

BOARD OF ETHICS
Open Session Minutes
October 18, 2006 - 3:07 p.m.
740 North Sedgwick, Suite 500

Board Members Present

Darryl L. DePriest, Chair
Michael F. Quirk
Mary Beth S. Robinson
Miguel A. Ruiz
John L. Wihelm, M.D.

Staff Present

Steven I. Berlin, Acting Executive Director
Michael Haggerty, Deputy Director
Richard J. Superfine, Legal Counsel
Briana Billingslea, Attorney-Investigator
Edward Primer, Program Director
Jef Johnson, Coordinator of Special Projects
Pally Casillas, Staff Assistant

I. Approval of Minutes

The Board VOTED 4-0 to approve the Open Session minutes of the September 20, 2006 meeting, as amended.

Michael F. Quirk joined the proceedings at 3:13 p.m.

II. Chair's Report

None.

III. Acting Executive Director's Report

A. Personnel

Dorothy Eng, Executive Director of the Board of Ethics since spring 1991, and Deputy Director from June 1990 until then, resigned her position effective September 30, 2006. She announced this to staff on Friday, September 29, 2006. That day, Steve Berlin, Deputy Director since September 1, 1993, was named Acting Executive Director by the Mayor's Office. As provided in § 2-156-310(c), (effective January 1, 1998), the Executive Director shall be appointed by the Mayor subject to the approval of the City Council.

On October 1, Doretha Jackson, formerly a Staff Assistant, was promoted into the position of Assistant to the Director.

B. Education

Since the last Board meeting, there have been 2 regularly scheduled and one specially scheduled classes held for persons required to attend ethics training. On October 4, 18

attended; on October 18, 17 attended. There are currently 26 persons scheduled to attend class on November 1, and 24 on November 15.

Mandatory Annual Ethics Education

As of today, October 18, at 2:48, there are 15,574 employees trained, 11,124 police and fire trained, 31 aldermen trained and approximately 3000 additional uniformed Fire Department personnel who have completed annual ethics training via a video presentation, for a total of approximately 29,729 who have completed their required training for calendar year 2006. There are 23 Departments whose current employees have all completed training. (Status chart handed out).

C. Budget

Yesterday, October 17, staff appeared before the City Council Committee on Budget and Governmental Operations to answer questions about the agency's budget. Currently, the Board has 2 vacancies, one of which is the Permanent Executive Director/Deputy Director position, and the other of which is the Staff Assistant position

D. Statements of Financial Interests

Through today, there remain 74 employees and 2 appointed officials who, despite having been found in violation of the Ordinance by the Board in September, have failed to file their 2006 Statements of Financial Interests by May 31, as required by law. There will be more discussion of these matters in closed session. To date, the Board has collected \$23,360 in late filing fees.

E. Lobbyists

There are currently 525 lobbyists that have registered with the City. Since the last meeting 1 lobbyist terminated his/her registration. To date, \$114,400.00 in lobbyist registration fees have been deposited with the Department of Revenue.

Staff continues to work with BIS in completing an online registration program. However, this agency has been stalled in its work, and awaits BIS notice for staff to move into "Phase II" of the project.

F. Illinois Freedom of Information Act

Since the last meeting the following requests for review of documents were received:

1. This request was for EIGHTY-SIX forms. It was a request for 43 employees' Statements of Financial Interests for 2005-2006; some records were available. 65 of those were available and were produced and copied.
2. This request was for TWO FORMS. It was a request for two (putative) candidates' Statements of Financial Interests for 2006, as required to be filed under the Governmental Ethics Ordinance; no records were available.
3. This request was for TWO forms. It was a request for one employee's Statement of Financial Interests for 2005-2006; all records were available, and produced and copied.

IV. Old Business

None.

V. New Business

None.

The Board VOTED 5-0 to adjourn into Executive Session at 3:29 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.