

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING
OF THE ETHICS BOARD - TOWNSHIP OF EDISON**

September 06, 2022

A Regular Meeting of the Ethics Board was held in the Edison Room on the third floor of the Municipal Building on Tuesday, September 06, 2022. The meeting was called to order at 7:06pm by Chairperson Stevens followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present were Board members Blick, Kearstan, Stevens & Zelingher (via zoom) Attorney Kipnis (via zoom) and Secretary McCray.

The Secretary advised that adequate notice of this meeting, as required by the Open Public Meetings Act of 1975, has been provided by an Annual Notice sent to The Home News Tribune and posted in the Main Lobby of the Municipal Complex on August 31, 2022.

OLD BUSINESS

Local Government Ethics Board Complaint #22-01 was brought to discussion. Attorney Kipnis asked if anyone had heard from the complainant in regarding to the withdrawal of this complaint. Secretary McCray stated she sent the complainant an email. Mr. Kipnis stated action should be held pending confirmation. Mr. Kipnis explained there was correspondence from the complainant to release the ruling. Mr. Kipnis stated he believed this means to withdraw the complaint, but the complainant would need to confirm in writing.

Local Ethics Complaint # 22-02 Mr. Kipnis explained the complainant has requested an advisory opinion on this complaint. He explained the board would need to hear it from the complainant if there is an intent to move forward, wanting an advisory opinion or wishes to withdraw. Secretary McCray relayed she would reach out to see if the complainant would come to the next meeting or send an email clarifying.

NEW BUSINESS (added at the meeting)

Secretary McCray clarified with Attorney Kipnis, that anonymous complaints can't be accepted by the board. Mr. Kipnis explained that by law the complaint needs to be signed. The board cannot hear anonymous complaints. The Board was given copies of the complaints that came in.

Mr. Kersting brought up the August 9th anonymous complaint stating the person sending these complaints know these issues are going on. Attorney Kipnis stated again if it is an anonymous complaint the board cannot act on it. Mr. Blick stated it could be a fictitious accusation.

At this time new business was added to the agenda during the meeting.

Mr. Kearstan questioned how to address no reproductions towards the Ethics board can happen for the anonymous complaints. Mr. Kipnis states the board cannot hear nor take action on the complaint. Mr. Kearstan would like to go on record that as advised by Ethics board counsel the two anonymous complaints cannot be heard by the board.

Ms. Stevens asked if the complainant of #22-01 & #22-02 will be invited to the next meeting.

The board discussed possible next meeting date. The board came up with September 19. Mr. Kipnis stated needing more time to notice complaint.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

Next meeting to be held October 27, 2022.

A motion was made by Mr. Blick and seconded by Mr. Kersting to adjourn the meeting at 7:30pm.

Deborah Stevens
Chairperson

Marlena McCray
Secretary