

**SPECIAL MEETING OF THE ETHICS COMMISSION
OF THE ROCHESTER PUBLIC LIBRARY DISTRICT**

Date and Time: December 4, 2024, 3:30 p.m.

Location: Rochester Public Library Community Room, located at 1 Community Drive, Rochester, Illinois

Meeting Called to Order: 3:30 p.m. by Commissioner Hicks

Commissioners Present: Beth Haupt Maggie Patterson David Hicks

Visitors: Brian Costin, Deputy State Director, Americans For Prosperity -Illinois ("AFPI")
Sarah Deen, President Rochester Public Library District Board of Trustees

Approve Minutes of Last Meeting: Not applicable

Unfinished Business: None

New Business:

A. Consideration of Formal Ethics Complaint submitted by Americans for Prosperity - Illinois

Floor Opened For Public Comment

- a. Brian Costin presented the allegations contained in AFPI's Formal Ethics Complaint and AFPI's recommendations regarding discipline and corrective action.
- b. Commissioner Haupt recused herself from further deliberations regarding AFPI Formal Ethics Complaint upon learning of potential conflict of interest.
- c. Sarah Deen presented a request for the dismissal of individual Ethics Complaints Nos. 20, 21, 25, 26, 30 & 32 contained in AFPI's Formal Ethics Complaint.

Floor Closed For Public Comment

- a. Motion made by Commissioner Patterson for Ethics Commission to find there

to be sufficient cause to proceed with a formal investigation into the allegations contained within the Formal Ethics Complaint filed by AFPI. Motion seconded by Commissioner Hicks.

- b. Debate by Commissioners on motion. In response to question posed by Commissioner Hicks, the Commission's legal counsel addressed: the scope of the powers and duties conferred on the Ethics Commission by the Rochester Public Library District's Ethics Ordinance; the Commission's authority to investigate alleged violations of state or local law; the Ethics Commission's authority to grant all of the relief sought by AFPI; the Ethics Ordinance's requirement that an ethics complaint be notarized; and, the Ethics Ordinance's failure to define "prohibited political activities" as used in Section 430/5-15 of the Ethics Ordinance.
- c. Floor Reopened for Public Comment to allow Brian Costin opportunity to respond to issues raised by Commission's legal counsel.
- d. Question called. Restatement of Commissioner Patterson's motion for Ethics Commission to find there to be sufficient cause to proceed with a formal investigation into the allegations contained within the Formal Ethics Complaint filed by AFPI. Vote taken.
Motion fails to pass due to deadlocked vote.
Aye Votes: Commissioner Patterson
Nay Votes: Commissioner Hicks

Floor reopened to discuss resolution of impasse caused by deadlock vote.

- a. Brian Costin suggests appointment of interim Ethics Commissioner needed to break impasse. Commission's legal counsel concurs.
- b. Sarah Deen advises that the Rochester Public Library District Board of Trustees is not scheduled to meet again until January but it is possible for the Board to schedule a special meeting for the purpose of appointing an interim Ethics Commissioner.
- c. Motion made by Commissioner Patterson to table issue of whether there is sufficient cause to proceed with a formal investigation into the allegations contained within the Formal Ethics Complaint filed by AFPI pending appointment of interim Ethics Commissioner. Motion seconded by Commissioner Hicks. Vote taken.
Motion passes.
Aye Votes: Commissioner Patterson, Commissioner Hicks

Nay Votes: None

d.g.

Motion made by Commissioner Patterson to submit request to Rochester Public Library District Board of Trustees for appointment of interim Ethics Commissioner. Motion seconded by Commissioner Hicks. Vote taken. Motion passes.

Aye votes: Commissioner Patterson, Commissioner Hood.

Nay Votes: None

Next meeting: To be set after appointment of interim Ethics Commissioner by Rochester Public Library District Board of Trustees for appointment of interim Ethics Commissioner. Timely notice to be sent to AFPI and individuals named in AFPI Formal Ethics Complaint.

Adjournment: With no additional items to discuss, a motion for adjournment at 5:50 p.m. by Commissioner Hicks, second by Commissioner Patterson and passed by acclamation.

DAVID C. HICKS

Commissioner

David C. Hicks