

BOARD OF ETHICS
Open Session Minutes
November 16, 2005 - 3:03 p.m.
740 North Sedgwick, Suite 500

Board Members Present

Darryl L. DePriest, Chair
Robert S. Grodnicki
Mary Beth S. Robinson
Miguel A. Ruiz

Michael F. Quirk (absent)

Staff Present

Dorothy J. Eng, Executive Director
Steven I. Berlin, Deputy Director
Michael Haggerty, Deputy Director
Richard J. Superfine, Legal Counsel
Briana Milton, Attorney-Investigator
Pully Casillas, Staff Assistant
Jef Johnson, Coordinator of Special Projects

I. Approval of Minutes

The Board VOTED 4-0 (Michael F. Quirk absent) to approve the open session minutes of the October 12, 2005 meeting, as amended.

II. Chair's Report

None.

III. Executive Director's Report

A. Education

Since the last Board meeting, staff has conducted 10 regularly scheduled classes for persons required to attend by law. A total of 214 have attended, plus 18 building inspectors who attended at the request of the Department of Buildings. There is an increase in the number of classes offered because the quadrennial ethics training mandatory deadline is approaching.

Staff is also currently scheduling classes for consultants at the O'Hare Modernization Project, at the request of the Director of OMP. The exact number of attendees and dates of classes is being worked out.

At the request of the City Council's Chief Administrative officer, staff will make a presentation to the 18 employee of the Committee of Finance, all of whom are required to attend ethics training. The class will be held in January on a date to be determined.

Board staff continues its work in the development of an all employee interactive online ethics training program.

B. Statements of Financial Interests

Of the 278 employees who since May 31st became obligated to file an annual Statement of Financial Interests and were sent notice from the Board in September of this year, there are 57 who have not yet filed their forms. Staff is contacting DEO's to assist us in getting them to file.

Board staff has completed its annual review of the Statements of Financial Interests filed with this agency. 209 employees reported compensation or income the filer received in calendar year 2004 from persons/entities other than the City; and or employment or business interests of the filer's spouse or domestic partner.

This information was forwarded to each employee's department head with the hope that it would prove helpful to the department in overseeing staff assignments, to avoid a potential conflict of interest or to correct any existing conflicts.

C. Lobbyist Registration

There are currently 643 (an increase of 19, since the last Board meeting) lobbyists registered with the City. Since the last meeting 1 lobbyist terminated his registration. To date, \$128,200 in lobbyist registration fees has been deposited; \$400 has been collected but not yet deposited.

Board staff continues to work with the Department of Business Information Services' computer development team in the design of an online Lobbyist Registration Program. At this time it appears unlikely that the program will be completed in time for use during the January 2006 registration period. If it is not completed, Board staff is prepared to utilize the hard copy system that has been used for previous filing periods.

D. Illinois Freedom of Information Act

There have been numerous requests of documents since last meeting. Those requests and the Board's responses are identified as follows:

1. One request for two different employees' Statements of Financial Interests, for years 2004 and 2005; all available records were produced and copied.
2. One request for one employee's Statements of Financial Interests, for years 2002 through 2004; all available records were produced and copied.
3. One request for one employee's Statements of Financial Interests, for years 1999 through 2000; all available records were produced and copied.

4. One request for one employee's Statements of Financial Interests for 2003 through 2004; these records were made available and copied.
5. One request for all Statements of Financial Interests for 2005 for 12 employees; records will be made available for copying, where available.

E. Annual Budget

At the request of the Chair, Darryl DePriest, the Executive Director reported on the City Council's Budget Committee proceedings.

IV. Old Business

None.

V. New Business

F. EMPLOYEE COMPENSATION LEVEL FOR REQUIREMENT TO FILE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL INTERESTS IN 2006

Pursuant to the established formula as stated in the Governmental Ethics Ordinance, staff presented the Board with the amount of \$69,500 as the 2006 compensation level that would require a City employee to file a Statement of Financial Interests with the Board. The Board VOTED 4-0 (Michael F. Quirk absent) to approve this amount.

G. SEMI-ANNUAL REVIEW OF THE CONFIDENTIALITY OF EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES UNDER THE ILLINOIS OPEN MINUTES ACT.

It was announced that during the executive session, Board members would conduct the semi-annual review of Board executive session minutes as required by the Illinois Open Meetings Act, and would reconvene in open session to confirm the Board's determination.

The Board VOTED 4-0 (Michael F. Quirk absent) to adjourn into Executive Session at 3:39 p.m. to review matters concerning the conduct of employees and officials of the City that could result in their discipline or dismissal, to review questions concerning matters of professional ethics and performance, to review matters in which litigation is ongoing, and/or to review matters in which the Board finds that litigation against or affecting the Board is probable or imminent.

V. **New Business** (continued)

H. **Semi-annual Review of the Confidentiality of Executive Session Minutes under the Illinois Open Minutes Act.**

At 5:04 p.m. the Board reconvened in open session to confirm its vote in Executive Session on the confidentiality of the Executive Session Minutes. The Board VOTED 4-0 (Michael F. Quirk absent) to confirm that the Executive Session Minutes of the Board from August 1987 to October 2005 remain confidential, on the ground that the need for confidentiality still exists as to those minutes, with the exception of those that have already been made publicly available by vote of the Board.

The Chair called for the next meeting of the Board of Ethics to be on December 14, 2005 at 3:00 p.m. The Board VOTED 4-0 (Michael F. Quirk absent) to adjourn at 5:05 p.m.