of \$100 per violation, for a total fine amount of \$200, and to subsequently waive the payment of the fine due to the LGOs plausible reliance on attorney advice. The remaining claims were dismissed for lack of jurisdiction. A roll call was taken: 6 affirmatives. Motion passed.

**Concerning the Matter of B.10.** A motion was made by Mr. Jackson and second by Mr. Avery to issue a Notice of Violation to five (5) LGOs. For LGO(A) finding for one (1) violation of N.J.S.A. 40A:9-22.5(a), and to assess a fine of \$500 for this violation; and for LGOs(B-E), one (1) violation of N.J.S.A. 40A:9-22.5(b)(2), and to assess a fine of \$500 for the violation; and for sixteen (16) additional violations of N.J.S.A. 40A:9-22.5(b)(2), and to assess a fine of \$100 per violation and for one (1) violation of N.J.S.A. 40A:9-22.5(c), and to assess a fine of \$250 for the violation, for a total fine amount of \$2,350 upon each of the four (4) LGOs(B-E), and a total fine amount of \$500 for LGO(A). A roll call was taken: 6 affirmatives. Motion passed.

**Concerning the Matter of B.11.** A motion was made by Mr. Avery and second by Ms. Rodriguez to transmit a case involving one (1) LGO, C19-031, to the Office of Administrative Law (OAL) as a contested case. A roll call was taken: 6 affirmatives. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted.



Nicholas Bennett  
Executive Secretary  
Local Finance Board