

**Local Finance Board
Local Government Ethics Law
October 9, 2024
VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS**

The meeting was called to order at 9:01 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: 6 members were present: Chairperson Suárez, Idida Rodriguez, Dominick DiRocco, Robert Jackson, William Close and Alan Avery were present. There are two vacancies. A quorum was present. Also present were DAG Mark Gulbranson and staff members Davinder Gill, Shannon Hudak, Matthew Marthaler, Gina Picciano and Cherie Saranin.

At 9:01 a.m., a motion was made by Mr. DiRocco and 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 affirmatives. Motion passed.

At 10:23 a.m., a motion was made by Mr. Avery and second by Ms. Rodriguez 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. September 11, 2024, Meeting Minutes A motion was made by Mr. Close and second by Mr. Jackson 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 two (2) Local Government Officers (LGOs) for alleged violations of N.J.S.A. 40A:9-22.5(d), N.J.S.A. 40A:9-22.5(e), and N.J.S.A. 40A:9-22.6 (a)(5). A roll call was taken: 6 affirmatives. Motion passed.

Concerning the matter of B.3. A motion was made by Ms. Rodriguez and second by Mr. Avery to modify the Office of Administrative Law (OAL) initial decision as outlined in the Final Agency Decision (FAD) with modifications of the facts and legal conclusions while upholding the finding that the accused did not violated the Local Government Ethics Law. A roll call was taken: 6 affirmatives. Motion passed.

Concerning the matter of B.4. A motion was made by Mr. Close and second by Mr. Avery to rescind Notice of Violations for one hundred twenty-six (126) LGOs and to waive fines for ninety-two (92) LGOs in regards to the 2024 Financial Disclosure Statement enforcement. 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