

## **8-10-23 NY COALITION FOR OPEN GOVERNMENT MEETING**

PRESENT; Michelle Allen, Maria Tisby, Maxine Lautenberg, Marylou, Axel Ebermann, Amil Viriani, Amy Lavine, Janet Vito, Larry Vito, Annmarie Reeb, Michael Hartner, Todd Mazel, , Denise Civiletti, Carol, Steve Lyle, Sue Kelly Pat Irving, Todd Mazel, Ken Guarino, Alberta Roman, Paul Wolf

Start meeting on zoom at 6:31pm by Paul Wolf President.

**Meeting Minutes from July 13, 2023;** Motion made by Maria Tisby to accept Minutes and seconded by Janet Vito. Motion carried without question

**Treasurer Report;** Motion made to accept Treasurer's Report as of July 30, 2023 by Alberta Roman and seconded by Amil Viriani. Motion carried. Paid members equal 78 as of 7-31-2023 and bank balance \$4,958.56. 9 new members joined in past few days.

**20223 Calendar;** Informational only in pages 6-8.

**Open Meetings Law Committee;** Report by Michelle Allen as follows;

- A. Report to support amending the Open Meetings Law to mandate that public comments occur at meetings to be released in Sept. perhaps 14<sup>th</sup> in a press conference. Paul states that in NYS, Citizens do not have the legal right to speak at public meetings.
- B. Our next report will be seeking to have advisory committees created by Public Bodies covered by the Open Meetings Law, which is the case in 31 States. The only recourse now is to file a law suit.
- C. We will be doing a training on executive sessions in October, tentatively 12<sup>th</sup>. We are seeking member input about content. The most common questions received are about executive sessions.

**Freedom of Information Law Committee;** Maria Tisby report as follows;

- A. FOIL project regarding state agencies tracking FOIL requests ongoing.

B. Article 78 training set for Sept. 21<sup>st</sup> at 12:00. Local Buffalo Attorney Mike Higgins has agreed to do this.

C. Legislation utilizing a Hearing Officer System similar to Tax Assessment cases- introduced by Assemblymember Rosenthal.

D. Legislation requiring state Agencies to track FOIL requests-Assemblymember Epstein and Senator Hoylman have agreed to sponsor.

**Public Relations/ Education Committee;** Axel Ebermann reporting as follows;

A. Committee is working on an open government booklet that can be distributed to public electronically and physically. The document will provide a brief overview of FOIL and OML, which will be helpful to the public.

B. The Committee recommends that the Board consider having a co-chair designated for each committee. This discussion led by Paul Wolf. Michelle Allen made motion to have co-chair for committee and Axell Eberman second. Motion carried. If anyone wants to co-chair, notify Paul and we will talk about this at next meeting.

C. Axel Ebermann is working on a new Coalition website, which is not ready to be previewed yet.

D. Paul Wolf discussed the Committee working on lobbying plan for getting our legislative bills passed in Albany.

**Albany In Person Meeting Sat. Nov. 18<sup>th</sup>, 1 to 6 pm;**

**New Business;** Discussion and agreement re all Committee Meetings be at 6:30 pm on Thurs. Motion made by Marylou to do this and Sue Kelly second. Motion carried.

Encryption of police radio was discussed at length as it is growing in NYC and across the Country. Motion made that our Board take a position against police encryption of radio transmissions by Maria Tisby and seconded. Motion carried. Axel and Marylou want to research further.

Motion to adjourn made by Janet Vito and seconded by Axel Ebermann. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned @ 7:15 pm.

**Next Meetings;**

**Open Meetings Law Committee Aug 17<sup>th</sup> @6:30 pm**

**Freedom of Information Law Committee Aug 24<sup>th</sup> @6:30 pm**

**Zoom Social, Aug 31<sup>st</sup>@ 6:30 pm**

**Public Relations Sept 7<sup>th</sup> 6:30pm**

**Article 78 Training Sept 21<sup>st</sup> 12 pm**