

**Local Finance Board
Local Government Ethics Law
September 9, 2026
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: 7 members were present: Chairperson Rogers, Dominick DiRocco, William Close, Alan Avery, Idida Rodriguez, Robert Jackson, and Ryan Cooper were present. There is one vacancy. A quorum was present. Also present were Deputy Attorney General Zachary Aboff, and staff members Shannon Hudak, Matthew Marthaler, Gina Picciano, Anna-Marie Chiwanga, and Sanjana Inamdar, and Division of Local Government Services intern Maxwell Sinkiewicz.

At 9:02 a.m., a motion was made by Mr. Close and second by Ms. Rodriguez to go into executive session for the purpose of discussing complaints, requests for advisory opinions, and to receive related legal advice. A roll call vote was taken: 7 affirmatives. Motion passed.

Advisory Opinion AO26-007 was discussed by the Board.

Mr. DiRocco identified a conflict with a discussion item and subsequently exited the meeting at 9:08 a.m. He returned to executive session at 9:17 a.m.

At 9:47 a.m., a motion was made by Mr. DiRocco and second by Ms. Rodriguez to go into open session. A roll call was taken: 7 affirmatives. Motion passed.

Concerning the Matter of B.1. August 12, 2026 Meeting Minutes. A motion was made by Ms. Rodriguez and second by Mr. Jackson to adopt the minutes as submitted. A roll call was taken: 6 affirmatives. Motion passed.

Concerning the Matter of B.2. A motion was made by Mr. Avery and second by Mr. DiRocco to issue a Notice of Investigation to one (1) local government officer (LGO) for possible violations of N.J.S.A. 40A:9-22.5(c). A roll call was taken: 6 affirmatives (Close absent). Motion passed.

Concerning the Matter of B.3. A motion was made by Mr. DiRocco and second by Ms. Rodriguez to issue a Notice of Determination to one (1) LGO dismissing the complaint for lack of a reasonable factual basis. A roll call was taken: 6 affirmatives (Close absent). Motion passed.

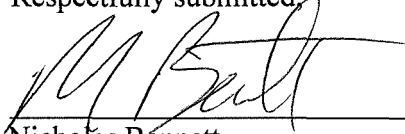
Concerning the Matter of B.4. A motion was made by Mr. DiRocco and second by Mr. Avery to issue a Notice of Dismissal to two (2) LGOs dismissing the complaint following an investigation. A roll call was taken: 7 affirmatives. Motion passed.

Concerning the Matter of B.5. A motion was made by Mr. Avery and second by Ms. Rodriguez to reject the Initial Decision issued by Administrative Law Judge Burke in complaint C20-029, and to reinstate one (1) violation of N.J.S.A. 40A:9-22.5(c) and the fine of \$200 for the violation. A roll call was taken: 7 affirmatives. Motion passed.

Concerning the Matter of B.6. A motion was made by Mr. Close and second by Mr. Jackson to transmit a case involving one (1) LGO, C21-010, to the OAL as a contested case. A roll call was taken: 7 affirmatives. Motion passed.

Concerning the Matter of B.7. A motion was made by Ms. Rodriguez and second by Mr. DiRocco to rescind the Notices of Violation sent to thirty-two (32) LGOs due to roster errors and to five (5) LGOs who were deceased, and to waive the fines for eleven (11) LGOs who timely filed in at least one jurisdiction and fifty-one (51) LGOs for general excuses. All LGOs for whom the fine was waived filed the FDS for the position that was cited subsequent to the receipt of the Notice of Violation. A roll call was taken: 7 affirmatives. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Nicholas Bennett
Executive Secretary
Local Finance Board