

Lake County Illinois

*Lake County Courthouse and Administrative Complex
18 N. County Street
Waukegan, IL 60085-4351*



Meeting Minutes - Final

Wednesday, June 12, 2019

10:00 AM

Assembly Room, 10th Floor

Ethics and Oversight Committee

1. Call to Order

Chair Vealitzek called the meeting to order at 10:24 a.m.

Present 6 - Chair Vealitzek, Vice Chair Martini, Member Frank, Member Rummel, Member Wasik and Member Wilke

Absent 1 - Member Carlson

Others present:

Karen Fox, State's Attorney's Office

Ann Maine, County Board Member

Amy McEwan, County Administrator's Office

Matt Meyers, County Board Office

Beth Prager, State's Attorney's Office

Blanca Vela-Schneider, County Board Office

Dakisha Wesley, County Administrator's Office

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Member Wasik led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Addenda to the Agenda

There were no additions to the agenda.

4. Public Comment

There were no comments from the public.

5. Chair's Remarks

Member Vealitzek, noting a quorum of the committee physically presented, reported that Member Frank would be participating electronically in accordance with the County Board's Rules of Order and Operating Procedures.

6. Old Business

There was no old business to conduct.

7. New Business**Approval of Minutes****7.1 [19-1044](#)**

Minutes from February 6, 2019.

Attachments: [E&O 2.6.19 Minutes - Final](#)

A motion was made by Member Martini, seconded by Member Wasik, that the minutes be approved. The motion carried unanimously.

Aye: 5 - Chair Vealitzek, Vice Chair Martini, Member Frank, Member Rummel and Member Wasik

Absent: 1 - Member Carlson

Not Present: 1 - Member Wilke

7.2 [19-1045](#)

Executive Session minutes from February 6, 2019.

A motion was made by Member Rummel, seconded by Member Wasik, that the minutes be approved. The motion carried unanimously.

Aye: 5 - Chair Vealitzek, Vice Chair Martini, Member Frank, Member Rummel and Member Wasik

Absent: 1 - Member Carlson

Not Present: 1 - Member Wilke

Standards of Conduct

7.3 [19-1026](#)

Review and approval of potential revisions to the Lake County Standards of Conduct Ordinance and Operating procedures.

Attachments: [flowchartv3](#)

[Current Standards Ordinance](#)

[Standards of Conduct Complaint Handling Procedures \(10.2\) FINAL](#)

[SOC revision v16 Redline](#)

[SOC revision v16 CLEAN](#)

[REQ_RESP Operating Procedures revision v16 Redline](#)

[REQ_RESP Operating Procedures revision v16 CLEAN](#)

Assistant County Administrator Dakisha Wesley provided a brief history of the intent and process of the Lake County Standards of Conduct. She reported that during the handling of a prior complaint a determination was made that the Standards of Conduct needed to be updated. The State's Attorney's Office reviewed the policy to ensure that it was consistent with state statute and noted that no other communities have adopted the state's statute other than Lake County.

(Member Wilke arrived at 10:37 a.m.)

Ms. Wesley reviewed the proposed amendments. The title will be amended to clearly identify those impacted by it. It is recommended that ethics violations go through the ethics process which is separate from the Standards of Conduct policy. The current ethics process will be reviewed and potentially modified at a future date. It is recommended that the standard regarding Accountability be removed from the Standards of Conduct because it is vague and can be difficult to enforce.

Ms. Wesley indicated that the standard for Transparency has been modified to require compliance with the Freedom of Information Act and the Open Meetings Act and to provide proof of completion of Open Meetings Act training annually to the County Board

Office. Discussion ensued regarding failure to comply with these requirements. The Committee requested notification when appointees violate these regulations. The State's Attorney's Office will provide updates to complaints it receives, but not all complaints come through the State's Attorney's Office.

Ms. Wesley reviewed proposed amendments to the Fiscal Responsibility, Communication and Reporting standard. She noted that enforcement of fiscal responsibility will be difficult as it is subjective. Substantial discussion ensued regarding the need to identify the types of egregious behavior that would trigger this standard so that it becomes clearer what the committee will or will not review. The committee reviewed Reporting Requirements. Discussion ensued regarding amending the reporting amounts. County Board Member Maine suggested that appointed members of districts/commissions who maintain a web site post these documents for the public's access. The County can post the documents for Districts/commissions without a website on the County's website. Discussion continued.

The committee reviewed options on handling ethics complaints. The consensus was not to have staff handle ethics complaints for appointed and elected officials. There may be an ability to appoint an independent commission or utilize an adjudication officer to hear ethics complaints.

The ordinance amendments and procedures policy will be updated and be brought back to committee for approval at its June 26, 2019 meeting.

This item was discussed.

8. Executive Session

The Committee did not enter into Executive Session.

9. County Administrator's Report

There was no report from the County Administrator.

10. Members' Remarks

There were no remarks from members.

11. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:53 a.m.

A motion was made by Member Martini, seconded by Member Rummel, to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

Aye: 6 - Chair Vealitzek, Vice Chair Martini, Member Frank, Member Rummel, Member Wasik and Member Wilke

Absent: 1 - Member Carlson

Next Meeting: June 26, 2019

Meeting minutes prepared by Blanca Vela-Schneider.

Respectfully submitted,

Chairman

Vice Chairman

Ethics and Oversight Committee