

BOARD OF ETHICS

Open Session Minutes

December 16, 2009 - 12:10 p.m.
740 North Sedgwick, Suite 500

Board Members Present

Miguel A. Ruiz, Chair
Thomas McCarthy
Michael F. Quirk
Lisa M. Taylor
John L. Wilhelm, M.D.

Staff Present

Steven I. Berlin, Executive Director
Richard J. Superfine, Legal Counsel
Edward Primer, Program Director
Pully Casillas, Staff Assistant

I. Approval of Minutes

The Board VOTED 5-0 to approve the Open Session Minutes of the November 18, 2009 meeting.

II. Chair's Report

None.

III. Executive Director's Report

A. Education-Classes

Since the last Board meeting, staff has conducted 5 regularly scheduled classes for persons required to attend ethics training, on November 19, and December 1, 3, 8 and 15. A total of 79 persons attended. There are currently 80 persons scheduled for classes on December 17, January 7, 12, 14 and 21.

On December 18, staff will present the last of four classes to about 100 contractors and employees from the combined Department of Aviation and O'Hare Management Project.

B. Board Members

I am pleased to report that Lisa M. Taylor, an attorney with the firm of Lewis Brisbois Bisgaard & Smith, LLP, was confirmed by the City Council this morning as the newest member of the Board. We are pleased to welcome her.

C. Mandatory Annual Ethics Education

To date, 33,540 employees and 22 aldermen have completed the 2009 annual mandatory ethics training program. This is approximately 98% of the total expected number for the year.

D. Amendments to the Governmental Ethics Ordinance

At this morning's Council meeting, Amendments to Article 2 of the Ordinance were passed. These will enable the Board to implement e-filing, as well as properly enact e-signature. They will also remove the provision under which the Board requires each person requesting to examine a filed Statement to provide his/her name, occupation, phone number and reason for the examination, to be consistent with the new state FOIA law that will take effect January 1, 2010. They will also remove the requirement that all non-filers be sent a certified mailing by May 15th, instead requiring the Board to provide notice on April and May 15 in a manner the Board prescribes.

E. Statements of Financial Interests

Arrangements are being made to print the expected 11,000 2010 Statements of Financial Interests and accompanying instructions. The Board is proceeding with what has become two distinct but related project regarding electronic internet-based filing and retrieval of all Statements of Financial Interests. With the extraordinary efforts from our staff and the staff of DOIT, and our vendor, all filed 2009 Statements will be posted in scanned form on a website. We are also in the process of selecting a vendor to enable on-line filing of Statements, on-line payment of any late fees, and on-line retrieval. That system will be ready for the 2011 filing year. We expect that project to be completed in November 2010.

F. Annual Report

I am pleased to report that the report is now being printed by Graphics, and will be available for distribution and publication next week.

G. Lobbyist Registration

There are currently **624** lobbyists that have registered with the City for this year. To date, approximately **\$135,000.00** in lobbyist registration fees have been deposited with the Department of Revenue.

H. Illinois Freedom of Information Act

Since the last regularly scheduled Board meeting, the office has received 3 new requests under the Freedom of Information Act, comprising 2 requests for 8 lobbyists' filing records and 1 request for a former employee's Statements of Financial Interests for 5 years. These resulted in production of 80 filed documents, and 39 records being copied.

IV. Old Business

None.

V. New Business

I. Proposed amendments to Board of Ethics Amended Rules and Regulations effective January 3, 1998.

It was announced that, during the executive session, Board members would briefly discuss the draft amendments to the Board's Rules & Regulations, and would reconvene in open session to confirm its determination in executive session.

The Board VOTED 5-0 to adjourn into Executive Session at 12:24 p.m. to review matters concerning the conduct of employees and officials of the City that could result in their discipline or dismissal, to review questions concerning matters of professional ethics and performance, to review matters in which litigation is ongoing, and/or to review matters in which the Board finds that litigation against or affecting the Board is probable or imminent.

VI. New Business (Reconvened)

J. Proposed amendments to Board of Ethics Amended Rules and Regulations effective January 3, 1998.

At 1:25 p.m. the Board reconvened in open session and VOTED 5-0 to approve the proposed changes, and directed Staff to submit them to City Council, pursuant to § 2-156-380(h).

The Board VOTED 5-0 to adjourn its meeting at 1:25 p.m.