



BOARD OF ETHICS

BOARD OF ETHICS MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, May 12, 2026

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT VIRTUALLY

Jeffrey Cohen

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT IN-PERSON

Stuart Cotton

Doug French

Jerold Ruderman

Brett Summers

Louis Vetrone

WESTCHESTER COUNTY LAW DEPARTMENT

Asst. Chief Deputy County Attorney, Jennifer Bumgarner

Asst. Chief Deputy County Attorney, Justin Adin

SPECIAL COUNSEL

C. Luke Brussel

PUBLIC MEETING

A quorum was established and the meeting was called to order at 9:37 a.m.

A motion was made by Brett Summers to adopt today's Agenda and seconded by Jerold Ruderman and it carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Brett Summers to adopt the Minutes of March 16, 2026. The motion was seconded by Jerold Ruderman and it carried unanimously.

CHAIR'S REPORT

Mr. Summers was referred by Doug French to the District 7 County Legislator who is contemplating a podcast for his constituents informing them of what is going on in his district. Mr. Summers spoke to the legislator and provided general ethics guidance, including that pertaining to confidential information and the use of county resources for campaign purposes.

Mr. Summers met on April 15, 2026, with Special Counsel and the Law Department to discuss Special Counsel's invoices and the drafts of the outstanding advisory opinions.

OLD BUSINESS

ADVISORY OPINIONS

The Board has three advisory opinions to issue, however, this involves possible disciplinary actions so they will be discussed in an Executive Session.

STATUS OF 2025 FINANCIAL DISCLOSURES

Michael Ciarmella was not in attendance to give the 2025 Financial Disclosure update, but sent the following updates before the meeting:

- The deadline for submission of the forms is Friday, May 15, 2026;

- Several reminders were sent since the original email notice on March 16, 2026;
- Total submission rate is approximately 70%;
- Board contacts have been notified that the forms are due on May 15th;
- To date, there are 49 outstanding board member forms;
- All new board members will be using online forms only;
- Any technical issues should be sent to the Help desk;
- The next notice will be sent to any delinquent filers on June 15th.

STATUS OF ETHICS TRAINING

Special Counsel provided a draft slide deck for the ethics training, but to date, has not received any comments on same. His goal was to have the training be more engaging.

The training for most of the County workforce should be more focused on practical matters and less legal so that it is easier to understand. Whereas, the training for the department heads, commissioners, etc. will be more focused on the County law.

The Human Resources Department and the Communications Department could possibly help with the production of the ethics training video.

WEBSITE LANDING PAGE

The page has been updated since the last meeting, but still requires a few corrections and clarification of the terms of the Board members.

NEXT MEETING DATE

The next meeting will be on Tuesday, July 7, 2026, at 9:30 a.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 10:13 a.m., a motion was made by Brett Summers to go into Executive Session to discuss matters which may lead to disciplinary action against a person or persons. The motion was seconded by Jeffrey Cohen and the motion carried.

At 10:55 a.m. a motion was made by Brett Summers to return to the public session and seconded by Stuart Cotton and the motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

At 10:56 a.m., a motion was made by Brett Summers to adjourn the public meeting and seconded by Lou Vetrone. The motion carried.

Submitted by:
Ellen A. Trotta
Legal Secretary II
(Staff Assistant to the Board of Ethics)