

**PUTNAM COUNTY BOARD OF ETHICS
OFFICIAL MINUTES**

Meeting of April 25, 2014

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

The meeting began at 10:10am in the small conference room of the County Personnel Department. Roll call was taken. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Meeting

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

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. The Chair stated that the Board should do a comprehensive review of the existing Rule and prepare updated revisions to the entire Rule.
- There has been no appointment made yet to fill the vacancy of Ms. Santamorena's seat. Upon discussion, the names of possible candidates were raised and the Board asked Paul Eldridge to determine the candidate's interest in serving.

New Business:

- The Chair reported on the Audit Committee's discussion regarding imposition of a civil penalty on those officers who repeatedly fail to submit their Financial Disclosure form. The Committee has taken the position that such persons should not be fined, but rather removed from their position on the board or agency on which they have served. The Board agreed to accept that position, and the Chair will submit language to the Law Department to prepare a related Resolution for the Legislature's action to remove these officers.
- Paul Eldridge proposed that the Board consider recommending a change to Putnam's Code, Chapter 55, to adopt a local law for Putnam County officials and employees similar to the language in Section 94.9(i) of the New York State Executive Law, which states that state employees have the right to request an exemption of any information which pertains to their spouse or dependent children. The Board agreed that such a provision is appropriate for County employees as well, and the Chair will draft such language for review by the Law Department.

Staff reminded the Board that all members need to redo the Workplace Violence Prevention training.

The Board moved to executive session at 10:25 to discuss a request for opinion on a potential conflict of interest, and to review 2014 financial disclosure forms. The Board deemed that there appears to be no conflict of interest involved, but will wait for an opinion from the Law Department before notifying the employee involved. Forty-four forms were reviewed; 40 were accepted and two will be returned for additions or corrections. At 11:10am the Board resumed the public session, set the next meeting for May 30, 2014, and adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Paul Eldridge, Secretary