

Minutes for Buffalo Niagara Coalition for Open Government February 14, 2019

Meeting called to order at 6:34 p.m. by Paul Wolf. Present: Richard Bertrand, Janet Vito, Larry Vito, Steve Lyle, Joseph Kissel, Ed McKee, Sonia Dusza, Gary Dickson,

Meeting Minutes: Janet Vito made a motion to approve the minutes from the January 3, 2019 meeting, seconded by Ed McKee. Minutes unanimously approved.

Treasurer's Report: Janet Vito reported our account balance as \$924.17. Larry Vito made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report seconded by Gary Dickson. Treasurer's Report unanimously approved. A discussion occurred about the need to remind members that membership dues are up again in March.

2019 Projects Calendar: Paul Wolf discussed our calendar for the year to keep us on track for projects.

FOIL Log Report: Paul Wolf submitted a proposal to the National Freedom of Information Council, who is seeking FOIL papers for an upcoming conference. We will find out in March whether our proposal has been accepted. If successful, we can win money if our final paper is selected as being one of the top three.

Report Regarding Colleges & Universities: Our first press conference and report this year will be regarding local Colleges & Universities. Rating sheets have been turned in which Paul will compile. A discussion occurred about when and where to hold our press conference. The date of 2/26/19 was discussed, possibly at UB. Paul will speak with our contacts at UB to determine when and where would be good for the press conference.

Best Practices Sunshine Week: Paul sent out 500 emails to local elected officials, school board members and Authority Board members encouraging them to sponsor and pass a resolution at one of their meetings committing to support our best practices. Only five elected officials so far have responded to the email.

Niagara County Financial Disclosure Forms: Paul has begun drafting legal papers to sue the Niagara County Legislature regarding their local law, which makes disclosure forms secret from public review.

Cheektowaga Ethics Code: The Coalition sent a letter to the Cheektowaga Town Board expressing concern that the Board was proposing a new Ethics Code that would provide less disclosure than the current Code.

New Business: The Williamsville Library recently held a fundraising party. Ed McKee made a motion that the Coalition donate \$50 to the library, Richard Bertrand seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

Adjourn: Meeting was adjourned at 7:35 pm., on a motion by Gary Dickson, seconded by Richard Bertrand. Next meeting will be March 7, 2019, 6:30 pm at the Williamsville Library.