

**Ethics Commission Meeting Minutes**  
**June 30, 2021 3:00 pm**  
**Room 940**  
**Albany County Office Building**  
**112 State Street, Albany NY 12207**

**Meeting conducted in person**

**In attendance:** Michael Rest, Bernard Malone, Gerard Maney, Hyde Clarke, Patrick Collins, and Sia Googas

1. Meeting called to order on 3:18 and quorum present with four present members.
2. Previous Meeting Minutes - Meeting minutes for May 26<sup>th</sup>
  - a. Correct Hyde Clarke's name.
  - b. Rest moved to adopt previous minutes; Maney seconded.
  - c. Unanimous with the change.
3. Review of the financial disclosure forms
  - a. New package of returned financial disclosure forms was distributed.
  - b. Less than 5% of the total amount have not returned; about 20 people.
  - c. Discussion on certain required filers.
    - i. The Commissioner of Human Resources is coming out with a list of people who are in titles who are not obligated to file financial disclosure forms.
    - ii. Fire advisory board
      1. The Board doesn't ultimately serve in a policy making role.
      2. They do trainings.
      3. Decision to have them removed from the list of required filers.
    - iii. Farmland protection board
      1. The board does not serve in a policy making roll.
      2. The board makes recommendations.
      3. Ethics board doesn't have to make the decision; legislature should make the decision they shouldn't be on the list.
    - iv. Staff to look to review boards that really shouldn't be included on the financial disclosure forms.
  - d. Commission agrees to review the requirements of those charged with filing.

- i. Legally required by state law; if County Legislature wants to expand it to more persons.
  - ii. Have the form short, understandable and applicable to only to those people who can truly have a conflict.
  - iii. Volunteers on boards and commissions should be weeded out by exclusion by the Legislature.
  - iv. Make a recommendation to the Legislature to adjust the form.
  - v. Have someone weed out.
    - 1. Done administratively without legislative action.
  - vi. Members concluded such recommendations could be made a change to the law.
  - vii. Previous amendments to the law included a letter of support from the Department of Law, and this should as well.
  - viii. Members discussed reaching out to the New York State Association of Counties to discuss how other counties are handling the requirements of the law.
  - ix. Clarke suggested the form identify who needs which form; and possibly bifurcating the form into two forms
    - 1. Direct which filing status each person falls under (high ranking, policy making, etc).
  - x. Commission may want to have an appeals process if a person does not believe they are required to fill out the form.
- e. Reviewed the annual report
- i. Malone made corrections
  - ii. Clarke moved; Maney seconded; unanimous in favor
- f. Election of Officers
- i. Titles
    - 1. Secretary- E. Hyde Clark- nominated by Malone; seconded by Rest; 3 in favor; one abstained (Clarke)
    - 2. Chairman- Gerard Maney---- nominated by Malone; seconded by Rest; 3 in favor; one abstained (Maney)
- g. Next meeting set for September 29<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 pm.
- h. Motion to adjourn by rest; seconded by Clarke; all in favor
- i. Meeting adjourned at 4:00 pm