

Albany County Ethics Commission Meeting Minutes

May 26, 2021 3:00pm

Room 710

Albany County Office Building

112 State Street, Albany, NY 12207

Meeting conducted in person and remotely via Turbo-Bridge phone conference.

In attendance: Michael Rest, Bernard Malone, Gerard Maney, Hyde Clark, Patrick Collins, Sia Googas

Meeting was called to order by Chairman Malone at 3:17 p.m.

All members present- quorum present

1. Reviewed the meeting minutes from October 27, 2020 meeting. After making two corrections, a motion from Judge Maney to adopt the minutes was seconded by Mr. Rest, and minutes were unanimously adopted.
2. Mr. Collins discussed the responses to the Financial Disclosure forms. In part the new form and process was working exactly as planned, that while there were still some outstanding but that amount was far reduced from years prior. Mr. Collins also advised that the Clerk of the Legislature has already sent letters directing compliance with the local law for the completion of the Financial Disclosure Forms.
3. The body discussed feedback received regarding the format of the Financial Disclosure Form. Ms. Googas and Mr. Collins provided a variety of forms used by other municipal or state entities to comply with the mandates of the Public Officer's Law. The body will review the forms and determine what, if any, parts are worthwhile.
4. Chairman Malone discussed determining the power of the Commission to alter the state of the form and whether it would require legislative approval to make the forms more clear. Chairman Malone asked that the Commissioner of Human Resources and the Office of the County Attorney assist the Commission on modifying the Financial Disclosure Form.
5. The body was updated on the status of the State Comptroller's audit. The County has provided a reply to the draft report, that the County had objections to portions of the form, including the methodology of the report. The Commissioners asked what recommendations were followed. Of the 12 recommendations made, a majority have been made or were being worked on.
6. The final agenda item, adopting recommendations of the report, was deferred to the next meeting to gather more information.
7. The Commissioners selected June 30, 2021 at 3:00pm as the next meeting.

8. Motion to adjourn – Mr. Rest moved to adjourn, Judge Maney seconded. The motion was unanimous.

Meeting ends 3:55 pm.