

CITY OF STAMFORD  
Board of Ethics  
Stamford Government Center  
(Meeting held virtually via zoom)  
June 3, 2021

DRAFT Public Hearing Minutes - Jacobson v. Figueroa

This Public Hearing was recorded and such recording is available to the public from the Board of Ethics and the City of Stamford. Such recording is intended to be the official record of the Hearing and not these minutes, and such recording is incorporated into these minutes by reference and made a part hereof. These minutes summarize the proceedings and are not intended as verbatim notes.

Present

Investigating Board Members Benjamin Folkinshteyn, Thomas Hynes, Kevin Quinn  
Hearing Board Members Christine Dzujna, Allan Lang, Fred Springer  
Alan Pickel, Esq. - Counsel for Respondent, Anabel Figueroa  
Daniel Young, Esq. - Counsel for the Investigating Board  
Stephen Conover, - Counsel to the Hearing Board

Others

Anabel Figueroa - Respondent  
Jonathan Jacobson - Complainant  
J.R. McMullen - Member, Board of Representatives  
Myrna Sessa - Member, Board of Ethics  
Kimberly Hawreluk - Human Resources Processing Technician

The Hearing was called to order by Hearing Board Chair Allan Lang at 6:06 p.m. He announced the purpose of the meeting to continue the Public Hearing that commenced on May 24, 2021.

Chair Lang asked the attorneys to introduce themselves and whom they represent.

On behalf of the Investigating Board, Attorney Young called Myrna Sessa as a witness. After being sworn, Myrna Sessa testified about her service on the Board of Ethics, including chairing an investigation of an ethics complaint filed against Anabel Figueroa in 2019.

On behalf of the Respondent, Attorney Pickel cross-examined Ms. Sessa about her participation in an investigation of an ethics complaint filed against Anabel Figueroa in 2019 and a stipulated agreement reached with Anabel Figueroa.

On re-direct examination, Attorney Young examined Ms. Sessa's understanding of the Code provision for reimbursement of attorney fees incurred in an ethics action.

Attorney Young called no further witnesses and rested his case.

On behalf of the Respondent, Attorney Pickel called J. R. McMullen as a witness. After being sworn, Mr. McMullen testified about his role on the Broad of Representatives' Code of Ethics Revision Subcommittee, about Advisory Opinions issued by the Board of Ethics, and about his understanding of state statutes.

On behalf of the Investigating Board Attorney Young, cross-examined Mr. McMullen about his understanding of the application of state statutes to municipalities.

Jonathan Jacobson, as the Complainant, cross-examined Mr. McMullen about advice he offered to Anabel Figueroa when the ethics complaint was pending against her in 2019.

Attorney Pickel called no further witnesses and rested his case.

Attorney Young, on behalf of the Investigating Board, presented his closing argument about the evidence of a violation of the Code of Ethics by Anabel Figueroa.

Attorney Pickel, on behalf of the Respondent, presented his closing argument about the absence of evidence of a violation of the Code of Ethics by Anabel Figueroa.

After he thanked all the participants, Chairman Lang closed the Hearing, and indicated the Hearing Board will study the evidence, and at a future hearing vote on this pending Complaint.

Adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Allan Lang  
Chair