

WARREN COUNTY BOARD OF ETHICS

FEBRUARY 10, 2022

BOARD OF ETHICS MEMBERS PRESENT:

Officer/Employee of Warren County:

Member - Robert Iusi, Director, Warren Probation

Alternate Member - Brian Pilatzke, Esq., Assistant Warren County Public Defender

Elected/Appointed Officer or Employee of a Local Municipality within Warren County:

Member - Ash Anand, Warrensburg School Board Member

Alternate Member - Diana Palmer, Glens Falls City Common Council

Member of the Public:

Alternate Member - Martin Deslauriers

GUESTS:

Larry Elmen, Warren County Attorney

Ryan Moore, County Administrator

Amanda Allen, Clerk of the Board

Kevin Geraghty, Chairman of the Board/Town of Warrensburg Supervisor

Peter McDevitt, City of Glens Falls Ward 2 Supervisor

Rachel Seeber, Town of Queensbury Supervisor At-Large

Tammie DeLorenzo, Assistant to the County Administrator

Don Lehman, Director of Public Affairs

Mary Slemmer, Confidential Secretary to the County Attorney

Molly Ganotes-Gleason, Legislative Office Specialist

Please note, the following contains a summarization of the February 10, 2022 meeting of the Warren County Ethics Board; the meeting in its entirety can be viewed on the Warren County website using the following link: <https://warrencountyny.gov>

Note: Pursuant to New York Legislation (S.50001.A.40001): "Notwithstanding the provisions of article 7 of the public officers law to the contrary, any state agency, department, corporation, office, authority, board, or commission, as well as any local public body, or public corporation as defined in section 66 of the general construction law, or political subdivisions as defined in section 100 of the general municipal law, or a committee or subcommittee or other similar body of such entity, shall be authorized to meet and take such action authorized by law without permitting in public in-person access to meetings and authorize such meetings to be held remotely by conference call or similar service, provided that the public has the ability to view or listen to such proceeding and that such meetings are recorded and later transcribed" All of the Committee members were physically present.

In the absence of a Committee Chair, Mr. Iusi, as Vice-Chair called the meeting of the Board of Ethics to order at 2:02 p.m

Copies of the Board of Ethics agenda were distributed to those in attendance, *a copy of the agenda is on file with the meeting minutes.*

Motion was made by Mr. Anand, seconded by Mr. Deslauriers and carried unanimously, to approve the minutes of the previous Committee meeting, subject to correction by the Clerk of the Board.

The agenda review commenced as follows:

- Item 4) Mr. Iusi indicated there was no unfinished business to discuss. Mr. Anand questioned if there were disclosure forms and instruction sheets to include with the Financial Disclosure forms and Larry Elmen, *County Attorney*, replied affirmatively. He explained during the initial disclosure his office received a number of questions, adding he would speak to it

in the future and amend the policy and include a frequently asked question sheet.

Item 5a) Mr. Iusi informed Connie Bosse, former Chair, had resigned.

Item 5b) Discussion regarding appointing a new Chair for the Warren County Board of Ethics; Mr. Anand nominated himself and Mr. Iusi advised he would remain the Vice-Chair. Mr. Elmen advised by default Mr. Iusi would remain the Vice-chair because there were no other primary members.

Motion was made by Mr. Deslauriers, seconded by Mr. Iusi, and carried unanimously to appoint Mr. Anand as the Chair of the Board of Ethics and Mr. Iusi as Vice-Chair.

Item 5c) Mr. Elmen explained he did not have a set of rules for discussion today, but would present his ideas for them for consideration at the next meeting.

Item 5d) Mr. Elmen apprised an executive session was necessary to discuss documents regarding matters leading to the appointment/employment promotion, demotion, discipline, suspension, dismissal or removal of a particular person. He asked if Mary Slemmer, *Confidential Secretary to the County Attorney*, could remain in executive session to pass out financial disclosure forms submitted for Board of Ethics review in his physical absence, as he was attending virtually, and members of the Board of Ethics agreed.

Motion was made by Mr. Anand, seconded by Mr. Deslauriers and carried unanimously to enter into an executive session pursuant to Section 105(f) of the Public Officer's Law.

Executive session was held from 2:18 p.m. until 3:49 p.m.; no formal action was taken during executive session.

Upon reconvening, Mr. Anand announced there were two items that required action. The first being an official response to complaints made to the Board of Ethics by email on February 3, 2022 (8:20 a.m.); February 3, 2022 (10:35 a.m.); February 3, 2022 (1:06 p.m.); and February 5, 2022 (10:08 a.m.). He advised the complaints had not proven to be actionable under the County's Code of Ethics.

Motion was made by Mr. Iusi, seconded by Mr. Deslauriers, and carried unanimously to take no action on any of the four complaints.

Next, Mr. Anand advised during the review of the Financial Disclosure statements submitted there were items submitted which were determined to be non-responsive; he called for a motion to authorize the County Attorney to remove and destroy these items.

Motion was made by Mr. Iusi, seconded by Mr. Deslauriers, and carried unanimously to authorize the County Attorney to remove and destroy any non-responsive documents from the Financial Disclosures submitted.

Concluding the agenda review, Mr. Elmen suggested that a meeting be scheduled for March and he questioned whether the Board preferred to set that date at the current meeting or announce it after. Mr. Anand indicated the date of the March meeting would be announced later once the Board members had time to consult their schedules.

Privilege of the floor was extended to anyone wishing to address the Board of Ethics. Rachel Seeber, Town of Queensbury Supervisor At-Large, thanked the members of the Board of Ethics for volunteering their time to serve.

As there was no further business to come before the Warren County Board of Ethics, on motion by Mr. Iusi, seconded by Mr. Deslauriers and carried unanimously, Mr. Anand adjourned the meeting at 3:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Molly Ganotes-Gleason, Legislative Office Specialist