

Minutes Nassau County Board of Ethics
- Public Session

Meeting date and place: October 24th, 2017 at 9:30 A.M.
One West Street, Mineola, New York 11501

Board Members Present: Carnell T. Foskey, County Attorney
John E. Ryan, Member
Owen Smith, Chair

Board Counsel: Steven G. Leventhal

Also in attendance: Daniel Gregware, Assistant County Attorney
Sean Berman, Accountant I, taking minutes

Chair Owen Smith called the meeting to order at 9:31 a.m.

The lone topic listed on the Public Agenda concerned the drafting of an updated plain language guide portion of the *Code of Ethics Booklet*. This booklet is distributed to all new incoming County employees and officials, and is used as a general resource by all County departments. Since the latest version of this booklet was issued in 2009, the Board sought to review and update it.

Counsel Leventhal brought up the section pertaining to Gifts in the plain language portion. He suggested revising the sentence “You may not accept any gifts or favors...” to “You may not accept any reward, payment or gift for your duties as county officer or employee” as one minor example. He cited the Penal Law related to unlawful gratuities as a source.

Counsel Leventhal also mentioned an idea previously suggested to the Board by Commissioner of Investigations Donna Myrill. This involved distribution of ethics related flyers to various departments, as a measure of general ethics awareness and outreach to county employees.

At 9:42 a.m., County Attorney Foskey motioned to adjourn the Public Session into Executive Session, seconded by Member Ryan. Motion carries unanimously.

At 10:06 a.m., Chair Smith motioned to adjourn Executive Session as well as the meeting, seconded by County Attorney Foskey. Motion carries unanimously.