

MINUTES
BOARD OF ETHICS PUBLIC MEETING

May 1, 2026

10:00 A.M.

In-Person at the Dutchess County Department of Law

Present:

Peter M. Forman, Chair
Paul Piastro
Rex Bridges
David Lemon
Christian R. Cullen, Counsel
Rachel Whispell, Confidential Secretary

Item 1. Meeting Opened

The meeting was called to order by Chair Peter Forman at 10:05 a.m. A quorum was present.

Item 2. Approve and adopt prior meeting minutes

Paul Piastro moved to accept the meeting minutes of the February 2, 2026 open session as amended, seconded by David Lemon. Rex Bridges abstained, three yes.

Paul Piastro moved to accept the meeting minutes of the February 2, 2026 closed session, seconded by David Lemon. Rex Bridges abstained, three yes.

Both motions carried, and minutes adopted.

Item 3. Review any complaints or inquiries for Ethics Board Opinion

Members discussed and deliberated on two complaints received on January 9, 2026, from “Concerned Payer” and February 13, 2026, from “Dutchess County Resident” each conveying an ethical question concerning the same newly elected member of the Legislature.

Paul Piastro moved to dismiss the complaints dated January 9, 2026, and February 13, 2026, respectively, as moot, seconded by Rex Bridges. The motion carried unanimously.

Members discussed and deliberated on a complaint received March 20, 2026 conveying an ethical question concerning a member of the Legislature and a Town Councilman.

Rex Bridges moved to have the Chair sign a prepared letter dismissing the complaint for lack of jurisdiction to the complainant, seconded by Paul Piastro. The motion carried unanimously.

Finally, members discussed and deliberated on seven (7) complaints received in the month of April against a local municipal elected leader.

Rex Bridges moved to dismiss all seven (7) complaints for lack of jurisdiction, seconded by Paul Piastro. The motion carried unanimously.

Item 4. Adjournment

Paul Piastro moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by David Lemon. The motion carried unanimously. The meeting concluded at 10:30 a.m.