

MILWAUKEE COUNTY ETHICS BOARD

Thursday, May 2, 2024, 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 2:36 p.m. on May 2, 2024. The meeting was held via Microsoft Teams®.

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

2.0 Approval of the Minutes for the Meetings of February 1 and 21, 2024

Ms. Lentini moved, Mr. Nicholas seconded, and the Board voted 4-0 to approve the February 1 and 21, 2024, meetings' minutes.

3.0 Report of the Executive Director

3.1 2024 1st Quarter Lobbying Report from the County Clerk, George Christenson

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

3.2 2023 Ethics Board Annual Report Submission

Mr. Gilmore informed the Board that the 2023 Annual Report had been submitted to the County Board of Supervisors on March 19, 2024. With the submission, the Ethics Board has fulfilled its obligation pursuant to the Ethics Code. Mr. Gilmore will be presenting the report to the Judiciary sub-committee of the County Board on May 14, 2024.

3.3 April Ethically Speaking Newsletter

Mr. Gilmore informed the Board that the latest edition of the Ethically Speaking newsletter was issued and circulated on April 22, 2024. The newsletter focused on political activity and the prohibitions contained in §9.06 of the Ethics Code. The next issue, planned to be released in July 2024, will focus on family and conflicts of interest.

Mr. Gilmore noted that he spoke with Elizabeth Flamm the author of the What's Up newsletter, which is used to circulate the Ethically Speaking newsletter county-wide, regarding readership engagement. The discussion prompted

brainstorming of how to reengage with employees and officials regarding the Ethics Code.

4.0 Introduction of Matt Hart, Office of the Comptroller – Audit Services Division

Mr. Mueller, Ethics Board Chair, introduced Matt Hart to the newest members of the Ethics Board. Mr. Hart informed the Board of his background and current job duties, and described how his office has worked with the Board in the past. The Board detailed how it handles verified complaints and investigation requests when they are received by its office.

5.0 Correspondence to Human Resources regarding M.C.G.O. §9.03(3)

The Board reviewed the draft memo prepared by Mr. Gilmore that will be sent to Margo Franklin, Chief Human Resources Officer, and will focus on the requirement for new employees that were external hires into Statement of Economic Interest (“SEI”) filing positions to file an SEI within 30 days of the commencement of their employment pursuant to M.C.G.O. §9.03(3). The memo will include a list of required filing positions per department.

Mr. Mueller moved, Ms. Lentini seconded, and the Board by unanimous vote (4-0), approved the memo and directed the Board’s office to send the correspondence to Ms. Franklin.

6.0 Potential Revisions to M.C.G.O. §9.04 and SEI Reporting Requirements

The Board reviewed the proposed resolution and revisions to M.C.G.O. §9.04(1)(a) and (f) drafted by Mr. Gilmore. The proposed revisions are a product of discussions the Board had at their November 2, 2023 and February 1, 2024 meetings where a loophole for SEI filers was identified in the provisions. The Board’s resolution looks to address and close the loophole. The Board directed its office to provide the proposed resolution to Corporation Counsel for them to advise of any further revisions to the draft.

Ms. Lentini moved, Mr. Daniels seconded, and the Board voted (4-0) to approve the resolution to revise M.C.G.O. §9.04(1) (a) and (f) pending Corporation Counsel’s advisement; if material changes are suggested, then the Board will schedule a special meeting to discuss.

7.0 Closed Session

At 3:29 p.m., Mr. Nicholas moved, Mr. Daniels seconded, and the Board voted 4-0 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 4:11 p.m., after discussion in closed session, Ms. Lentini moved, Mr. Nicholas seconded, and the Board voted 4-0 to reconvene in open session.

8.0 Adjournment

Ms. Lentini moved, Mr. Nicholas seconded, and the Board voted 4-0 to adjourn the meeting at 4:13 p.m.

Minutes submitted by: Alisha Terry, Paralegal, Ethics Board