

**TOWN OF WEST SENECA
1250 Union Road
West Seneca, NY 14224**

**ETHICS BOARD
July 17, 2019**

Chairperson Carpenter called the meeting to order at 6:03PM.

ROLL CALL: Members Present – Amy Carpenter, Chairperson
Rodney Montgomery, Vice Chairperson
Teresa Funk
Jacqueline Felser, Town Clerk
Tina Hawthorne, Town Attorney
Jon Minear, Deputy Town Attorney

Not Present – Karl Spencer (excused)
James Lazaros (excused)
William Bauer (excused)

OLD BUSINESS

ETHICS CODE – Review led by Town Attorney Tina Hawthorne

- At July 29th Town Board Meeting, Town Attorney Hawthorne will make request for a public hearing with a memo and the Proposed Local Law #4 attached to it
- Town Attorney Hawthorne will send it to Town Clerk Felser by July, 26th.
- The Ethics Board will present the Code of Ethics on August 12th, where the public can ask questions and Town Board can make a comment on the questions.
- The Ethics Board has until August 12th to prepare for presentation of the Ethics Code.
- The Local Law will be posted online before August 12th and any other materials necessary.
- Town Attorney Hawthorne spoke with Human Resources (HR) who mentioned that there should be a “roll out” to all town employees, regarding how the Code of Ethics works and what is expected of employees. Additionally, the employees should show acknowledgement that they have received a copy of the code.

OPEN DISCUSSION

West Seneca Town Resident Tom Reese was present and came to ask questions and comment before the Ethics Board went into Executive Session.

Mr. Reese submitted a timeline regarding an ethics matter before the Ethics Board and explained the impact of the conduct of a town employee on his life and livelihood.

Mr. Reese stated he brought the issue to the Town in April and it was now July.

Chairperson Carpenter noted the Ethics Board did not have the complaint in April.

Town Attorney Hawthorne explained that she received the complaint on May 7th.

Town Attorney Hawthorne explained what she had done in her investigation as well as the timing it took to collect statements from various witnesses. She advised Mr. Reese that statements have all been written and given to the Ethics Board. The Ethics Board will later go into executive session to discuss the matter and discuss how to proceed.

Town Attorney Hawthorne advised Mr. Reese that the Ethics Board would like to handle this situation as expeditiously and correctly as possible.

There was a discussion regarding the nature and circumstances of the disclosure of confidential information related to the ethics complaint. Mr. Reese continued to explain how his personal circumstance made this situation difficult.

Deputy Town Attorney Jon Minear interrupted to explain that this is not the time to put such a statement on the record.

Town Attorney Hawthorne advised the Ethics Board go into executive session so that they can firm up what the process and next steps will be.

Mr. Reese thanked the board for their time.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion by Chairperson Carpenter, seconded by Ms. Funk, to move into executive session to discuss ethics complaint.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Chairperson Carpenter, seconded by Mr. Montgomery to adjourn the meeting at 7:25p.m.

Smelia S. Greenan

Amelia S. Greenan
Secretary to the Ethics Board