



PUTNAM COUNTY BOARD OF ETHICS

Robert C. Bickford, *Chair*
Kathleen F. Delamere, *Vice Chair* Paul Eldridge, *Secretary*
Gregory Amato, *Member* Roderick Cassidy, *Member*

ANNUAL REPORT TO THE COUNTY LEGISLATURE AND COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Pursuant to §55-22 of the Putnam County Code of Ethics and Financial Disclosure Law

Under §55-22 of the Putnam County Code of Ethics and Financial Disclosure Law, Chapter 55 of the Code of Putnam County, the Board of Ethics is required to submit, prior to March 15 of each year, a report to the County Executive and the Legislature of the Board's activities in the preceding year.

The Board consists of five members. We began 2017 with one vacancy, and in February Mr. Lotrecchiano resigned from the Board, creating another vacancy. The County Executive nominated Gregory Amato and Roderick Cassidy to fill the vacancies; Mr. Amato's appointment was approved in Resolution #64 of 2017 and Mr. Cassidy's appointment was approved by Resolution #108 of 2017.

The Board re-elected Robert Bickford as Chair and elected Alphonso Lotrecchiano as Vice Chair and Paul Eldridge as Secretary. Upon Mr. Lotrecchiano's resignation, the Board elected Kathleen Delamere as its Vice Chair.

During 2017, the Board of Ethics met five times. All meetings of the Board are open to the public (except for executive sessions to review disclosure statements and consider complaints and requests for advisory opinions).

- During the year, the Board received only one inquiry as to the applicability of the Code of Ethics. That inquiry related to whether a County officer or employee's membership in a social club would create a conflict should he discuss and/or vote on an infrastructure project that would occur on or in front of the club's property. The Board agreed that there would be no violation of the Code, or even the appearance of any impropriety, for the County officer to participate in or vote on such a project since there was no personal financial benefit to the County officer.
- The Board reviewed the current "Rules of the Putnam County Board of Ethics" to determine if any procedural issues need to be addressed. The review found the Rules to be in good order.

Annual Financial Disclosure Statements

Under the Code of Ethics, one of the Board's primary responsibilities is to review the annual financial disclosure statements filed by County officers and employees. The review is to assure that the filed forms are complete and responsive on their face to the requirements of the law. The Board's review is done in executive session.

The electronic submission of these statements has been a major improvement for most filers. It is a faster process, eliminates a lot of paper, and provides the filer with an immediate copy of their submission.

The following is the record of Financial Disclosure Forms reviewed and accepted during 2017:

February	Accepted	65 forms
March	Accepted	13 forms
May	Accepted	69 forms
July	Accepted	37 forms
October	Accepted	6 forms

Sixteen other forms were submitted and returned to sender for correction or more information, but not responded to by the end of the year.

In addition, 24 officers did not file at all; they are listed on the attachment.

Dated: March 1, 2018



PUTNAM COUNTY BOARD OF ETHICS
Robert Bickford, Chair
Kathleen Delamere, Vice Chair
Paul Eldridge, Secretary

Attachment

The Donald B. Smith County Government Campus
110 Old Route 6, Building 3
Carmel, New York 10512
Tel (845) 808-1650 x 46105 ~ Fax (845) 808-1924