

**PUTNAM COUNTY BOARD OF ETHICS
OFFICIAL MINUTES**

Meeting of March 21, 2014

Members Present: Bob Bickford, Al Lotrecchiano, Paul Eldridge and Kathleen Delamere
Staff: Jan Miller

The meeting began at 10:45am in the large conference room of the County Personnel Department. The delay was caused by 2 members attending medical appointments. Roll call was taken. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Meeting

The Board reviewed the minutes of the February 21, 2014 meeting and approved them as presented.

Under Old Business the Chair reported that there has not yet been a response from the Law Department to the draft rule of procedure relating to violations of §55-7D, failure to file true and accurate annual financial disclosure forms, which had been submitted for their review and comment prior to adoption by the Board. As for appointments to the Board, it was noted that reappointment of Al Lotrecchiano to the Board until December 31, 2016, and Kathleen Delamere until December 31, 2014 have been approved by the Legislature. There has been no appointment made yet to fill the vacancy of Ms. Santamorena's seat. Upon discussion, the name of a possible candidate was raised and the Board asked Paul Eldridge to determine the candidate's interest in serving. The complaint submitted by Mr. Cullen in December, 2013 about a County employee had been reviewed by the Law Department and, based upon their opinion (a copy of which was sent to Mr. Cullen), the Chair had advised Mr. Cullen that the Board would take no action on the complaint. Mr. Cullen subsequently withdrew the complaint.

Under New Business, the Board discussed a F.O.I.L. request filed in January, 2014 by Mr. Lee Higgins of *The Journal News*, seeking financial disclosure information for the last 10 years from three elected officials and one staff member of the District Attorney's office. The request had been forwarded to the Law Department, and a response to Mr. Higgins, including appropriately redacted forms for each of the individuals, was prepared for release to him on March 21, 2014. During notification to the persons whose forms were requested, the issue of their spouse's information being made public was objected to, and it was pointed out that in Section 94.9(i) of the New York State Executive Law, state employees have the right to request an exemption of any information which pertains to their spouse or dependent children. Paul Eldridge proposed that the Board consider recommending a change to Putnam's Code, Chapter 55, to adopt a similar local law for Putnam County officials and employees. The Board agreed and the Chair will submit the proposal to the Legislature. The Chair reported that the Rules Committee had postponed consideration of the Board's civil penalty recommendation until its April meeting.

Staff reminded the Board that all members need to redo the Workplace Violence Prevention training. Also, the Board discussed contacting Pat Santamorena about taking her to lunch on April 25th after the meeting.

The Board moved to executive session at 10:50 to review 2014 financial disclosure forms. Twenty forms were reviewed; 18 were accepted and two will be returned for additions or corrections. At 11:30am the Board resumed the public session

The Board members agreed to meet next on April 25, 2014 and adjourned.
Respectfully submitted,
Paul Eldridge, Secretary