

MILWAUKEE COUNTY ETHICS BOARD

Thursday, August 3, 2023, Ethics Board Meeting Minutes

1.0 Call to Order and Roll Call

Board Chair Christopher Meuler called to order a regular meeting of the Ethics Board at 3:04 p.m. on August 3, 2023. The meeting was held telephonically.

The Ethics Board Executive Director, Adam Gilmore, conducted a roll call. The following Board Members were present: Christopher Meuler, Dana Guthrie, Richard Donner, Clarence Nicholas, and Elizabeth Lentini. Dean Daniels was excused.

2.0 Introduction of Elizabeth Lentini, New Ethics Board Member

Mr. Gilmore introduced Elizabeth Lentini, the newest member to the Ethics Board. Ms. Lenitni was nominated by the League of Women Voters. Ms. Lentini expressed her excitement to join the Board and shared background information about herself.

3.0 Approval of the Minutes for the Meetings of May 4, 2023

Mr. Nicholas moved, Mr. Donner seconded, and the Board voted 5-0 to approve the May 4, 2023, meeting minutes.

4.0 Report of the Executive Director

4.1 2023 2nd Quarter Lobbying Report from the County Clerk, George Christenson

This item was informational only. No action was taken by the Board.

4.2 2024 Operating Budget

Mr. Gilmore informed the Board that the 2024 operating budget proposal for the Board's office has been submitted to the County Executive and Budget Office. The office's tax levy was increased for the first time in five years. This allows the office to plan for a cost-of-living adjustment to salaries which will be effective county-wide, as well as add a buffer to the legal fees budget lines for the Board, Civil Service Commission ("CSC") and Personnel Review Board ("PRB"). Salaries of office staff and board member stipends comprises 82% of the budget, legal fees for the Board, CSC and PRB comprises 15%, and the remaining office costs make up the remaining 3%.

4.3 July 2023 Ethically Speaking Newsletter

Mr. Gilmore informed the Board that the office of the Board released the latest issue of the Ethically Speaking newsletter in July. The newsletter focused on limits on contact with a short feature on summer event tickets. The next newsletter will focus on statements of economic interest (“SEI”), as the newsletter will be released ahead of the annual SEI drive.

4.4 Equitable Policy Panel

Mr. Gilmore informed the Board that he met with Tony Panciera, Senior Equity Policy Manager, Office of Equity, to discuss the County’s mission in achieving racial equity. Mr. Gilmore has since been invited to participate on a panel. The panel will include members of Department of Administrative Services and Office of Corporation Counsel. The panel kicked off June 8, 2023 and will likely be a two hour commitment per week until the end of the year.

5.0 **Closed Session**

At 3:24 p.m., Ms. Guthrie moved, Mr. Donner 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 3:36 p.m., after discussion in closed session, Ms. Guthrie moved, Mr. Nicholas seconded, and the Board voted 5-0 to reconvene in open session.

6.0 **Adjournment**

Mr. Nicholas moved, Ms. Guthrie seconded, and the Board voted 5-0 to adjourn the meeting at 3:38 p.m.

Minutes submitted by: Alisha Terry, Paralegal, Ethics Board