

**DRAFT MINUTES  
BOARD OF ETHICS  
ANNUAL MEETING**

September 16, 2024 at 11:00 A.M.

In-Person at the Dutchess County Department of Law

Present:

Peter Forman, Chair

Paul R. Piasco

Rex S. Bridges

Kathy Martin, *Absent*

Christian R. Cullen, Chief Assistant County Attorney

Rachel J. Whispell, Confidential Secretary to the County Attorney

Members of the Public Present:

Lisa Kaul, Poughkeepsie, NY, Legislator T/Pok Dist. 6

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Mr. Cullen called the meeting to order at 10:58 A.M.

A quorum was present.

Discussion held.

Item 1. Electing a Board Chair

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Motion made by Mr. Piasco to elect Peter M. Forman as Chair of the Board of Ethics; Seconded by Mr. Bridges.

Discussion held.

The motion passed unanimously.

Item 2. Review 2023 Financial Disclosure Statements Received

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Discussion held as to procedure, suggested procedural changes to reach 100% compliance.

Discussion as to delinquent Financial Disclosure Statements from Debbie Thomas, Kathleen Martin, Raymond Duncan, Serge Nalywako.

### Item 3. Procedure for Granting Extension to File Financial Disclosure Statements

Discussion held; review of proposed procedure to consider when granting extensions for persons to file Financial Disclosure Statements.

Motion made by Mr. Piastro to approve and adopt Rules and Regulations on Extending the time to file Financial Disclosure Statements; Seconded by Mr. Bridges.

The motion passed unanimously.

### Item 4. Adoption of December 14, 2023 Meeting Minutes

Minutes reviewed; Discussions held.

Motion made by Mr. Piastro to approve and adopt the December 14, 2023 Minutes; Seconded by Mr. Bridges.

The motion passed unanimously.

### Item 5. Modification of the Existing Code of Ethics Local Law (Chapter 40)

Discussion held on suggested language changes to the Dutchess County Code of Ethics (Chapter 40).

Chair Forman made a motion to revise Section 40-8 (C) to include: "Blank Financial Disclosure Statements shall be made available for candidates at the Dutchess County Board of Elections" as well as revise Section 40-8 (G), to include "The appropriate body shall ~~also~~ publish the names of such delinquent candidates in the meeting minutes of the appropriate body." Seconded by Mr. Piastro.

The motion passed unanimously.

Discussion on next meetings; procedures.

Chair Forman opened the Meeting to the Public:

Lisa Kaul confirmed her initial question on the purpose of the suggested amendments to the Code of Ethics. In the meeting discussion concerning the amendments her question was answered. She further asked why there was reference on the Board of Ethics' web page to contact the Human Rights Commission. It was determined to be a mistake to be corrected. Finally, she asked who someone would contact if an issue arises concerning a member of the Legislature. Mr. Cullen informed that the question/concern could be directed to the Board of Ethics c/o Department of Finance, 22 Market Street, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Poughkeepsie, NY 12601. Either that, or the concern could be directed to him directly: Christian R. Cullen, Chief Assistant County Attorney.

Adjournment.

A motion was made to adjourn by Paul R. Piastro, seconded by Rex S. Bridges. The motion carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:55 A.M.