

**CLOSTER BOARD OF ETHICS**  
**295 Closter Dock Road**  
**Closter, NJ 07624**

**Minutes**

**Meeting of January 17, 2008**

The Meeting was called to order at 8:00 pm by Chairman Michael L. Prigoff. In attendance were Board Members: Michael L. Prigoff, Steven Harz, Mike Lewis, Arthur B. Dolson, John McTigue (8:05 PM), Joseph Yammarino (8:10 PM).

Following the Pledge of Allegiance and notification that the meeting was being held in compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act, with notice published in the Press Journal on January 10, 2008, the Board approved the minutes of meeting held July 19, 2007, and continued the matter of the minutes of the meeting held May 17, 2007.

**Discussion of request by resident for copy of legal opinion**

Judy Parker had previously filed a complaint regarding a member of the Closter Board of Education, and the Board had responded that it did not have jurisdiction over members of the Board of Education, in part due to a legal opinion received from the Borough Attorney. Ms. Parker by letter requested a copy of the legal opinion and requested that the Board reconsider its decision not to pursue the matter.

After discussion, on motion made and duly seconded, the Board voted to (a) deny the request for reconsideration and (b) to authorize the Chairman to send Ms. Parker a copy of the legal opinion.

**Review of the proposed “Pay to Play” ordinance.**

The Board entered into discussion of the Borough of Closter’s proposed “Pay to Play” ordinance. At this time, the Board went into executive session to discuss the Board’s authority to provide an advisory opinion to the Closter Governing Body. During the executive session, the Board determined that it did have jurisdiction in this matter due to the nature of the ordinance being considered. The executive session ended.

The Board then discussed the proposed ordinance and changes suggested by several members. After discussion, on motion duly made and seconded, the Board authorized the Chairman to communicate the Board’s suggestions to the Mayor and Council in advance of their

consideration of the proposed ordinance. A unanimous vote of thanks was expressed to Chairman Prigoff for his diligent work on this issue.

### **Ethics Complaint**

The Board entered into a discussion of a Complaint received from Sgt. Alphonso Young, Jr., and Ptl. Aldo Guerino of the Closter Police Department, dated December 19, 2007. Additional documentation was forwarded to the Board by letter and attachments addressing the basis for the Complaint, dated January 8, 2008. These two officers were now in attendance and addressed the Board.

Specifically, the complaint concerned an email which was sent by a Closter resident to a member or members of the Closter Council. This email was then forwarded to Councilwoman Victoria Amitai who responded to the author of the original email and also distributed the original email together with her response to other members of the Council, the Police Chief, the Borough Clerk, and to other persons who are not members of the Council.

The Board discussed this matter and, on motion duly made and seconded, resolved to (a) conduct an investigation; (b) subpoena records from Ms. Amitai and from the Borough to assist in the investigation; and (c) schedule a hearing for its March meeting. Chairman Prigoff was authorized to issue the subpoenas and notify Ms. Amitai of the investigation and hearing.

### **Election of Officers**

The Board unanimously reelected Michael L. Prigoff to serve as Chairman and elected Arthur B. Dolson to serve as Secretary.

### **Local Financial Disclosure Statements**

A brief discussion was held in preparation for the annual review of the Local Financial Disclosure Statements.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 PM.