

**MINUTES OF JOINT COMMISSION ON PUBLIC ETHICS
COMMISSION MEETING
PUBLIC SESSION**

**January 11, 2012
10:30 A.M.
540 Broadway
Albany, New York**

Present:

Chair: Hon. Janet DiFiore

Members: Ravi Batra
Patrick J. Bulgaro
Hon. Joseph Covello
Hon. Vincent A. DeIorio
Daniel J. Horwitz
David A. Renzi
George H. Weissman

**Skype
Attendees:** Seymour Knox, IV
Gary J. Lavine

(Commissioners Knox and Lavine participated in discussions *via* Skype and were counted as present for quorum, motion and voting purposes.)

**Telephone
Attendees:** Mitra Hormozi
Marvin E. Jacob

(Commissioners Hormozi and Jacob participated in discussions *via* telephone but were not counted as present for quorum, motion and voting purposes.)

Staff: Theresa A. Schillaci
Jeannine Clemente
Deborah Novak

I. OPENING STATEMENT

After the approval of the Public Session Minutes, the Chair discussed that the top priority of the Commission is the search for an Executive Director. Candidates will be interviewed next week with a report and recommendation presented to the full Commission for its review and deliberation by the January 31, 2012 meeting. The goal is to have the Executive Director on staff by the beginning of February. Other than one attorney, there are no other attorneys, investigators or training individuals currently on staff at the Commission. There are time sensitive issues and the Commission needs to get an Executive Director in place to staff the Commission.

The Chair discussed organizing committees to work on designated subject matter areas so that the committee members can do the ground work and make recommendations for the Commission's consideration, review and approval. An Administration Committee will deal with staff, budget and other administrative issues. A committee will also be formed to determine the Commission's *per diem* allowance practices and other appropriate reimbursement expenses. Other committees will be formed as the work unfolds. Any Commissioner interested in participating in a committee should e-mail the Chair by January 12, 2012.

Commissioner Bulgaro led a discussion on the temporary hiring of staff for the purpose of dealing with the backlog of matters before the Commission. Upon motion made by Commissioner Bulgaro, seconded by Commissioner Batra, the Commission authorized staff, with the approval of the Administration Committee, and if necessary in consultation with the Chair, to hire, on a temporary basis, up to three attorneys and two investigators for the purpose of reducing the backlog of time sensitive matters and other requests currently before the Commission. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

II. MINUTES - PUBLIC SESSION – DECEMBER 20, 2011

Upon motion made by Commissioner Batra, seconded by Commissioner DeIorio, the Minutes from the Public Session of the December 20, 2011 Commission Meeting were approved by unanimous vote.

Commissioner Lavine requested an amendment to the Public Session Minutes of the December 11, 2011 Commission Meeting reflecting the appearance by Commissioners Knox and Lavine *via* Skype counted as present for quorum, motion and voting purposes.

III. COMMISSION NON-DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Theresa A. Schillaci provided an update to the Board that all non-disclosure statements have been received with the exception of two that have been executed and are en-route.

IV. ETHICS AND LOBBYING TRAINING FOR COMMISSION MEMBERS

There will be Ethics and Lobbying Training for Commission Members on January 31, 2012.

V. NEW BUSINESS

No new business.

VI. MOTION TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION PURSUANT TO PUBLIC OFFICERS LAW §105(1)(d) AND (f)

A motion to enter into Executive Session pursuant to Public Officers Law §105(1)(d) and (f) was made by Commissioner Batra, seconded by Commissioner DeIorio and was approved by unanimous vote.

VII. MOTION TO ADJOURN THE PUBLIC MEETING

Upon motion made by Commission Bulgaro, seconded by Commissioner Weissman, the Public Meeting was adjourned by unanimous vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Theresa A. Schillaci

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