

**Local Finance Board
Local Government Ethics Law
August 14, 2024
VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS**

The meeting was called to order at 9:13 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: 5 members were present: Chairperson Suárez, Idida Rodriguez, Dominick DiRocco, Robert Jackson, and Alan Avery were present. William Close was absent. There are two vacancies. A quorum was present. Also present were DAG Craig Keiser and staff members Shannon Hudak, Matthew Marthaler, and Cherie Saranin.

At 9:13 a.m., a motion was made by Mr. DiRocco 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: 5 affirmatives. Motion passed.

Mr. Close arrived at the meeting at 10:09 a.m.

At 10:52 a.m., a motion was made by Mr. Avery 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 B.1. July 10, 2024, Meeting Minutes A motion was made by Mr. Avery 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 Investigation to one (1) Local Government Officer (LGO) for alleged violations of N.J.S.A. 40A:9-22.5(a), N.J.S.A. 40A:9-22.5(c), N.J.S.A. 40A:9-22.5(d), and N.J.S.A. 40A:9-22.6(a)(4) and (a)(5). A roll call was taken: 5 affirmatives. Ms. Rodriguez abstained. Motion passed.

Concerning the matter of B.3. A motion was made by Mr. Avery and second by Mr. DiRocco to issue Notices of Violation to three (3) LGOs for one violation of N.J.S.A. 40A:9-22.5(a), two violations of N.J.S.A. 40A:9-22.5(c), one violation of N.J.S.A. 40A:9-22.5(e), one violation of N.J.S.A. 40A:9-22.5(f), one violation of N.J.S.A. 40A:9-22.5(g), and one violation of N.J.S.A. 40A:9-22.5(h), and to assess a fine of \$100 per violation, for a total fine amount of \$700 for each LGO. A roll call was taken: 6 affirmatives. Motion passed.

Concerning the matter of B.4. A motion was made by Mr. Avery and second by Mr. Jackson to issue a Notice of Determination to one (1) LGO for dismissing a claim for lack of jurisdiction and to refer the complaint to the State Ethics Commission. A roll call was taken: 5 affirmatives. Ms. Rodriguez abstained. Motion passed.

Concerning the matter of B.5. A motion was made by Mr. Avery and second by Ms. Rodriguez to transmit the matter to the Office of Administrative Law as a contested case. 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