

## Minutes - unapproved Ethics Board

## Thursday, August 24, 2023 – 5:30 PM Health and Human Services Center – Room 1001 303 W. Chapel Street Dodgeville, Wisconsin

Iowa County Wisconsin

For information regarding access for the disabled please call 935-0399. Any subject on this agenda may become an action item unless otherwise noted. 1 Call to order. Chair Ladewig called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm. 2 Roll Call: Approval of Agenda: Grover moved, Reilly seconded to approve the meeting agenda for August 24, 3 2023. Motion carried. Approval of Minutes: Grover moved, Reilly seconded to approve the minutes of June 23, 2023 and October 2, 2019. Motion carried. Election of a Secretary: Chair Ladewig opened the floor for nominations for Secretary. Grover nominated Reilly and Zemlicka seconded the nomination. Grover moved, Zemlicka seconded to close nominations and cast a unanimous ballot for Reilly as Ethics Board Secretary. Motion carried. Reports: Supervisor Rolfsmeyer explained that he serves on the Iowa County Health and Human Services Committee and that this committee had been charged with managing two new grant programs and deciding who the recipients of those grant dollars are. Since he potentially serves on the board of at least one non-profits that is likely to apply for the grant dollars, he is asking for clarification on whether a conflict of interest exists. Supervisor O'Brien also noted that he serves on a non-profit, the Seniors United for Nutrition Board that may also put him in a similar situation. Supervisor Davis also inquired about her service on the Board of Health and the Family Resource Center.

	The Ethics Board discussed with attorney Morzenti the situation and made several recommendations to Iowa County. At question was if County Supervisors were permitted to vote on the awarding of a grant being considered by a committee they serve on if they also serve on the body requesting said funding.  The Board of Ethics determined that a "body politic" was a governmental entity or its identified sub committee. A County Supervisor serving on the board of an independent non-profit would be subject
	to a conflict if they were to vote on awarding that non-profit grant dollars.
7	<ul> <li>The Ethics Board further recommended:</li> <li>A. That Iowa County modify Ordinance 701 to reflect dollar amounts be set at the federal rate, with is currently \$20-\$50 when establishing a conflict of interest.</li> <li>B. That Iowa County modify Ordinance 701.03(l) to reflect the correct reference of 701.19 instead of the current reference to 701.21.</li> <li>C. That the Iowa County Board schedules Ethics Training for after the 2024 election to help County Supervisors understand what our ethics code requires.</li> <li>D. That Iowa County add language from Wisconsin Statute 19.59(1)(d) to County Ordinance 701.10(c).</li> <li>E. That generally County Supervisors need to recuse themselves when a conflict of interest occurs. That Supervisors can feel free to add comments and discuss grant applications, but can not vote when a conflict exists. Supervisors should further seek an Ethics Board Opinion when questions come up.</li> </ul>
8	Ordinance Amendment on "Substantial Financial Interest": That Corporation Counsel Dave Morzenti add examples for "Substantial Financial Interest" as a footnote reference to Ordinance 701.03(1)
9	Adjourn: Reilly <u>moved</u> , Zemlicka seconded to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously. Adjourned at 6:45 pm.