

Lake County Illinois

Meeting Location:
18 N. County Street (10th FL)
Waukegan, IL 60085



Meeting Minutes - Final

Wednesday, March 31, 2021

11:00 AM

Meeting held by video conference. Register to virtually attend the meeting at <https://bit.ly/3f64Rhp>

Watch the meeting at <http://lakecounty.tv/>, Comcast Ch 18 or 30, AT&T Uverse Ch 99, & 18 N County St, Waukegan (10th FL)

Ethics and Oversight Committee

Pursuant to Section 7(e) of the Illinois Open Meetings Act, the Gubernatorial Disaster Proclamation, and the Written Determination of the Lake County Board Chair, this meeting will be held by audio and video conference.

PUBLIC ATTENDANCE: The public wishing to attend remotely / virtually may: (1) register at the link on the front page of this agenda to attend by audio or video conference or (2) attend remotely on the 10th Floor of the Administrative Tower, 18 N. County Street, Waukegan, Illinois (limited to the number of persons in keeping with social distancing requirements, currently 10 people).

PUBLIC VIEWING: This meeting will be live-streamed at <http://lakecounty.tv/> and on Comcast Channel 18 or 30 and AT&T Channel 99.

PUBLIC COMMENT: The public will be afforded time to comment on matters related to the business of the County Board. Individuals attending remotely / virtually may present their Public Comment during the meeting. Individuals not in attendance may provide written Public Comment that must be received by 3:00 p.m. the day prior to the meeting (emailed to PublicComment@Lakecountyil.gov or delivered to the County Board Office 18 N. County Street, Waukegan, Illinois (10th floor)). Public Comment on items not on the agenda will be presented at the beginning of the meeting under "Public Comment." Comments on agenda items may be presented during consideration of that item. A total of 30 minutes will be permitted for Public Comment and no more than three minutes per Comment. Public Comment will proceed in the following order: (1) Public Comment by individuals in attendance (on the 10th Floor and then those via the registration link) then (2) written comments in the order they are received. To view County Board Rules, click here: <https://bit.ly/3idRdrV>.

Individuals providing Public Comment will provide the following information:

- * Meeting: Ethics and Oversight Committee
(Must be the Subject line for written Public Comment)
- * Name (Required)
- * Topic or Agenda Item # (Required)
- * Street Address, City, State (Optional)
- * Phone Number (Optional)
- * Organization/Agency/etc. Represented (If representing yourself, put "Self")

0. [21-0069](#)

Chair's determination of need to meet by audio or video conference.

Attachments: [Determination - Chair Hart 12.30.20](#)

1. Call to Order

Chair Vealitzek called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Member Roberts led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Roll Call of Members

Chair Vealitzek reported that Member Kyle notified her that he will not be in attendance.

Present 5 - Member Danforth, Member Frank, Vice Chair Pedersen, Member Roberts and Chair Vealitzek

Absent 1 - Member Kyle

Others present:

Carissa Casbon, County Board

Karen Fox, State's Attorney's Office

Gary Gibson, County Administrator's Office

Sandy Hart, County Board Office

Jim Hawkins, County Administrator's Office

Matt Meyers, County Administrator's Office

Cassandra Torstenson, County Administrator's Office

Blanca Vela-Schneider, County Administrator's Office

4. Addenda to the Agenda

There were no additions or amendments to the agenda.

5. Public Comment (Items not on the agenda)

There were no comments from the public.

6. Chair's Remarks

There were no remarks from Chair Vealitzek.

7. Unfinished Business

There was no unfinished business.

8. New Business

CONSENT AGENDA (Item 8.1)**Approval of Minutes****8.1 [21-0512](#)**

Minutes from February 24, 2021.

Attachments: [E&O 2.24.21 Minutes - Final.pdf](#)

A motion was made by Member Roberts, seconded by Member Frank, that the minutes for February 24, 2021 be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 5 - Member Danforth, Member Frank, Vice Chair Pedersen, Member Roberts and Chair Vealitzek

Absent: 1 - Member Kyle

REGULAR AGENDA**8.2 [21-0513](#)**

Ordinance amending the Lake County Ethics and Conduct Code for the purpose of establishing an independent Ethics Commission.

Attachments: [Ethics Operational Procedures DRAFT 032621.pdf](#)
[Ethics Operational Procedures Outline DRAFT 032621.pdf](#)
[Ethics Conduct Redraft Amended 033121 Clean.pdf](#)
[Ethics Conduct Redraft Amended 033121 Red Line.pdf](#)

A motion was made by Member Frank, seconded by Member Roberts, to recommend approval of this ordinance to the County Board agenda as presented.

Matt Meyers, Assistant County Administrator, provided a brief overview regarding the Committee's desire to amend the Ethics ordinance and specifically, to establish an independent ethics commission. He discussed draft edits to the ordinance, noting that the ordinance is referred to as Ethics Code throughout the document. He noted that the lobbying prohibition has been removed due to the inability to enforce.

Assistant Administrator Meyers reported that the Ethics and Oversight Committee will appoint the members of the Ethics Commission. He reviewed the independent Ethics Commission's proposed service terms, the commission's powers and duties, the removal of repetitive language, and other minor edits. Assistant Administrator Meyers and Attorney Fox discussed the provisions regarding harassment and discriminatory harassment and their placement in the ordinance. Discussion ensued regarding alternative language.

A motion was made by Member Pedersen, seconded by Member Roberts, to amend the draft ordinance (Ethics Code) to include incorporation of discriminatory harassment

language into the harassment language as discussed at the committee, and to amend section H.2.a. xiii to change the word "that" to "whether". The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 5 - Member Danforth, Member Frank, Member Pedersen, Member Roberts, Chair Vealitzek

Absent: 1 - Member Kyle

(Member Frank left the meeting at 11:36 p.m.)

A motion was made by Member Frank, seconded by Member Roberts, that this item be recommended for adoption to the County Board agenda, as amended. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 4 - Member Danforth, Vice Chair Pedersen, Member Roberts and Chair Vealitzek

Absent: 1 - Member Kyle

Not Present: 1 - Member Frank

Assistant Administrator Matt Meyers reviewed the draft operating procedures for the Ethics Commission. Attorney Karen Fox, State's Attorney's Office, discussed the process the Ethics Commission would follow in the event a complaint includes criminal activity.

Assistant Administrator Meyers requested that the Committee review the draft operating procedures and provide any comments or concerns to him.

9. County Administrator's Report

There was no County Administrator's report.

10. Executive Session

The Committee did not enter into Executive Session.

11. Members' Remarks

Chair Vealitzek thanked Assistant Administrator Meyers and Attorney Fox for their work on the Ethics Code.

12. Adjournment

Chair Vealitzek adjourned the meeting at 11:44 a.m.

Next Meeting: April 28, 2021

Minutes prepared by Blanca Vela-Schneider.

Respectfully submitted,

Ethics and Oversight Committee, Chair