



**MINUTES OF THE
OFFICE OF THE OHIO CONSUMERS' COUNSEL GOVERNING BOARD**

Meeting of June 30, 2023

The members present were:

Mr. Michael Watkins, Chair
Ms. Cheryl Grossman, Vice-Chair
Mr. Randy Brown
Mr. David Fleetwood
Mr. Dorsey Hager
Ms. Kelly Moore
Ms. Jan Shannon
Ms. Connie Skinner

Members Absent: Mr. Josh Yoder

Assistant Attorney General Bryan Lee was also in attendance.

CALL TO ORDER BY CHAIR:

Chair Watkins called the special meeting (for general purposes) to order at approximately 10:00 A.M. Chair Watkins welcomed the Board members to the meeting. He thanked the Board members for making the effort to be there. He noted that the process they were undertaking (to appoint retiring Consumers' Counsel Weston's successor) was very important to the agency. Chair Watkins asked Operations Coordinator Laurie Knight to call the roll. All members listed above as attending answered the roll call as present except for Mr. Hager, who joined the meeting at approximately 10:05 A.M.

CONSUMERS' COUNSEL'S REPORT

Consumers' Counsel Weston noted that Laurie Knight would be serving as Board Secretary for the meeting in Susan Loe's absence.

Mr. Weston gave an update on House Bill 6. He noted that, on June 29, the Federal Judge presiding in the H.B. 6-related corruption trial in U.S. District Court in Cincinnati sentenced former House Speaker Larry Householder to 20 years in prison. The Consumers' Counsel recounted some history of OCC's opposition to House Bill 6, including sending a letter (with OMA) to the Governor asking that the bill be vetoed. He stated that H.B. 6 and House Bill 246 are intertwined. He noted that shortly after OCC opposed House Bill 6, H.B. 246 was introduced to "reform" the OCC. He explained that the bill was later amended to give the legislature six of the nine appointments to the OCC Board. He stated that

soon after the amendment, the FBI raided Speaker Householder's home -- and the bill was not heard from again. Mr. Weston also shared the OCC Board Resolution opposing House Bill 246.

Mr. Weston discussed how additional justice is needed for consumers in connection with House Bill 6. He said more justice should include repealing the coal subsidies in H.B. 6 for AEP, Duke and AES. And more justice should include the lifting of the stay on OCC's (and others') investigations of FirstEnergy H.B. 6-related charges, in PUCO cases.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Vice-Chair Grossman made a motion to enter executive session to consider the employment of potential candidates, and to consider the appointment, employment or compensation of current public employees or officials. Mr. Fleetwood seconded the motion.

Ms. Knight called the roll:

Mr. Brown – Yes

Mr. Fleetwood – Yes

Mr. Hager - Yes

Ms. Moore – Yes

Ms. Shannon – Yes

Ms. Skinner - Yes

Vice-Chair Grossman – Yes

Chair Watkins – Yes

Chair Watkins noted the executive session could be lengthy. The Board entered executive session at approximately 10:12 A.M.

(The Board returned from Executive Session at approximately 11:50 A.M.) Ms. Shannon left the meeting prior to return to public session. Chair Watkins stated that the Board had interviewed a candidate for Consumers' Counsel.

A motion was made by Ms. Skinner to interview Maureen Willis (OCC Acting Legal Director) and Angela O'Brien (OCC Deputy Consumers' Counsel) for the position of Consumers' Counsel at the July Board meeting. Vice-Chair Grossman seconded the motion. Ms. Knight called the roll. The motion was approved unanimously by members present. Ms. Shannon and Mr. Yoder were the members not present for the call of the roll.


Chair Watkins asked if any of those in attendance had any comments or questions for the Board. Mr. Teasley, a reporter for Hannah News, asked if the candidate interviewed in executive session was still considered a candidate. Chair Watkins indicated that she was, and that they had a very good interview

with her and were looking forward to the two interviews in July. The Chair explained that the Board had chosen to repost the job ad since there was only one candidate to interview after the first posting. Mr. Teasley also asked if it was likely that one of the three candidates being interviewed would be chosen for the position. The Chair responded that the Board was hopeful for that result. He noted that at this point no decision had been made.

Chair Watkins asked if there was anything else that needed to be brought before the Board. Vice-Chair Grossman made a motion to adjourn the meeting. It was seconded by Mr. Fleetwood. Ms. Knight called the roll. The motion was approved unanimously by those members present.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 11:55 AM

I verify that the above meeting minutes have been approved and ratified by the Consumers' Counsel Governing Board on July 18, 2023.



Michael Watkins, Governing Board Chair



Susan Loe, Interim Board Secretary
Ohio Consumers' Counsel Governing Board