

Chairperson Teager called the meeting to order at 6:07 P.M.

ROLL CALL:

Members Present - Michael Teager, Chairperson
Teresa Funk, Vice-Chairperson
Anna Garvey

Absent - Lawrence Kavanaugh, Jr.
Kayla Leonard
Paula Eade Newcomb, Deputy Town Attorney

MINUTES TO BE APPROVED

Motion by Chairperson Teager, seconded by Ms. Garvey, to approve Minutes of the March 13, 2024, board meeting.

Ayes: All

Noes: None

Motion Carried

COMMUNICATIONS

Chairperson Teager stated he would like to schedule a work session for the board members to further discuss the proposed revisions to the Ethics Code and suggested using the May 8th meeting.

For the benefit of the students in attendance, Chairperson Teager explained the Ethics Board is an advisory board to the Town Board and the members have been reviewing and proposing updates to the Ethics Code. Those updates include the annual disclosure forms, board composition, and the complaint process.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

James Randolph, West Bihrwood Road, made the following comments with regards to the proposed Ethics Code revisions:

- Agrees with Chairperson Teager's comments that the public should not be included
- NYS Office of the State Comptroller established a Code of Ethics regarding conflicts of interest for Municipal Officers and Employees
- The purpose was to protect the public from Officers and Employees who might use their powers or authority for private gain, breaching confidentiality, and maintaining a standard decorum for governing

To provide context for the students, Chairperson Teager explained one of the Town Attorney's proposed revisions was to make the Ethics Code binding against members of the public. Currently the Ethics Code applies to employees of the Town of West Seneca, department heads, and elected and appointed officials. Chairperson Teager stated he is not clear on what the limits would be, for example, the proposal seems to include the members of the public speaking at public meetings and has issues with this. The purpose of the Ethics Code is to prevent conflicts of interest and self-dealing in the town, not to prevent members of the public from speaking to or engaging with the Town itself. Chairperson Teager requested examples of where this provision currently exists in other municipalities and reiterated this provision was not requested by the Ethics Board.

**WEST SENECA COMMUNITY CENTER
1300 Union Road
West Seneca, NY 14224**

**ETHICS BOARD PROCEEDINGS
Meeting Minutes
April 10, 2024**

Margaret A. Martin

Margaret A. Martin
Deputy Town Clerk/Secretary to the Ethics Board