

**MINUTES OF THE  
MACOMB COUNTY ETHICS BOARD  
Tuesday, July 19, 2022**

A meeting of the Macomb County Ethics Board was held Tuesday, July 19, 2022, at 8:30 a.m., in the Talmer Building 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Conference Room, 120 North Main Street, Mount Clemens, Michigan.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Amboyer called the meeting to order at 8:37 a.m.

**ROLL CALL**

The following Members were present:

Dr. Donald Amboyer, Ms. Anne Rescoe, Ms. Dorie Vazquez-Nolan

The following Members were excused:

Mr. Darnell Blackburn

The following individuals were also in attendance:

Ms. Karlyn Semlow, Director of Human Resources and Labor Relations

Mr. Brian Jacks, Deputy Director Human Resources and Labor Relations

Valerie Schave, Macomb County Finance, Recording Secretary

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

**MOTION**

A motion was made by Ms. Rescoe, supported by Ms. Vazquez-Nolan to adopt the Agenda as provided. **The motion carried.**

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (five minutes per speaker on agenda topics only)**

None

**APPROVE MEETING MINUTES OF JUNE 21, 2022**

**MOTION**

A motion was made by Ms. Vazquez-Nolan, supported by Ms. Rescoe to approve the minutes of June 21, 2022. **The motion carried.**

## OLD BUSINESS

### **A. Ethics Complaint 02-2022**

Chair Amboyer recalled that Ms. Lula Peterson attended the last meeting and spoke during Public Participation. At that meeting, the Board members discussed next steps and two members formed a subcommittee to further investigate the allegations in Ms. Peterson's complaint.

Ms. Rescoe provided an update on what the subcommittee has been working on. She reached out to Ms. Semlow and they were able to talk via Google Meet and Ms. Rescoe inquired about Human Resource's (HR) information related to this complaint. Ms. Rescoe indicated that she does still need to speak with Ms. Robyn DiCristofaro in HR. Mr. Blackburn had advised her that he has reached out to Ms. Peterson, but has not yet had a chance to speak with her. He is traveling the next few days and once he returns, he and Ms. Rescoe intend to meet later this week to discuss what each has found. Chair Amboyer indicated that they would review the next steps at the meeting in August in accordance with their Rules of Procedure. He hopes to have this matter concluded at their August meeting.

Ms. Semlow advised the Board that Ms. Peterson officially resigned from County yesterday (July 18, 2022) and that her resignation was effective immediately. Chair Amboyer asked Ms. Semlow to provide a copy of Ms. Peterson's resignation letter for the complaint file. Chair Amboyer indicated that the Board should still complete the investigation and come to a final resolution regarding the complaint.

### **B. Letter of Recognition**

Chair Amboyer indicated a letter of recognition had been prepared and he asked if any of the Board members had any additions or corrections they would like made to the letter.

## MOTION

A motion was made by Ms. Vazquez-Nolan, supported by Ms. Rescoe to proceed with the letter of recognition as presented. **The motion carried.**

Chair Amboyer requested Ms. Schave come forward. Ms. Vazquez-Nolan read the letter to Ms. Schave which expressed the Board's appreciation for her work since the unfortunate passing of Ms. Michelle LaBelle. Ms. Schave was presented with a signed copy of the letter and she thanked the Board for their kind words and noted that it is very nice to be recognized. She recalled how valuable Ms. LaBelle was to both the Ethics Board and the Finance Department and while stepping into this role was completely new for her, she is glad to hear that the Board appreciates the work that she does for them. Chair Amboyer indicated that a copy of the letter will be shared with the County Executive, the Board of Commissioners, Mr. Smigiel and Ms. Semlow.

### **C. Personal Disclosure Forms**

Chair Amboyer briefly discussed the Personal Disclosure forms that have been provided to them by HR for the last several months. He is questioning why they are being provided and what (if anything) the Ethics Board should do with them. Mr. Jacks advised the Board of the current number of Personal Disclosure forms completed by new hires, and current employees. He indicated that HR has been providing the Board with monthly updates as a courtesy. If these updates are not needed, HR can stop providing them. Chair Amboyer asked other Board members for their opinions. Ms. Vazquez-Nolan indicated that if HR feels there is a question about a particular form that has been submitted,

then that form could be presented, but that they likely do not need to see every form submitted each month. Ms. Rescoe agreed. The Board advised HR that there is no longer a need to supply them with all forms submitted each month. Ms. Semlow indicated that moving forward they will only bring forth those that require additional review or may require an Advisory Opinion from the Board.

#### **D. Certificate of Achievement**

Chair Amboyer distributed copies of a certificate that used to be provided when an individual completed training. He noted that the format of the certificate is different now and does not include the Ethics Board member names. He wondered if it would be possible to generate the nicer certificates that used to be available. Ms. Semlow indicated that would likely be a manual process and she would need to see if she has staff available to produce the nicer certificates. The "certificate" that is produced now comes directly out of NeoGov (the online training platform). Chair Amboyer indicated that he does not want to create an additional burden for HR, but the old style certificates would be preferred. Ms. Semlow will look into this and provide the Board with an update in the future.

Chair Amboyer also inquired if it would be possible for HR to provide a list of who has taken the Ethics Ordinance training and who has not. Ms. Semlow indicated that they could likely provide information on individual people if the Board desired. Ms. Rescoe noted that might be of benefit to them when a request or complaint is filed so they could confirm whether the individual filing the information has completed the Ethics training. Ms. Semlow indicated that HR could provide this information on a case-by-case basis moving forward if the Board requests it.

#### **E. Other**

None

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **A. Correspondence**

Chair Amboyer advised the Board that correspondence had been received from Prosecutor Pete Lucido on July 5, 2022. Chair Amboyer shared that with the other members of the Ethics Board and he sought the input of Corporation Counsel. He responded to the Prosecutor's letter and advised him that the complaint he had filed (01-2022) was dismissed.

Chair Amboyer also noted that he received a call through the Ethics Board phone number from a lady in Las Vegas regarding her estranged husband and she indicated that he had kidnapped two children. Chair Amboyer advised her that was not related to the Ethics Ordinance and noted for the Board that this type of call is, unfortunately, not unusual. He receives a number of calls that cannot be addressed by the Ethics Board as they do not have any bearing on the Ethics Ordinance. In this instance, he did ask Ms. Vazquez-Nolan to call this lady back and provide her with community resources that may be available to help her. Ms. Vazquez-Nolan indicated that this seems to have been an on-going issue and that the lady's concerns are being addressed by an outside agency (that she also spoke to).

Chair Amboyer advised that he had also received written correspondence related to Prosecutor Lucido's private law practice. He responded in writing that this was also outside the realm of the Ethics Ordinance and that the Board cannot act.

**MOTION**

A motion was made by Ms. Rescoe, supported by Ms. Vazquez-Nolan to receive and file the correspondence. **The motion carried.**

**B. Other**

Chair Amboyer advised the Board members that the County's annual budget cycle is starting. Information is due back to the Finance Department by August 5, 2022. The Board members did not have any suggested changes for next year's proposed budget. Chair Amboyer will prepare a draft and share with the other Board members for their review. Any suggested additions, deletions, or corrections will be made to the draft and the necessary documents will be returned to the Finance Department.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (five minutes per speaker on agenda topics only)**

None

**NEXT REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETING: TUESDAY, AUGUST 16, 2022 - 8:30 A.M.**


**ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION**

A motion was made by Ms. Vazquez-Nolan, supported by Ms. Rescoe to adjourn the meeting at 9:10 a.m. **The Motion Carried.**

Approved:

  
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Donald J. Amboyer, Ph.D., Chairperson

  
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Darnell Blackburn, Secretary