MINUTES

Town of Greenburgh Board of Ethics

6:30 p.m.

Thursday, May 25, 2023

Town Hall, Lee F. Jackson Conference Room

Board Members Present: Blase J. Spinozzi, Chair; Trudy Holand, Secretary; Jacqueline Baranov, Member.

Also Present: Amanda Magana Esq., Deputy Town Attorney; Joseph Malara, Esq., Volunteer Counsel; Dr Thomas J. Hopkins, Proposed Board Member.

1. The meeting was convened at 6:30 p.m. A quorum of the Board of Ethics was present.
2. AGENDA: The Agenda, as per motion of the Chair, was unanimously adopted.
3. MINUTES: The minutes of the March 23, 2023 meeting, as per motion of the Chair, were unanimously approved.
4. ETHICS TRAINING UPDATE: Deputy Town Attorney Magana reported that Ethics Training has been taken by all new appointees. The town will continue its efforts to ensure that all required to undergo Ethics Training do so timely.
5. FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE FORMS: Deputy Town Attorney Magana reported that everyone required to file a Financial Disclosure Form no later than May 15, 2023 has done so, thus the town is in 100 percent compliance.

Board Member Baranov suggested that the town explore the possibility of creating a computer-interactive Financial Disclosure Form which will enable those required to file an FDF the ability to insert the necessary data and file it online at the same time. Ms. Magana said her office would explore the feasibility of this, and will advise the BoE as soon as reasonably possible as to whether this can be done.

1. CORRESPONDENCE: The Chair reported there were six emails received by the Board of Ethics since our last meeting. The correspondence was dated 4/17, 4/20, 4/26, 5/2, 5/12 and 5/12. All correspondence was shared with the members of the Board prior to the meeting. There was no comment from the Board Members.
2. RULE 4.J: The Chair noted that all of the correspondence received by the board was from one member of the public and, unfortunately, was rife with personal attacks on each member of the board. It was noted that personal attacks are contrary to Board of Ethics Rule 4.j. This led to further discussion by the board of the need to revise Rule 4.j.

Volunteer Counsel Malara agreed to draft a change to the rule, and it is hopeful that we will be able to consider any proposed changes at the next meeting. It is the intent of the board to post all proposed changes on the Town’s website prior to our next meeting.

1. VACANCIES ON THE BOARD OF ETHICS: The Board of Ethics will continue to remind the Town Board of the need to fill alternate seats on the Board of Ethics.
2. NEXT MEETING DATE: The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 22, 2023, 6:30 p.m. at Greenburgh Town Hall.
3. The meeting was adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

Submitted by: Trudy Holand, Secretary