

MILWAUKEE COUNTY ETHICS BOARD

Thursday, August 6, 2020, 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 3:09 p.m. on August 6, 2020. The meeting was held telephonically.

The Ethics Board Executive Director, Adam Gilmore, conducted a roll call. The following Board Members were present: Christopher Meuler, Christian Flores, Dana Guthrie and Clarence Nicholas. Christine Hansen joined at 3:21 p.m.

2.0 Approval of the Minutes for the Meeting of May 5, 2020

Mr. Flores moved, Ms. Guthrie seconded, and the Board voted 5-0, to approve the minutes from the meeting of May 5, 2020.

3.0 Report of the Executive Director

Adam Gilmore, Executive Director, and the Board discussed the Quarterly Lobbying Report from the Office of the County Clerk, gave an update on the Digital SEI Project, Ethics Board Vacancies, the Ethics Board Newsletters and Office Updates.

3.1 2020 1st and 2nd Quarter Lobbying Report from County Clerk, George Christenson

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

3.2 Digital SEI Project Update

Mr. Gilmore informed the Board that the completion date for the digital SEI project will most likely be pushed to 2021 due to the current pandemic situation. The Ethics Board Office is working closely with IMSD to obtain more information on the final product and will update the Board on the potential need for revisions to the Ethics Code related to this project.

3.3 Ethics Board Vacancy Update

Mr. Gilmore informed the Board that two candidates from the Interfaith Conference have been passed along to the County Executive's Office.

3.4 Ethically Speaking Newsletter

Mr. Gilmore shared the June 2020 Ethically Speaking newsletter, which focused on the topic of gifts. It highlighted the change in the “Anything of Value” threshold in the Ethics Code made by the County Board in March 2020.

He also informed the Board that the focus of the next Ethically Speaking newsletter will be an introduction to government ethics.

3.5 Office Update

Mr. Gilmore informed the Board that the staff of the Ethics Board Office is continuing to telework until further notice. He reminded the Board that the November Ethics Board meeting will be conducted via Microsoft Teams.

Mr. Gilmore explained that the office budget for 2021 has been submitted and that the office was able to make the cuts requested for this year.

4.0 **Closed Session**

At 3:23 p.m., Mr. Nicholas moved, Ms. Guthrie 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 4:26 p.m., after discussion in closed session, Mr. Flores moved, Mr. Nicholas seconded, and the Board voted 5-0 to reconvene in open session.

7.0 **Adjournment**

Ms. Guthrie moved, Mr. Nicholas seconded, and the Board adjourned the meeting at 4:28 p.m.

Minutes submitted by: Alisha Terry
Administrative Assistant, Ethics Board