

MILWAUKEE COUNTY ETHICS BOARD

Thursday, August 5, 2021, Ethics Board Meeting Minutes

1.0 Call to Order and Roll Call

Board Chair Christopher Meuler called to order a meeting of the Ethics Board at 3:07 p.m. on August 5, 2021. The meeting was held telephonically.

The Ethics Board Administrative Assistant, Alisha Terry, conducted a roll call. The following Board Members were present: Christopher Meuler, Christine Hansen, Rachel Yates and Richard Donner. Dana Guthrie joined at 3:20 p.m. Clarence Nicholas was excused.

2.0 Approval of the Minutes for the Meeting of May 6, 2021

Ms. Hansen moved, Mr. Donner seconded, and the Board voted 4-0, to approve the minutes from the meeting of May 6, 2021.

3.0 Report of the Administrative Assistant

Alisha Terry, Administrative Assistant, and the Board discussed the Quarterly Lobbying Report from the Office of the County Clerk, the update on the ethics code change resolution, an update regarding the Ethics Board office, the July 2021 edition of the Ethically Speaking newsletter, and the Ethics Board outside legal services RFP.

3.1 2021 2nd Quarter Lobbying Report from County Clerk, George Christenson

This item was informational only. There was no action taken by the Board.

3.2 Update on Ethics Code Change Resolution

Ms. Terry informed the Board that the resolution will be taken up by the County Board of Supervisors at their September meeting. Adam Gilmore, Ethics Board Executive Director, will be submitting the resolution packet to the county Board of supervisors this month to be added to the September agenda. The language for the resolution has already been confirmed by the Ethics Board; Mr. Gilmore is formatting it into a formal resolution.

3.3 Ethics Board Office Updates

Ms. Terry informed the Board that the County Executive has circulated the new telework policy, which allows departments to determine the degree to which telework options may be exercised. The staff of the office of the Personnel Review Board and Ethics Board have confirmed their schedule. Staff will continue to work off-site but are available to meet in-person by appointment. A staff member will also stop in the office once a week.

For Ethics Board meetings going forward, Mr. Gilmore has suggested that the Board continue meeting virtually unless there will be anticipated employee or public participation, at which point it could be decided if the meeting should be held in-person.

3.4 Ethically Speaking Newsletter – July 2021

Ms. Terry informed the Board that the July edition of the Ethically Speaking newsletter, focused on Ethics Code 101, was circulated to all employees in last Friday's What's Up e-mail and is available on the Ethics Board website. The newsletter was also included in the Board's meeting packet.

3.5 Ethics Board Outside Legal Services RFP Update

Mr. Meuler informed the Board that the Office of Corporation Counsel ("OCC") has some issues with the current pending contract for the outside legal counsel selected. Mr. Meuler is working with OCC and the law firm to resolve the issues.

4.0 **Closed Session**

At 3:20 p.m., Ms. Hansen moved, Ms. Yates seconded, and the Board voted 5-0 to go into closed session.

19.85 (1) (g) The Board may confer with legal counsel concerning litigation strategy.

19.85(1) (h) The Board's deliberations on requests for advice under the ethics code shall be in closed session.

At 3:35 p.m., after discussion in closed session, Ms. Yates moved, Ms. Hansen seconded, and the Board voted 5-0 to reconvene in open session.

7.0 **Adjournment**

Ms. Guthrie moved, Ms. Yates seconded, and the Board voted 5-0 to adjourn the meeting at 3:36 p.m.

Minutes submitted by: Alisha Terry
Administrative Assistant, Ethics Board