

Minutes Nassau County Board of Ethics
Public Session

Meeting date and place: December 20, 2018 at 8:00 A.M.
One West Street, Mineola, New York 11501

Board Members Present: Kenneth L. Gartner, Chair
Jared A. Kasschau, County Attorney
Michael Pernick, Member
Christopher Devane, Member
Daniel Palmieri, Member

Board Counsel: Steven G. Leventhal

Secretary to the Board: Nicholas Vevante, Deputy County Attorney, taking minutes

Also in attendance: Representatives from the Nassau County Comptroller's Office

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 a.m. All members of the Board were present and so there was a quorum.

The first item was the adoption of the minutes from the November 14, 2018 meeting. Mr. Kasschau moved, and Mr. Devane seconded adopting the minutes. The vote passed unanimously.

Next, Mr. Vevante gave a presentation regarding the progress made towards electronic filing of the financial disclosure forms. Mr. Vevante showed the Board the system that was being developed. The Board members had various comments about how the electronic filing should be improved. Mr. Vevante said he would consult with Nassau County's IT Department to implement the changes.

Mr. Vevante then gave an update for the filing of a financial disclosure forms for the fiscal year 2017. Mr. Vevante informed the Board that the correct number of employees required to file for the fiscal year 2017 was 706. 682 have filed leaving 24 outstanding. The employees who were outstanding were notified that they needed to file their financial disclosure forms but still did not respond except for 3 who asked for an exemption or extension.

Mr. Vevante then informed the Board that a legal intern, Lexis Mollica, in the County Attorney's Office had attempted to redact past advisory opinions for release to the public. There were 34 total opinions. Ms. Mollica informed Mr. Vevante prior to the meeting that there were 4 opinions she thought could be released without redaction, 4 that could be released with redactions, 17 that could not be released even after attempting to redact, and 9 she was unsure if redaction

could ensure the privacy of the requester. Mr. Vevante informed the Board that he was still reviewing Ms. Mollica's work and that he would give the Board his recommendation for public disclosure in the future. Mr. Leventhal reminded the Board that the Board should take Mr. Vevante's recommendation about release of past advisory opinions into consideration but that they should, as a body, decide which opinions to release.

There was then a discussion on selecting a date to have a meeting dedicated to reviewing the proposed Code of Ethics revisions submitted to the Board by Mr. Leventhal and members of the County Attorney's Legal Counsel Bureau. It was decided that Mr. Vevante would poll the members on which dates would work for the members including evening and Sunday meetings.

Mr. Devane moved to go into executive session to discuss requests for advisory opinions and interviewing special counsel to the Board. Mr. Pernick seconded. The motion was passed unanimously at 8:25.

At 9:35 the Mr. Gartner moved to adjourn the executive session as well as the meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Kasschau, and carried unanimously.