

**OKLAHOMA ETHICS COMMISSION
JUNE 14, 2024, MINUTES FOR REGULAR MEETING**

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, a regular meeting of the Ethics Commission of the State of Oklahoma ["Commission"] was called to order on Friday, June 14, 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 Executive Director Lee Anne Bruce Boone ["Bruce Boone"], Margaret Kerr ["Kerr"], and Tiffany Elczyn ["Elczyn"].

Observing all or part of the meeting: Charles Outlaw, LegisOK; Michael McNutt, Noc Doc; Jake Ramsey, Oklahoma Watch; Emma Murphy, Oklahoma Voice; Melissa Jacques, Tulsa World.

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.

None.

4. Announcements, consideration, discussion and possible action on the disqualification or recusal of a Commissioner or Commissioners pursuant to Ethics Rule 1.6 for any matter listed on the Commission agenda.

Commissioner Meek has recused himself from Case 2020-03. No additional recusals.

5. Consideration, discussion, and possible action on minutes for the regular meeting and executive session held May 10, 2024 and the special meeting and executive session held May 29, 2024.

Motion: Commissioner Fields moved to approve the minutes for the regular meeting and executive session held May 10, 2024.

Second: Commissioner Johnson

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

Motion carried.

Motion: Commissioner Johnson moved to approve the minutes for the special meeting and executive session held May 29, 2024.

Second: Commissioner Fields

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

Motion carried.

6. Executive Director’s Report. Director Bruce Boone.

a. Budget Update

- i. Director Bruce Boone said the Ethics Commission did receive a 250% increase from last year’s appropriation which seems unusually large but it does include our Guardian system upgrade which is a onetime funding. We did receive approval to restore agency funding back to 2016 levels. That includes funding for our Deputy Director, Director of Compliance, and an additional compliance position. The majority of funds are earmarked for positions and software replacement.
- ii. Comment by Chair Brejcha to recognize and provide thanks to the Governor and legislators for giving us this increase in budget that we have been seek for a long time now. Looking forward to seeing what the Commission can do with those additional resources.
- iii. Comment by Director Bruce Boone that she is very grateful and feels like a lot of trust has been given to the Commission and she wants to make sure that we uphold our end and continue to work with them well and be more proactive in our approach.

b. The Guardian System Update

- i. Director Bruce Boone said that OMES anticipates a release of our RFP this coming week or June 25th. Then we will have a five-week response period for vendors. She has requested the vendors set up demo times and commissioners are welcome to come to those demonstrations. They do estimate a 9–12-month timeframe to build out the system.

c. LOFT Review

- i. Director Bruce Boone said that we answered the first of LOFT’s requests for historical and analytical data. It required a search of our budgets, our investigations, our compliance, and trainings from the last 10 years.

d. Compliance Update

- i. Director Bruce Boone said we are in the last days of primary elections so we are getting lots of questions. The pre-primary reports are being reviewed and processed.

e. Task Force Workgroup Update

- i. Consideration, discussion, and possible action on Task Force Workgroup establishment.
 - ii. Director Bruce Boone said that the commissioners working groups are set up. There will be three public meetings held in Tulsa, Oklahoma City and Lawton. The Director will facilitate the meetings.

Motion: Commissioner Engle moved to approve the formalization of task force work groups as described by the director and request updates and/or recommendations at commission meetings following each workgroup meeting.

Second: Commissioner Meek

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

Motion carried.

7. **Determination to enter Executive Session.**

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. This proposed executive session meets the requirements for executive session pursuant to the Oklahoma Open Meeting Act in Title 25 of the Oklahoma Statutes, § 307 (B)(1), (4), and (7), and required by Ethics Rules 6.5 and 6.9. The statement is on the agenda and does not need to be read.

- a. 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 9(a), the Commission go into 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 7.

Second: Commissioner Johnson

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

Motion carried to go into Executive/Closed session at 10:22 a.m.

b. Executive Session.

Cases and Investigations

- i. Employment, hiring, or appointment of a candidate for the position of Deputy Director.
- ii. Complaint No. C-24-6 alleging violations of Ethics Rule 4, Conflict of Interest.
- iii. Complaint No. C-24-7 alleging violations of Ethics Rule 4, Conflict of Interest.
- iv. Complaint No. C-24-12 alleging violations of Ethics Rule 4, Conflict of Interest.
- v. Complaint No. C-24-17 alleging violations of Ethics Rule 2, Campaign Finance.
- vi. Case No. 2020-03, alleging violations of Campaign Finance Ethics Rule 2.

c. Action to Exit Executive Session.

Motion: Commissioner Fields moved to reconvene open session at 11:48 a.m.

Second: Commissioner Johnson

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

Motion carried.

- d.** Possible action on the numbered matters (i-vi) discussed in Executive Session. Prior to taking action, the Commissioners may consider, discuss, and take 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. Chair Brejcha

- i. Commissioner Meek has recused himself from Case #2020-03. Seeing no additional recusals. Margaret Kerr, General Counsel to Commission

- ii. **Motion:** Commissioner Engle moved to dismiss Complaint C-24-6

Second: Commissioner Fields

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

Motion carried.

- iii. **Motion:** Commissioner Engle moved to dismiss Complaint C-24-7.

Second: Commissioner Fields

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

Motion carried.

- iv. **Motion:** Commissioner Engle moved to dismiss Complaint C-24-12.

Second: Commissioner Fields

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

Motion carried.

- v. **Motion:** Commissioner Engle moved pursuant to Rule 6.10 to accept the
Settlement Agreement for Case #2020-03.

Second: Commissioner Fields

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

Motion carried.

- vi. **Motion:** Commissioner Engle moved to allow the Executive Director to offer
the position of Deputy Director to the candidate discussed in Executive
Session.

Second: Commissioner Fields

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

Motion carried.

**8. Consideration, discussion, and possible action on registration and administration fees for
The Guardian System for FY 2025 for the following entities. Chair Brejcha**

a. Annual fee for lobbyists, legislative liaisons, and lobbyist principals

b. Annual fee for Political Party Committees

c. Annual fee for Political Action Committees

d. Per campaign fee for Candidate Committees

- i. **Motion:** Commissioner Johnson moved to adopt no change in the
administration and registration fees for FY 2025 and continue with the FY
2024 registration and administration fees.

Second: Commissioner Meek

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

Motion carried.

9. **Chair Election. Nomination, consideration, and possible action on election of Commission Chair beginning the adjournment of this meeting.**

Motion: Commissioner Meek moved to elect Commissioner Fields for the position of Chair of the Commission whose term will begin at the conclusion of this meeting and continue through the October 2024 Ethics Commission meeting.

Second: Commissioner Johnson

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

Motion carried.

10. **Vice Chair Election. Nomination, consideration, and possible action on election of Commission Vice-Chair beginning the adjournment of this meeting.**

Motion: Commissioner Fields moved to elect Commissioner Meek for the position of Vice Chair of the Commission whose term will begin at the conclusion of this meeting and continue through the October 2024 Ethics Commission meeting.

Second: Commissioner Engle

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

Motion carried.

11. **Resolution honoring service of outgoing Chair Brejcha and Vice-Chair Engle. Commissioner Fields**

- i. Comments by Commissioner Meek, Commissioner Johnson, Commissioner Engle, Chair Brejcha, and Executive Director Bruce Boone

12. **New Business.**

None.

13. **Adjournment. Chair Brejcha.**

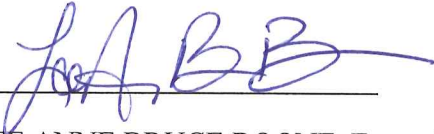
Motion: Commissioner Johnson moved to adjourn the meeting.

Second: Commissioner Engle

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

Motion carried.

Meeting ended at 12:07 p.m.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'L.A. BB', 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 'Eddie Fields', written over a horizontal line.

EDDIE FIELDS, Chair