

**Local Finance Board
Local Government Ethics Law
March 13, 2024
VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS**

The meeting was called to order at 9:04 a.m. by Jacquelyn A. Suárez, Chairperson. Nicholas Bennett, Executive Secretary, stated that in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act, C.10:4-6 et seq., proper notice was given to the Secretary of State, the *Star-Ledger* and the *Times of Trenton*. A roll call was taken: 5 members were present: Chairperson Suárez, Idida Rodriguez, Robert Jackson, William Close, and Alan Avery were present. Board member Dominick DiRocco was absent. There are two vacancies. A quorum was present. Also present were DAG Craig Keiser and staff members Dana C. Jones, Shannon Hudak, Davinder Gill, Matthew Marthaler, and Cherie Saranin.

At 9:05 a.m., a motion was made by Ms. Rodriguez and second by Mr. Jackson to go into closed session for the purpose of discussing complaints, requests for advisory opinions, and to receive related legal advice. A roll call vote was taken: 5 affirmatives. Motion passed.

At 10:25 a.m., a motion was made by Mr. Close and second by Mr. Avery to go into open session. A roll call was taken: 5 affirmatives. Motion passed.

The Local Finance Board then determined to take a brief recess and reconvened at 10:35 a.m. to consider financing applications and to take action on the following Ethics items:

Concerning the matter of B.1. February 14, 2024, Meeting Minutes A motion was made by Mr. Close and second by Mr. Jackson to approve the minutes. A roll call was taken: 5 affirmatives. Motion passed.

Concerning the matter of B.2. A motion was made by Mr. Close and second by Ms. Rodriguez to issue a Notice of Investigation to one (1) local government officer (LGO) for alleged violations of N.J.S.A. 40A:9-22.5(c), N.J.S.A. 40A:9-22.5(d), N.J.S.A. 40A:9-22.5(e), and N.J.S.A. 40A:9-22.6(a)(1). A roll call was taken: 5 affirmatives. Motion passed.

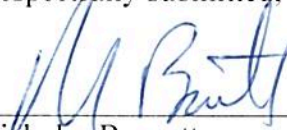
Concerning the matter of B.3. A motion was made by Mr. Avery and second by Mr. Jackson to issue a Notice of Determination to one (1) LGO dismissing the allegations in the complaint for lack of reasonable factual basis. A roll call was taken: 5 affirmatives. Motion passed.

Concerning the matter of B.4. A motion was made by Ms. Rodriguez and second by Mr. Close to issue a Notice of Investigation to four (4) LGOs for alleged violations of N.J.S.A. 40A:9-22.5(b), N.J.S.A. 40A:9-22.5(c) and to one (1) LGO for alleged violations of N.J.S.A. 40A:9-22.5(a). A roll call was taken: 5 affirmatives. Motion passed.

Concerning the matter of B.5. A motion was made by Mr. Avery and second by Mr. Jackson to issue a Notice of Dismissal to one (1) LGO dismissing the allegations in the complaint following an investigation. A roll call was taken: 5 affirmatives. Motion passed.

Concerning the matter of III.B.6. A motion was made by Mr. Close and second by Mr. Avery to adopt the Initial Decision from the Office of Administrative Law in LFB Complaint C18-026 in its entirety as a Final Agency Decision. A roll call was taken: 5 affirmatives. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "N. Bennett", is written over a horizontal line.

Nicholas Bennett
Executive Secretary
Local Finance Board