



**Executive Session Minutes of the Meeting
The Flint Public Library
Board of Trustees
Tuesday, August 8, 2023**

NOTE: This meeting was held in-person.

Board of Trustees Present: Donna Bambury, Chairperson; Erin Bennett, Vice Chair/Secretary; Maria Paikos-Hantzis; Allison Sloan; and Susan Piccole

Others Present: Loretta Swift Johnson, Library Director; Stefanie McKanas, Recording Secretary; Katherine Feodoroff, Town Counsel

EXECUTIVE SESSION CALL TO ORDER:

Donna Bambury, Chair; Maria Paikos-Hantzis, Erin Bennett, Vice Chair; Susan Piccole; Loretta Swift Johnson, Library Director; Katherine Feodoroff, Town Counsel and Stefanie McKanas, Recording Secretary.

Ms. Paikos-Hantzis motioned to go into Executive Session under G.L. c. 30A section 21(a)(1) to review the Open Meeting Law Complaint filed by Allison Sloan on July 7, 2023 and then reconvene after the Executive Session meeting. Ms. Bennett seconded the motion, all were in favor.

The Board entered Executive Session at 6:32pm.

- Attorney Feodoroff stated that she reviewed the complaint filed by Allison Sloan against the Board members and has prepared a response, which was distributed to all the Board members present prior to the meeting.
- Attorney Feodoroff said that she did not identify any evidence of collusion; therefore, no violations of the Open Meeting Law took place. Attorney Feodoroff confirmed with the three accused Board members that no collusion occurred
- Ms. Piccole stated that the word “collusion” used by Ms. Sloan in the OML complaint was inappropriate and questioned if the response should address this issue. Attorney Feodoroff stated that since no evidence of collusion was found, it is irrelevant to the Attorney General. Attorney Feodoroff suggested adding a footnote to the end of the response stating, “The Board affirmatively states that no collusion as alleged by you occurred among the Members at any time.”
- Ms. Paikos-Hantzis needed clarification from Attorney Feodoroff on the footnote wording and felt uncomfortable with adding it since it was referring to the other three Board members.

- Ms. Paikos-Hantzis stated that she cannot attest to something that she does not know. Attorney Feodoroff suggested adding another sentence stating, “the fourth Board Member, Ms. Paikos-Hantzis, states that she has no information to admit or deny.”
- Ms. Piccole asked what the ramifications would be of this complaint if the Attorney General finds no evidence. Attorney Feodoroff stated that anyone can file an Open Meeting Law complaint since it is not geared towards people who are “trained” like lawyers.
- Ms. Piccole stated that she wrote her comments down in regards to the OML complaint. Attorney Feodoroff stated that Ms. Piccole is welcomed to read her letter in open session if Ms. Bambury allows her to since Executive Session is on the agenda.
- Ms. Bennett questioned if the Town would be fined since there have been several OML complaints filed. Attorney Feodoroff stated that a Town can be fined up to \$2,000 if found at fault for repeated violations (more than twice) for the same OML complaint.
- Ms. Bambury asked Attorney Feodoroff if filing a harassment complaint was an option since all of these constant complaints are hurting the reputations of Board Members. Attorney Feodoroff stated that she could not give advice on this matter since Board Members would have to file as individuals with a personal lawyer and not Town Counsel.
- Ms. Piccole asked Attorney Feodoroff if a decision has been made on a past complaint, can Board Members refer back to it in other meetings. Attorney Feodoroff stated that it is up to the Chairperson to control what is discussed at meetings.
- Ms. Bambury stated that she would like Ms. Piccole to read her response in open session.

Ms. Paikos-Hantzis made a motion to approve the response as amended. Ms. Piccole seconded the motion, all were in favor. Ms. Bambury, Chair, voted yes; Ms. Bennett, Vice Chair, voted yes; Ms. Paikos-Hantzis voted yes; and Ms. Piccole, voted yes.

ADJOURNMENT:

With no further business, Ms. Paikos-Hantzis made a motion to leave Executive Session and return to open session. Ms. Bennett seconded the motion, all were in favor. Ms. Bambury, Chair, voted yes; Ms. Bennett, Vice Chair, voted yes; Ms. Paikos-Hantzis voted yes; and Ms. Piccole, voted yes.

The Board exited Executive Session at 6:58pm

Respectfully Submitted by Stefanie McKanas, Recording Secretary