

Albany County Ethics Commission Meeting Minutes
April 10, 2024 3:00pm
Room 940
Albany County Office Building
112 State Street, Albany, NY 12207

Meeting conducted in person

In attendance: Bryan Best- Member, Bernard Malone- Member, James Melita- Member, Gerard Maney- Chairman, Sia Googas- Ethics Counsel, Patrick Collins- Legislative Assistant (via telephone), Jennifer Clement- Commissioner of Human Resources

4 of 4 members present- quorum present

Meeting was called to order by Chairman Maney at 3:16 p.m.

1. Reviewed the meeting minutes from the November 15, 2023 meeting, a motion was made by Mr. Malone to adopt the minutes without modification. The motion was seconded by Mr. Melita, and the meeting minutes were adopted unanimously.
2. The Ethics Commission discussed the list of Required Filers for the Financial Disclosure Form for 2024
 - a. Mr. Collins presented the list of required filers for Board members appointed by the County Executive or the County Legislature. A motion was made by Mr. Malone to accept the list of required filers for Board members as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Best.
 - b. Human Resources Commissioner Jennifer Clement presented the list of required filers that are employees of the County of Albany. Ms. Clement explained that three new titles were added to the list. These additions are a result of three newly created positions. Those positions were Director of Intergovernmental and Legislative Affairs for the County Legislature; Director of Operations for the County Legislature and Director of Programs and Operations for the Department for the Aging. Commissioner Clement explained that these positions would be considered policy making or high ranking county positions under the Ethics Law which requires them to complete a Financial Disclosure Form. A motion was made by Mr. Best to accept the list of required filers for County of Albany employees as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Melita.
3. Commissioner Clement informed the Ethics Commission of her department's work towards creating an Ethics Training module for Albany County employees. The Ethics Commission directed Commissioner Clement to provide the training module to the Ethics Commission for final review.

4. Motion to move into Executive Session to discuss the Ethics Complaint submitted on March 13, 2024 and to discuss the employment history of a particular person (OML §105(1)(f)) was made by Mr. Best, Mr. Malone seconded. The motion was unanimous.
5. Motion to move out of Executive Session was made by Mr. Malone, Mr. Best seconded. The motion was unanimous.
6. Pursuant to the Albany County Ethics Commission Regulations Governing Complaints and Investigations Paragraph 2, a motion to dismiss the Ethics Complaint on the basis that it fails to allege facts sufficient to constitute a violation of the Albany County Ethics Law was made by Mr. Malone, Mr. Best seconded. The motion was unanimous.
7. The Ethics Commission directed its attorney to draft a letter outlining its decision regarding the Ethics Complaint submitted on March 13, 2024 and to send the letter to the Complainant and Respondent per the Regulations Governing Complaints and Investigations.
8. The Ethics Commission reviewed the 2023 Annual Report. A motion was made by Mr. Melita to adopt the 2023 Annual Report with a modification to include the correct year of the Annual Report. The motion was seconded by Mr. Malone and the 2023 Annual Report was adopted unanimously.
9. The Ethics Commission discussed its next meeting and a tentative date was set for June 26th at 3pm.
10. Motion to adjourn – Mr. Melita moved to adjourn, Mr. Malone seconded. The motion was passed unanimously.

Meeting ended at 4:20 pm.