

**OKLAHOMA ETHICS COMMISSION
MINUTES FOR REGULAR MEETING
JANUARY 12, 2024**

1. Call to Order.

Upon notice, with the agenda being properly posted at the Commission's office at least twenty-four (24) hours prior to the commencement of the meeting and notice being filed in advance with the Office of the Secretary of State in accordance with the Open Meeting Act, 25 O.S. 2021, §§ 301-314, a regular meeting of the Ethics Commission of the State of Oklahoma ["Commission"] was called to order Friday, January 12, 2024 at 10:00 a.m. Chair Jarred Brejcha ["Brejcha"] opened the meeting, which was held in Room G-3 of the State Capitol Building, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

Determination of Quorum.

Roll was called to determine the existence of a quorum for the transaction of business. Commissioners answering present were Justin Meek ["Meek"], Eddie Fields ["Fields"], Howard Johnson ["Johnson"], Gregg Engle ["Engle"], and Brejcha. A quorum of members was declared.

Staff & Visitors.

Commission staff members present at all or part of the meeting were Lee Anne Bruce Boone ["Bruce Boone"], Stephanie McCord ["McCord"], and Katie Stagner.

Observing all or part of the meeting: Charles Outlaw, LegisOK; Michael McNutt, NonDoc Media; Clifton Adcock, The Frontier, Nolan Clay, The Oklahoman; and Geoffrey Long, citizen.

2. Open Meeting Act Compliance.

Chair Brejcha reviewed the *Affidavit of Posting* and affirmed compliance with the Oklahoma Open Meeting Act.

3. Introductions and Announcements.

Chair Brejcha welcomed the incoming Executive Director, Lee Anne Bruce Boone, and the new Deputy Director and General Counsel, Stephanie McCord.

4. Disqualification and Recusal for Executive Session.

None.

5. Minutes

Motion: Commissioner Fields moved to approve the minutes for the regular meeting and executive session held January 12, 2024.

Second: Commissioner Johnson

Roll call vote: Fields – yes, Johnson – yes, Meek - yes, Engle - abstained, Brejcha - yes

Motion carried.

6. Recess for Commission Photo.

The Commission recessed at 10:10 a.m. to take a group photo scheduled for 10:20 a.m. in the Rotunda on the 4th floor of the State Capitol. Immediately after the photo, the Commission returned to open session at 10:24 a.m., where all members were present, and a quorum was maintained.

7. Executive Director’s Report.

a. FY '25 Budget Request Update

Director Bruce Boone presented a brief update on the Commission’s Fiscal Year ‘25 Budget Request. Director Bruce Boone presented the budget request to the Senate Appropriations subcommittee on General Government and the House subcommittee on General Government. Chair Brejcha, Commissioner Fields, Deputy Director and General Counsel Stephanie McCord, and Senior Compliance Officer Darci McKee assisted with the presentations. Director Bruce Boone stated that the presentations were well received. From her perspective, the subcommittees were particularly interested in discussing IT solutions for the Commission’s online reporting system, The Guardian System, and additional educational opportunities. Director Bruce Boone will be sharing additional details with both subcommittees regarding the statement of work so that they will be able to better understand the Commission’s needs for The Guardian System.

b. Compliance update:

PAC registration and renewal: December 31st marked the deadline for Political Action Committees (PACs) to terminate their account before the PAC registration and renewal period in January. PACs that do not terminate their registration by December 31st are required to renew their registration by January 31st.

State Political Party Committee registration and renewal: State Political Party Committees are required to pay their registration fee in July of this year but are not required to renew their registration until next year. State Political Party Committees need to ensure their contact information is current at all times in The Guardian System.

Lobbyist and Liaison registration and renewal: Lobbyists and liaisons are required to register or renew their registration in the Guardian no later than January 15th.

Lobbyist and Liaison reporting deadlines: Executive lobbyists are required to file a Lobbyist Expenditure Report disclosing their activities in the 4th Quarter by January 31st. Active legislative lobbyists and liaisons registered in the Guardian in 2023 are required to file a Lobbyist Expenditure Report disclosing their activity from July through December 2023 no later than January 15th.

As a reminder, January 15th is a state holiday. The Guardian System is available 24/7. All reports are due on the specified deadline date by 11:59 p.m. Late filing fees will apply to late filers.

All political committees and special election candidate committee reporting deadlines: All political committees are required to file a Contributions and Expenditures Report disclosing their activity during the 4th Quarter by January 31, 2024. The exception are those state candidates for the special election for House District 39. Those candidates have a pre-general report due by February 5, 2024.

8. Determination to Enter Executive Session. The Commission took action to enter closed, executive session, as authorized by the Oklahoma Open Meeting Act in Title 25 of the Oklahoma Statutes, § 307 (B)(4) and (B)(7) and required by Ethics Rules 6.5 and 6.9, to discuss matters identified in agenda item 9.

- a. **Statement by Attorney:** The information to be discussed in agenda item 9 requires confidential communications between the Ethics Commission and its attorney(s) concerning pending investigations, claims, or actions, the disclosure of which would seriously impair the ability of the Ethics Commission to process the claim or conduct a pending investigation, litigation, or proceeding in the public interest or violate confidentially requirements of state law. Determination, pursuant to Counsel's advice as set forth above, to enter closed, executive session at the Ethic's Commission's office in Room G-27 of the Oklahoma State Capitol.

Motion: Commissioner Fields moved, pursuant to counsel's advice as set forth in subsection 8(a), that the Commission go into closed, executive session in the Ethics Commission's office in room G-27 of the State Capitol Building to discuss the matters listed for agenda item 9.

Second: Commissioner Engle.

Roll call vote: Fields – yes, Engle – yes, Meek - yes, Johnson – yes, Brejcha - yes.

Motion carried. The Commission entered into closed, Executive session at 10:30 a.m.

9. Executive Session.

10. Action to Return to Open Session.

Motion: Commissioner Engle moved to reconvene open session at 11:50 a.m.

Second: Commissioner Fields.

Roll call vote: Engle – yes, Fields – yes, Meek – yes, Johnson - yes, Brejcha- yes.

Motion carried.

11. Announcements, considerations, discussion, and possible action on the disqualification or recusal of a Commissioner or Commissioners pursuant to Ethics Rule 1.6 for any item listed in this agenda for Executive Session, and possible action on the following items

considered in Executive Session.

McCord announced that Commissioner Meek recused himself and exited executive session during the discussion of Case No. 2019-06.

12. Consideration, discussion, and possible action on the following items considered in executive session.

- a. **Motion:** Commissioner Engle moved to dismiss Complaint C-23-29.

Second: Commissioner Johnson.

Roll call vote: Engle – yes, Johnson – yes, Meek – yes, Fields – yes, Brejcha – yes

Motion carried.

- b. **Motion:** Commissioner Engle moved to dismiss Complaint C-23-30.

Second: Commissioner Johnson.

Roll call vote: Engle – yes, Johnson – yes, Meek – yes, Fields – yes, Brejcha – yes

Motion carried.

- c. **Motion:** Commissioner Engle moved to dismiss Case No. 2021-29.

Second: Commissioner Fields.

Roll call vote: Engle – yes, Fields – yes, Meek – yes, Johnson – yes, Brejcha – yes

Motion carried.

13. New Business.

None.

14. Adjournment.

Motion: Commissioner Johnson moved to adjourn the meeting.

Second: Commissioner Fields.

Roll call vote: Johnson – yes, Fields – yes, Meek – yes, Engle – yes, Brejcha - yes.

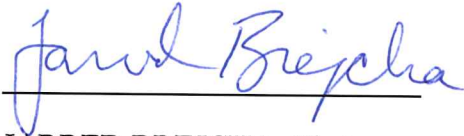
Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 11:54 a.m.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lee Anne Bruce Boone', written over a horizontal line.

LEE ANNE BRUCE BOONE, Executive Director

Approved on behalf of the Commission:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Jarred Brejcha', written over a horizontal line.

JARRED BREJCHA, Chair