

**MINUTES OF THE
MACOMB COUNTY ETHICS BOARD
Tuesday, December 19, 2023**

A meeting of the Macomb County Ethics Board was held Tuesday, December 19, 2023, at 8:30 a.m., in the Talmer Building, 2nd Floor Conference Room, 120 North Main Street, Mount Clemens, Michigan.

CALL TO ORDER

Acting Chair Vazquez-Nolan called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

ROLL CALL

The following Members were present:

Ms. Dorie Vazquez-Nolan, Ms. Betty Youngblood, Ms. Bobbie Remias, Mr. Steve Krajnik

The following Members were excused:

Ms. Anne Rescoe

The following individuals were also in attendance:

Valerie Schave, Macomb County Finance, Recording Secretary
John Schapka, Corporation Counsel
Brian Jacks, Human Resources & Labor Relations (HRLR)

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

MOTION

A motion was made by Ms. Youngblood, supported by Ms. Remias to adopt the Agenda as presented.

The motion carried.

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

None

APPROVE MEETING MINUTES OF JUNE 20, 2023

MOTION

A motion was made by Ms. Remias, supported by Ms. Youngblood to approve the minutes of June 20, 2023 as presented. **The motion carried.**

OLD BUSINESS

A. 2023-2024 Ethics Board Budget

Acting Chair Vazquez-Nolan reported that she had appeared before the Board of Commissioners to present their request for the 2023-2024 budget. The Commissioners had no questions and approved their request for a budget of \$3,800 for the year.

B. Ethics Conference sponsored by the City of Detroit – May 2023

Acting Chair Vazquez-Nolan advised the Board that she had attended the first Ethics Conference held by the City of Detroit back in May. She stated that there were many Ethics Board members from across the state that were also in attendance. She is hopeful that this conference will be held again and more of this board's members will be able to join.

C. Ethics Board Vacancy

Acting Chair Vazquez-Nolan noted that the vacancy left on the Board when former Chair Amboyer stepped down has been filled by new member, Steve Krajnik. Mr. Krajnik introduced himself and since there are so many new faces on the Board the rest of the meeting attendees also introduced themselves.

D. Election of Chair for 2024

The Board discussed the election of officers for 2024. They examined the roles of the Chairperson, Vice-Chair and Secretary. A decision was made to hold the election at the January meeting so that Ms. Rescoe may be able to attend, and all Board members can participate in voting.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Macomb County Human Resources reports

Acting Chair Vazquez-Nolan stated that every month she gets an email from Human Resources and Labor Relations (HRLR) that provides numbers of new hires and how many have completed the Personal Disclosure Forms. Mr. Jacks indicated that those numbers are usually 100% and most of these emails simply include statistics based on new hires. Acting Chair Vazquez-Nolan indicated she could forward those emails to the other Board members each month, but the consensus was that unless there is a problem or something the Ethics Board needs to address, there is probably no need to pass them along.

B. Correspondence

Acting Chair Vazquez-Nolan discussed the types of correspondence the Ethics Board typically receives. Some of this information come in via their email address and she provided a few examples of some of the information they receive. Much of it does not seem to pertain specifically to Ethics issues and does not necessarily require a response.

C. Advisory Opinion Form Review

After reviewing the Advisory Opinion Request Form as it currently exists online, the Board agreed that this form needs to be revised. Mr. Schapka will work on an updated draft and present it to the Board for their consideration at a future meeting.

D. Advisory Opinion Request – received December 9, 2023

Acting Chair Vazquez-Nolan asked for Mr. Schapka's input on the Advisory Opinion Request the Board received earlier this month. He indicated that the Advisory Opinion Request is not available to members of the public. It is intended to be used by County employees when there is a question about whether or not the activity or decisions of another public servant violate the Ethics Board Ordinance.

Mr. Jacks will confirm that the individual who submitted this request is not a County employee and let Acting Chair Vazquez-Nolan know. She will then respond appropriately to the individual.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (five minutes per speaker on any ethics related topic only)

None

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION

A motion was made by Ms. Remias, supported by Mr. Krajnik to adjourn the meeting at 9:14 a.m.

The motion carried.

NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING: THURSDAY, JANUARY 18, 2024 - 8:30 A.M.

Approved:

Dorie Vazquez-Nolan

Dorie Vazquez-Nolan, Chair

Bobbie Remias

Bobbie Remias, Secretary