

**CareerSource Pinellas
Minutes of Special Executive Committee Meeting
03/14/2018**

****No Actions Were Taken At This Meeting****

Date: March 14, 2018 at 11:00am
Location: 13805 58th Street North

Call to Order

Chairman Geller called the meeting to order at 11:00am.
There was a quorum present with the following Executive Committee members participating.

Committee Members in attendance

Dr. Robert Arnold (phone), Tom Bedwell (phone), Commissioner Patricia Gerard, Karla Leavelle, Michael Mikurak, Lenne Nicklaus (phone), William Price.

Committee Members not in attendance

Sandy Ho

Staff Present

Jennifer Brackney, Luna Clarke, Joseph Calhoun.

Board Counsel: Charles Harris

Guest (s): Whitney Creech - Office of Comm. Gerard

Marion Hale - Johnson Pope

Jewel White- Pinellas County Attorney

Michael Short – State Attorney's Office

Kim Marston- Board member

Dee Harrold

Mark Puente and Zachary Sampson- Tampa Bay Times

Discussion Items

1. Anonymous Letter of March 3, 2018

Chairman Geller stated that the purpose of the meeting is to address the anonymous letter dated March 3, 2018 in an open forum. The letter referenced to several board members by name and levied several accusations against those members. Board members were given a chance to make individual comments, regarding the letter.

Mikurak – Denies the contents of the letter. Has not had any contact with Mr. Peachey or other members, in compliance to Sunshine Law. Think it equally appalling that Mr. Marston was pulled into it.

Leavelle – Refers to the letter as an act of cowardice. Believes that the letter was written to try to intimidate Board members prior to the voting that will take place on 3/21. Denies the charges made against her and has written an email addressing the matter. Though Board members may differ on how they vote, no one is behaving with lack of integrity.

Gerard—Other than to address the accusations made, the letter is inconsequential to the decision that the Board ultimately has to make.

Price—Board's duty is to protect public funds and that should also be considered when making a decision about paying any amount to Mr. Peachey. Has had no discussion with anyone about CareerSource matters, due to Sunshine Law.

Geller—There are too many impossibilities in the letter, for it to be taken seriously. It seems ludicrous and unrealistic.

2. Response Letter from Mr. Peachey's Counsel

Ms. Marion Hale was permitted to address the Committee

Hale- Calls the letter "fake" and not presented on authentic company letterhead

Her company [Johnson Pope] maintains a computer trace on all client documents to know who accessed it, and when. No one reviewed the documents that the anonymous letter claims.

- Believes that only Mr. Marston himself or someone close to him could have knowledge of the personal information divulged in the letter.
- Her firm will be conducting a fingerprint test on an original copy of the documents.
- Suggests that the Board also look into the letter's authorship, since the allegations made in the anonymous letter could have potentially been made by a fellow member.

Several board members inquire about possibly tracing the source of the anonymous letter, whether through a formal investigation conducted by the County or other forensics means.

Lenne—Notes that the letter only seems to mention those board members who voted similarly, as if to give a reason to remove said members from the Board, before the next meeting.

Harris—Does not believe that the Board is in a position to take any actions against fellow members, since the County is the appointing authority. Will need to further discuss the matter with County Attorney White. None of the information that was provided in response to public records requests made by Ms. Hale contained Mr. Marston's personal information. Counsel recommends that the Committee's focus remain on their decision as it relates to Mr. Peachey and moving forward with the organization.

Gerard—Notes that Commissioners will not take the letter into consideration, when making Board appointment decisions. The County has no capacity to investigate criminal charges. Should there be a need for such investigation, the power lies with a law enforcement authority.

Harris—concerned that this letter was an attempt to isolate certain board members and to undermine their position in front of the full Board, ahead of the upcoming meeting.

Geller—It seems that the goal of the letter was to undermine the character of certain board members and to try to influence votes. There is a need to go back to the organization's mission and to move forward.

Bedwell—Believes the letter to be fake, and feels that the intimidation has come from the County Commission.

Gerard: Denies the Commission's involvement with any anonymous letters.

It is the consensus of the Committee that the anonymous letter received on March 3, 2018 is not an authentic document.

Other Administrative Matters

- Board member Karla Leavelle has agreed to assist management with any HR questions/issues, as it pertains to her line of work.
- Chairman requests to schedule an audit committee meeting to possibly extend the scope of the internal audits conducted and look deeper into the controls.
- The Ad Hoc Committee on Friday will address a path to move forward. It will also address any updates relating to the Sheriff's department.
- There will be an opportunity at the next Board meeting, to fill the currently vacant "Chair-Elect" position.

Public Comments

- Board member Kim Marston addressed the anonymous letter, in which his personal information was divulged. Mr. Marston also addressed his own response to the anonymous letter of 3/5/2018. A copy was distributed at the meeting.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:47 A.M.