

MILWAUKEE COUNTY ETHICS BOARD

Monday, February 3, 2025, 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 February 3, 2025. The meeting was held in Courthouse, Room 203-R, in a hybrid format.

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

2.0 Election of Officers

Mr. Donner moved, and Mr. Daniels seconded, to elect Christopher Meuler as the chair of the Ethics Board. The Board voted (2-0), with Mr. Meuler abstaining.

Mr. Meuler moved, and Mr. Donner seconded, to elect Elizabeth Lentini as vice chair of the Ethics Board. The Board voted (3-0).

3.0 Approval of the Minutes for the Meetings of November 7 and 22, 2024

Mr. Donner moved, Mr. Daniels seconded, and the Board voted 3-0 to approve the November 7 and 22, 2024, meetings minutes.

4.0 Report of the Executive Director

4.1 2024 4th Quarter Lobbying Report from the County Clerk, George Christenson

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

4.2 Board Membership Update

Mr. Gilmore informed the Board that Clifton Phelps, representing the Grater Milwaukee Committee, has been nominated by the County Executive to fill the vacancy on the Board. It is expected that the Judiciary, Law Enforcement and General Services Committee will approve the nomination on March 11 and the County Board of Supervisors will confirm the nomination on March 20. Pending availability, Mr. Phelps' first meeting stands to be May 1, 2025.

4.3 M.C.G.O. 9.03 Resolution Update

Mr. Gilmore informed the Board that he presented at the January 28, 2025, meeting of the Judiciary, Law Enforcement and General Services Committee on the M.C.G.O. 9.03 Resolution. Mr. Gilmore expects the resolution to be considered and approved at the February 6, 2025, meeting of the County Board of Supervisors. The resolution clarifies which individuals in county service need to file a Statement of Economic Interest and when as well as expectations for new hires and incumbents.

4.4 2024 Ethics Board Annual Report

Mr. Gilmore informed the Board that the draft 2024 Annual Report had been circulated to Board Members for review. Revisions from Board members can be accepted via e-mail. Once all Board members approve of the content, the report will be finalized and submitted to the County Board to be placed on file.

Mr. Donner moved, Mr. Daniels seconded, and the Board voted (3-0), to approve the 2024 Ethics Board Annual Report pending any further revisions.

4.5 2024/2025 Annual SEI Drive Report

Mr. Gilmore informed the Board that the 2025 annual Statement of Economic Interest (“SEI”) drive had been completed. There was a decrease in the number filed by the deadline (75%) from the past few years. This year 438 County employees and officials were required to file an SEI, an increase from years past. There were about 15% new filers this year. Mr. Gilmore informed the Board of his intent to approach the departments with the largest number of new filers to remind them that newly hired employees, that are hired into filing positions, throughout the year should be filing an SEI within 30-days of the commencement of employment. The Board’s office did identify a common filing issue within the portal and is working to have it corrected.

4.6 February 2025 Newsletter

Mr. Gilmore informed the Board that the next Ethically Speaking newsletter will be issued later in February 2025. The newsletter will focus on the results of the SEI drive and the changes that were made to M.C.G.O. 9.03. Mr. Meuler suggested that political activity could be a topic for the April 2025 newsletter.

4.7 Update on Performance Evaluations for Office Staff

Mr. Gilmore informed the Board that self-evaluations will be completed by Board staff within the next week. Final performance evaluations for the Administrative Assistant and Paralegal will be conducted by Mr. Gilmore. Drafts will be

circulated to the Board for further input. Mr. Gilmore will coordinate with the Board Chair, the Personnel Review Board and the Chief of Staff for the County Executive's Office regarding the completion of his evaluation.

4.8 Update on 2025 Training Requirements for Board Members

Mr. Gilmore informed the Board that in the coming weeks board members will receive information regarding the trainings that are required of them and instructions on how to complete. The Board is required to complete the County Ethics, Harassment, and Racial Equity Part 5 trainings.

5.0 Update on Development of PSF Use Guidance for County Supervisors

Mr. Gilmore provided the Board with an update on the guidelines that have been developed for County Board of Supervisors regarding their use of Public Service Funds ("PSF"). Kelly Bablitch, Chief of Staff, County Board of Supervisors, provided the Board with the guideline documents. Mr. Gilmore requested that any feedback from Board Members be provided to Mr. Gilmore by Friday, February 7, 2025, to pass along to Ms. Bablitch.

6.0 Closed Session

At 3:41 p.m., Mr. Daniels moved, Mr. Donner seconded, and the Board voted 3-0 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 4:16 p.m., after discussion in closed session, Mr. Donner moved, Mr. Daniels seconded, and the Board voted 3-0 to reconvene in open session.

7.0 Adjournment

Mr. Daniels moved, Mr. Donner seconded, and the Board voted 3-0 to adjourn the meeting at 4:18 p.m.

Minutes submitted by: Alisha Terry, Paralegal, Ethics Board