

MUNICIPAL ETHICS BOARD

January 17, 2013

CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Bacon called the meeting to order at 7:11 p.m. in the Large Conference Room in the Municipal Complex. Ms. Bacon read the following statement:

“In accordance with Section 5 of the Open Public Meeting Act, Chapter 231, Public Law 1975, be advised that adequate notice of this Meeting of the Municipal Ethics Board of the Township of Franklin, County of Somerset was made by the posting on the bulletin board at the Municipal Complex and transmitted to the officially designated newspapers indicating that this Meeting would take place at the Municipal Complex, 475 DeMott Lane, Somerset, NJ 08873 at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, January 17, 2013. In addition, a copy of this notice is and has been available to the public and is on file in the Office of the Municipal Clerk.”

ROLL CALL

Present: Patricia Bacon, Catherine Barrier, Agnes Messineo, John Paff, Shanel Robinson

Absent: Cynthia Voorhees

Ms. Bacon welcomed Shanel to the Board.

REORGANIZATION

Chair

A motion was made by Ms. Barrier to nominate Patricia Bacon as Chair of the Municipal Ethics Board for the year 2013. Said motion was seconded by Ms. Messineo.

A motion was made by Ms. Barrier to close nominations for Chair. Said motion was seconded by Ms. Messineo and carried unanimously upon voice vote.

The nomination to appoint Patricia Bacon as Chair of the Municipal Ethics Board carried upon acclamation.

Vice Chair

A motion was made by Ms. Barrier to nominate Agnes Messineo as Vice Chair of the Municipal Ethics Board for the year 2013.

A motion was made by Mr. Paff to close nominations for Vice Chair. Said motion was seconded by Ms. Barrier and carried unanimously upon voice vote.

The nomination to appoint Agnes Messineo as Vice Chair of the Municipal Ethics Board carried upon acclamation.

PUBLIC DISCUSSION

A motion was made by Ms. Barrier to open the meeting to the public. Said motion was seconded by Ms. Robinson and carried unanimously upon voice vote.

There being no comments made by the public at this time, a motion was made by Ms. Barrier to close the public discussion. Said motion was seconded by Ms. Messineo and carried unanimously upon voice vote.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Ms. McCarthy informed the Board she is having difficulty in transcribing the minutes from the April 11, 2012 meeting when the hearing was held resulting from technical difficulties with the recording. She asked members to review their notes regarding the hearing and to forward whatever they have to her.

In regards to the May 30, 2012 minutes, Ms. Bacon expressed concerns regarding the degree of confidentiality and the resolutions being contained within the minutes of an open public meeting. After a brief discussion, it was the consensus of the Board that the Chair contacts the Local Finance Board regarding confidentiality matters and procedures regarding hearings before the minutes are approved and released.

Motion – Contact Local Finance Board regarding questions regarding hearings, confidentiality and minutes.

A motion was made by Mr. Paff, seconded by Ms. Barrier that the Chair contacts the Local Finance Board regarding questions involving hearings, confidentiality and minutes. Said motion carried upon voice vote.

Motion – Approval of October 4, 2012 Minutes

A motion was made by Mr. Paff to approve the minutes of October 4, 2012 as amended. Said motion was seconded by Ms. Barrier and carried as follows upon call of the roll:

Ayes:	Bacon, Barrier, Messineo, Paff
Nays:	None
Abstain:	Robinson
Absent:	Voorhees

NEW BUSINESS

Correspondence from Board Attorney

The Board reviewed correspondence from the Board Attorney, Dennis Galvin in response to their letter sent to him regarding work for the Board and his billing. It was the consensus of the Board that they need to manage the legal work more closely and keep a closer look on the billing. It was the consensus of the Board there is a need to clarify the relationship between the Board and its Attorney.

Correspondence from Local Finance Board

The Board reviewed the response from the Local Finance Board regarding a complaint sent from the Ethics Board to the Local Finance Board. The Board discussed the options of either challenging the letter or taking back the complaint.

2012 & 2013 Financial Disclosure Statements

Ms. McCarthy provided the Board with the last updated list for 2012 and the new 2013 list. Mr. Paff asked for clarification and reassurance regarding the State going after those who did not file in 2012. He also asked for clarification regarding the Local Finance Notice sent in 2012.

Correspondence to Mayor and Council Status

After a brief discussion by the Board, it was the consensus to wait to further discuss this after hearing back from the two standing committees of Council.

OLD BUSINESS

A3100/S2068 – Transfer responsibility for establishment and enforcement of ethical standards for local officials and school officials to the State Ethics Commission.

After a brief discussion, it was the consensus of the Board to draft a letter regarding these bills to the Local Finance Board. Mr. Paff would draft a letter as well as a review of the bills for distribution to the Board for their next meeting.

Complaints

The Board briefly reviewed the status of open complaints.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Ethics Board was scheduled for February 8, 2013 at 6 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:36 p.m. was made by Ms. Barrier, seconded by Mr. Paff, and carried unanimously upon voice vote.

Approved: *As submitted.*

Date: *March 4, 2013*

Ann Marie McCarthy, Township Clerk