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Meeting for Cook County Board of Review

November 4, 2022

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vs.

COOK COUNTY BOARD OF REVIEW

MEETING

Friday, November 4, 2022 at 2:30 p.m.

VIRTUAL MEETING

REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS before CHAIRMAN, LARRY ROGERS, JR., upon the meeting of the above-entitled cause taken through a multi-platform video conferencing system held on the 4th day of November, 2022 at the hour of 2:30 p.m.

APPEARANCES:

MS. TAMMY WENDT, Commissioner

MR. MICHAEL CABONARGI, Commissioner

MR. JONATHAN CHAPMAN, Secretary

1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2 CHAIRMAN ROGERS: I will call the meeting to  
3 order by doing the roll. Commissioner Cabonargi?

4 MR. CABONARGI: Here.

5 CHAIRMAN ROGERS: Commissioner Wendt?

6 COMMISSIONER WENDT: Present.

7 CHAIRMAN ROGERS: Mr. Rogers is here. Let  
8 the record reflect all Commissioners are present. We  
9 will now proceed to the Pledge of Allegiance.  
10 Commissioner Wendt, would you like to take the lead?

11 COMMISSIONER WENDT: Sure. If everyone could  
12 just join me.

13 (Pledge of Allegiance)

14 CHAIRMAN ROGERS: Moving on to public  
15 participation, do we have anyone who has signed up to  
16 make any public comments?

17 MR. FIELDMAN: I'm here, Commissioner Rogers.  
18 This is Todd Fieldman.

19 CHAIRMAN ROGERS: Mr. Fieldman, former Chief  
20 of Staff to Commissioner Wendt, feel free to make your  
21 comment.

22 MR. FIELDMAN: Hello, Commissioners, let me  
23 turn my camera on here. Every time I finish speaking,  
24 Commissioner Rogers likes to say something along the

1 lines that I'm the former Chief of Staff of  
2 Commissioner Wendt and my comments are in some way  
3 skewed. Nothing could be farther from the truth. I  
4 speak as a citizen of the County who is truly looking  
5 for transparency in government.

6                   When I was hired, Commissioner Wendt was  
7 using the very Ethic policies that Commissioner Rogers  
8 offered and approved in 2012. Without the obvious  
9 omission of "first cousin", my hiring wouldn't have  
10 happened. No fault of mine or Commissioner Wendt. I  
11 did submit this to the Secretary. He does have a full  
12 transcript of my participation here. Let me give you  
13 some highlights of Commissioner Rogers' term at the  
14 Board of Review.

15                   Two FBI investigations. In the --

16                   CHAIRMAN ROGERS: Mr. Fieldman --

17                   MR. FIELDMAN: Commissioner Rogers allowed a  
18 pool staff member to work his first cut. This employee  
19 has pled guilty to taking bribes for lowering assessed  
20 values. The Board of Review will not release the list  
21 of files that he worked on. That is just poor  
22 oversight.

23                   Three of Commissioner Rogers' employees  
24 have been identified as applying and accepting PPP

1 loans while on the clock and under his watch. Again  
2 poor oversight.

3 Commissioner Rogers' own first cousin  
4 was hired by Commissioner Cabonargi and Commissioner  
5 Cabonargi is on record saying he did not know the  
6 relationship. Poor oversight or just complicit.

7 Commissioner Rogers and Cabonargi tried  
8 passing a law while at the same time breaking a law  
9 still under review by the Attorney General after 19  
10 months. They have refused to turn over records to the  
11 Attorney General. It is not that complicated.

12 When I discovered that one of  
13 Commissioner Wendt's staffer had submitted appeals for  
14 family and friends, I did a complete review to  
15 determine if said staffer had any influence on the  
16 results. I found none. But Commissioner Cabonargi  
17 called for his immediate dismissal. When I discovered  
18 that Commissioner Cabonargi had a staffer that  
19 submitted twice as many appeals for friends, he changed  
20 his tune and in fact is now codifying it in the new  
21 Employee Manual.

22 CHAIRMAN ROGERS: You have one minute left,  
23 sir.

24 MR. FIELDMAN: Per Illinois' past law, anyone

1 can file an appeal on any property. I'm glad that  
2 Commissioner Cabonargi has -- back his original  
3 interpretation of the law.

4 Commissioner Rogers and Cabonargi tried  
5 to have me dismissed for not taking the COVID jab. We  
6 knew then that the vaccine did not prevent infections  
7 and it was a powerplay to try and silence me. What is  
8 the current status of the COVID vaccine? All we have  
9 to do is look at the recent decision by the New York --  
10 the County has a Zero Tolerance Policy for alcohol and  
11 drugs in the office. Yet, when Commissioner Wendt and  
12 I had our first tour of the office, half of the office  
13 had mini bars in them. Office refrigerators are  
14 stocked with beer. I'm not a teetotaler by any means,  
15 but it was not a healthy environment. Not only did  
16 this create a hostile work environment, I knew of at  
17 least two employees that had to go to rehab during my  
18 18th month -- someone muted me, Mr. Rogers.

19 CHAIRMAN ROGERS: Are there any other members  
20 of the public that wish to make any other public  
21 comments?

22 MR. FIELDMAN: Commissioner Rogers, I'm not  
23 finished yet. Commissioner Rogers, I'm not finished  
24 yet.

1           CHAIRMAN ROGERS: The next item on the agenda  
2 is approval of the minutes from the September 9, 2022  
3 meeting. Is there a motion to approve the minutes?

4           MR. CABONARGI: So moved.

5           CHAIRMAN ROGERS: Is there a second?

6           THE COURT REPORTER: Who said that?

7           MR. CABONARGI: Commissioner Cabonargi,  
8 C-A-B-O-N-A-R-G-I, and I'm making the motion to approve  
9 the minutes.

10           COMMISSIONER WENDT: What minutes? Which  
11 date?

12           CHAIRMAN ROGERS: September 9th of 2022.

13           COMMISSIONER WENDT: I can't.

14           CHAIRMAN ROGERS: I'll second that motion.  
15 All in favor indicate by saying "aye".

16           MR. CABONARGI: Aye.

17           CHAIRMAN ROGERS: Aye. Those opposed  
18 indicate by saying "nay".

19                                (No Response) if there are any  
20 abstentions, please indicate by --

21           COMMISSIONER WENDT: I'm abstaining. I'm  
22 abstaining from that.

23           CHAIRMAN ROGERS: Let the record reflect that  
24 the Motion to Approve the minutes passes.

1 MR. CABONARGI: For the Court Reporter's  
2 benefit those voting in the affirmative are  
3 Commissioner Rogers and Cabonargi. No votes against  
4 and one vote to abstain from Commissioner Wendt.

5 CHAIRMAN ROGERS: Moving on, on the agenda,  
6 is there any Old Business?

7 (NO RESPONSE)

8 CHAIRMAN ROGERS: Hearing none, we'll move on  
9 to New Business. Is there a motion for the closing of  
10 the 2021 session?

11 COMMISSIONER CABONARGI: Commissioner Rogers,  
12 I move that whereas the Cook County Board of Review has  
13 finished the adjudication of all valuations appeals  
14 timely submitted to it in the course of its review of  
15 the 2021 tax year assessment rolls has transmitted as a  
16 result to the Office of the Cook County Assessor, which  
17 were certified on October 11, 2022, and having  
18 completed all other matters as required by the Illinois  
19 Property Tax Code, it is therefore moved that the Board  
20 of Review close the session per the review of valuation  
21 appeals for the 2021 tax year.

22 CHAIRMAN ROGERS: Is there a second to the  
23 motion?

24 COMMISSIONER WENDT: Second.



1           CHAIRMAN ROGERS: All those in favor indicate  
2     so by saying "aye".

3                                 (A chorus of ayes)

4           CHAIRMAN ROGERS: Let the record reflect that  
5     the motion to close the 2021 session has passed with  
6     the unanimous vote of all three Commissioners. Is  
7     there a motion for adoption of the Cook County Board of  
8     Review personnel rules?

9           MR. CABONARGI: Commissioner Rogers, I move  
10    that whereas the Cook County Board of Review desires to  
11    adopt Employee Handbook as a written compilation of its  
12    employee rules, policies, procedures and other  
13    pertinent information, it is therefore moved that the  
14    Board of Review adopt the Board of Review Personnel  
15    Rules with an effective date of November 4, 2022.

16           CHAIRMAN ROGERS: Is the motion seconded?

17           COMMISSIONER WENDT: No. Motions 2 through 7  
18    that you have on the agenda, I'm not going to vote in  
19    favor of any of those or second any of those. I'm  
20    voting "nay" on all of these.

21           CHAIRMAN ROGERS: Let the record reflect that  
22    Commissioner Rogers second the motion, Number 2. All  
23    in favor indicate so by saying "aye".

24           COMMISSIONER CABONARGI: Aye.

1           CHAIRMAN ROGERS: Aye. Those opposed  
2 indicate by saying "nay"

3           COMMISSIONER WENDT: Nay.

4           CHAIRMAN ROGERS: Let the record reflect that  
5 the motion passes and the Cook County Board of Review  
6 Personnel Rules are hereby adopted.

7                         Motion Number 3, is there a Motion for  
8 Amendment to County Board of Review Sexual Harassment  
9 Policy?

10           COMMISSIONER CABONARGI: Commissioner Rogers,  
11 whereas -- I so move whereas the Cook County Board of  
12 Review periodically assesses its current policies and  
13 procedures to ensure that they comport with current  
14 legal standards, remain compatible with Cook County  
15 policies and incorporate best practices. I therefore  
16 move that the Cook County Board of Review amend its  
17 Discrimination Harassment and Sexual Harassment Policy  
18 as follows: Update the definition of "consent". Add  
19 definitions of "quid pro quo", Sexual Harassment and  
20 "hostile work environment", Sexual Harassment. Update  
21 the complaint process to detail how allegations are  
22 documented, investigated and resolved, and add  
23 "preponderance of the evidence" as the standard of  
24 proof for any internal investigation.

1           CHAIRMAN ROGERS: I second the motion.

2           COMMISSIONER WENDT: I would like to make a  
3 statement, please. Six motions for policy  
4 implementation or changes are being made by, you know,  
5 by you, Commissioners Rogers and Cabonargi. When we  
6 have only a few weeks left of our term and Cabonargi  
7 and I are both leaving, I think it's extremely  
8 disrespectful to Commissioners who are coming in that  
9 you are trying to push these policies through before  
10 they get here and have an opportunity to vote on these.  
11 This was done to me. You did this with Pawlack before  
12 I came in. I don't understand what the rush is when,  
13 you know, these should have been done years ago. But I  
14 just think that it's disrespectful when the majority of  
15 the Board is going to be replaced.

16           CHAIRMAN ROGERS: Further discussion,  
17 Commissioner Cabonargi?

18           MR. CABONARGI: Sure. I want to thank the  
19 staff. This reflects at least two years of staff work.  
20 So I think this is a real tribute to the staff who has  
21 spent two years -- Commissioner Wendt, I gave you the  
22 courtesy of not interrupting me. So I would appreciate  
23 it if you would respect me as well.

24           COMMISSIONER WENDT: Wait a minute. I didn't

1 interrupt you.

2 MR. CABONARGI: You don't need to say  
3 anything.

4 COMMISSIONER WENDT: Did I interrupt you?  
5 Let's rewind the tape.

6 MR. CABONARGI: Let me finish.

7 COMMISSIONER WENDT: I know how you love to  
8 speak down to women, okay, especially me. But the time  
9 is up on that. Go ahead. Finish.

10 COMMISSIONER CABONARGI: Commissioner Wendt,  
11 are you and your cousin, Todd Fieldman, currently being  
12 sued by the Cook County Board of Ethics, right now?  
13 Are you in court for that?

14 COMMISSIONER WENDT: No.

15 MR. CABONARGI: You can laugh because you  
16 think that's funny.

17 MR. FIELDMAN: Know your facts.

18 COMMISSIONER CABONARGI: Why is Cousin Todd  
19 still on the call? Because public comment period is  
20 over. What's before us is Motion 2 because it is --  
21 I'm sorry it's Motion 3. Motions 1 and 2 have already  
22 passed. It's Motion 3.

23 COMMISSIONER WENDT: Who wrote these motions,  
24 because I didn't? Who wrote these? I had no input on

1 any of these. The last I checked, I was still a  
2 Commissioner.

3 MR. CABONARGI: One hundred percent. It  
4 would be nice if you would show up for some of the  
5 meetings. We just had a budget --

6 COMMISSIONER WENDT: What meeting did I miss,  
7 Mike?

8 MR. CABONARGI: You just missed the budget  
9 meeting. You just missed our budget presentation.

10 COMMISSIONER CABONARGI: Budget.

11 COMMISSIONER WENDT: Oh, when I had COVID?  
12 Would you rather I had been there? I had COVID.

13 MR. CABONARGI: Commissioner Wendt, I'm here  
14 the whole time.

15 COMMISSIONER WENDT: Do you have a problem  
16 with me --

17 CHAIRMAN ROGERS: Let me take a moment and  
18 kind of turn the temperature down a little bit. I  
19 would like to get through our agenda. At present,  
20 there is a motion pending. Each of you has commented  
21 on the motion. I would like to call the motion for a  
22 vote.

23 All those in favor of Motion Number 3 to  
24 amend the Cook County Board of Review Sexual Harassment

1 Policy please indicate by saying "aye".

2 MR. CABONARGI: Aye.

3 CHAIRMAN ROGERS: Aye. Those opposed?

4 COMMISSIONER WENDT: Nay.

5 CHAIRMAN ROGERS: Let the record reflect  
6 Commissioner Cabonargi and Rogers voted in favor of a  
7 policy on Sexual Harassment and Commissioner Wendt has  
8 voted against it. The motion passes.

9 Motion Number 4. Is there a Motion to  
10 Amend the Cook County Board of Review Ethics Policy?

11 MR. CABONARGI: This is Commissioner  
12 Cabonargi, I so move that whereas the Cook County Board  
13 of Review periodically assesses its current policies  
14 and procedures to ensure that they comport with current  
15 legal standards, remains compatible with Cook County  
16 policies and cooperate best practices, that it is  
17 therefore moved that the Cook County Board of Review  
18 amend its Ethics policies as follows: Revise the  
19 policy to mirror the changes that were made to the Cook  
20 County Ethics Policy in December of 2021.

21 The definition of "gift" is changed to  
22 match the revised Cook County Ethics Policy. The  
23 definition of "financial interest" is added. This  
24 definition matches the revised Cook County Ethics

1 Policy. The permitted exceptions to the "gift" band  
2 are changed to match the Cook County Ethics Policy.  
3 "Domestic partner" is defined -- the definition of  
4 "familial relationship" was changed by the vote of the  
5 Cook County Board of Commissioners in a previous  
6 meeting to match the Cook County Ethics Policy. This  
7 revised Ethics Policy includes the definition  
8 previously voted upon, the word "relative" will be  
9 changed to match "familial relationship".

10 CHAIRMAN ROGERS: Hearing the motion, is  
11 there a second? Let the record reflect that Mr. Rogers  
12 had seconded the motion. All in favor of the motion?

13 COMMISSIONER CABONARGI: Commissioner Rogers,  
14 can I say something?

15 CHAIRMAN ROGERS: Yes.

16 COMMISSIONER CABONARGI: I just want to thank  
17 the staff again for their timing in creating these  
18 amendments as well. You know we have had our own  
19 Ethics Policy. And it's important that our Ethics  
20 Policy at the Board of Review follows and comports with  
21 the larger Cook County Ethics Policy that we have to  
22 follow. It has been established through litigation and  
23 the case law that we have to follow at the Cook County  
24 Board of Review the larger Cook County Ethics policies.

1 And if we have to make changes as we say in a motion  
2 periodically to comport with that, I think it is the  
3 smart thing to do. I want to thank the staff for  
4 keeping track of these changes so that we can continue  
5 to follow the larger County Board of Ethics Rules going  
6 forward. I call the question.

7 CHAIRMAN ROGERS: I would echo those  
8 comments. There have been a lot of efforts placed on  
9 making sure we are consistent with the County Board's  
10 Ethics Policies. I think that is an important step.  
11 And the staff has been diligent about doing that. So I  
12 want to commend them as well.

13 Call the question. All in favor of Motion 4  
14 to Amend the Cook County Board of Review Ethics Policy  
15 as indicated, indicate so by saying "aye"?

16 MR. CABONARGI: Aye.

17 CHAIRMAN ROGERS: Aye. Let the record  
18 reflect that Commissioner Cabonargi, Commissioner  
19 Rogers voted "aye" in favor of the amendment, Motion 4.

20 All opposed indicate by saying "nay".

21 COMMISSIONER WENDT: Nay.

22 CHAIRMAN ROGERS: Let the record reflect that  
23 Commissioner Wendt indicated a "nay" vote against  
24 amending the Cook County Board of Review Ethics Policy



1 as indicated.

2 Let the record reflect that the motion  
3 passes with two ayes and one nay vote, and the  
4 amendment will go into effect.

5 Motion 5, amendment to the Cook County  
6 Board of Review Conflict of Interest Policy. Is there  
7 a motion?

8 MR. CABONARGI: Commissioner Rogers, I move  
9 that whereas the Cook County Board of Review  
10 periodically assess its policies and procedures to  
11 ensure they comport with legal standards, remain  
12 compatible with Cook County policies and incorporate  
13 best practices. It is therefore moved that the Cook  
14 County Board of Review amend its Conflict of Interest  
15 policy as follows:

16 The policy is renamed "Conflict of  
17 Interest and Employee Appeal Policy" to reflect total  
18 nature of a policy. It is revised to clearly delineate  
19 the use of the Statement of Interest Disclosure Form  
20 versus the Complex Compliance and Appeal  
21 Disqualification Form. These revised forms are  
22 attached as exhibits to the policy. The revised policy  
23 removes the constraints from employees filing appeals,  
24 but strengthens the protections against employees

1 participating in their appeals process.

2 CHAIRMAN ROGERS: Hearing the motion, is  
3 there a second? Let the record reflect I, Commissioner  
4 Rogers, second the motion. I will call the question.  
5 All in favor of amending the Cook County Board of  
6 Review Conflict of Interest Policy as indicated in the  
7 motion, please indicate so by voting "aye".

8 MR. CABONARGI: Aye.

9 CHAIRMAN ROGERS: Let the record reflect that  
10 Commissioner Cabonargi and myself, Mr. Rogers voted in  
11 favor of the motion.

12 All opposed indicate by saying "nay".

13 COMMISSIONER WENDT: Nay.

14 CHAIRMAN ROGERS: Let the record reflect that  
15 Commissioner Wendt voted "nay" against amending the  
16 Board of Review Conflict of Interest Policy.

17 Let the record reflect that the ayes  
18 have it. The motion passes and the amendment shall go  
19 into effect.

20 Motion Number 6, is there a Motion to  
21 Amend the Cook County Board of Review Employment Plan?

22 MR. CABONARGI: Commissioner Rogers, I move  
23 that whereas the Cook County Board of Review  
24 periodically assesses its current policies and

1 procedures to ensure that they comport with current  
2 legal standards, remain compatible with Cook County  
3 policies and incorporate best practices. That it is  
4 therefore moved that the Cook County Board of Review  
5 amend its employment plan as follows:

6 First, the Employee Recruitment process  
7 is detailed. And second, the hiring process is  
8 standardized. The Shakman exempt positions at the Cook  
9 County Board of Review are enumerated.

10 CHAIRMAN ROGERS: Hearing the motion, is  
11 there a second? Let the record reflect that I  
12 Commissioner Rogers second the motion. All in favor of  
13 Motion 6 --

14 MR. CABONARGI: Commissioner Rogers, can I  
15 just add something?

16 CHAIRMAN ROGERS: Yes.

17 COMMISSIONER CABONARGI: So this is important  
18 because we spent at least two years working on a  
19 streamline personnel policy and I really want to thank  
20 the Secretary's office, the current Secretary and our  
21 previous Secretary for taking a look at how other  
22 offices in Cook County do their hiring and their  
23 onboarding and really streamlining this. We have three  
24 different Commissioners, but it's one Board of Review.

1 I think it adds that transparency that we are looking  
2 for and that stability. You know, some of us are  
3 leaving the Board. Some of us are staying at the  
4 Board. But I think it creates a nice stable platform  
5 for the new folks to come in and do their hiring for  
6 their team. So again, thank you to the staff for  
7 putting this together.

8 CHAIRMAN ROGERS: Just to add to that, I  
9 agree that we've consistently improved various  
10 processes and this is a very important one. It has  
11 been streamlined and standardized. And it is a very  
12 important one. So I do want to commend the staff and  
13 thank them for their diligence and hard work in this  
14 effort.

15 CHAIRMAN ROGERS: The question, are there any  
16 ayes in vote in favor of Motion Number 6 to amend the  
17 Cook County Board of Review as indicated?

18 MR. CABONARGI: Aye.

19 CHAIRMAN ROGERS: Aye. Let the record  
20 reflect that Commissioner Cabonargi and Mr. Rogers  
21 voted "aye" in favor of the amendment. Are there any  
22 nays?

23 COMMISSIONER WENDT: Nay.

24 CHAIRMAN ROGERS: Let the record reflect that

1 Commissioner Wendt voted "nay" or "no" against the  
2 amendment to standardize and create a standard and  
3 centralize the Employment Recruitment process for the  
4 Board of Review.

5 Let the record reflect that the ayes  
6 have it and the motion passes and the amendment shall  
7 go into effect.

8 Motion 7. Is there a motion to adopt  
9 the Cook County Board of Review Public Comment Policy?

10 MR. CABONARGI: Commissioner Rogers, I so  
11 move that whereas the Cook County Board of Review  
12 periodically assesses its current policies and  
13 procedures to ensure that they comport with current  
14 legal standards remain compatible with Cook County  
15 policies and incorporate best practices, therefore the  
16 Cook County Board of Review desires to offer  
17 opportunities for public comment during Board meetings  
18 in a manner that maximizes constituent input while  
19 retaining structure and efficiencies. It is therefore  
20 moved that the Cook County Board of Review adopt the  
21 submitted Public Comment Policy.

22 CHAIRMAN ROGERS: Hearing the motion and  
23 seconded, let the record reflect that Mr. Rogers second  
24 the motion. All in favor of the motion indicate by

1 saying "aye".

2 MR. CABONARGI: Aye.

3 CHAIRMAN ROGERS: Aye. Let the record  
4 reflect that Mr. Rogers and Commissioner Cabonargi  
5 voted in favor of Motion 7 to adopt a Cook County Board  
6 of Review Public Comment Policy.

7 All against that policy indicate so by  
8 saying "nay"?

9 COMMISSIONER WENDT: Yeah, I want to say that  
10 I'm voting nay on all these policies. Not only because  
11 I wasn't consulted on any of them. But again I want to  
12 echo what I stated earlier, that I think it gives the  
13 appearances of impropriety that you are trying to push  
14 through six new policies while you have control of the  
15 Board of Review. I think that everybody can see that.  
16 So I'm voting nay again.

17 CHAIRMAN ROGERS: Just to briefly respond to  
18 that. I think irrespective of when they are passed, it  
19 is important to have rules in effect on the issues that  
20 have been raised by these motions. Your Chief of Staff  
21 received each of these as did each Commissioner's Chief  
22 of Staff. We received no comment from you and no  
23 objection from you. We cannot cease to operate and  
24 function as a Board simply because we received no

1 participation from you. So we have moved forward. Any  
2 new Commissioner who comes in is free to review these,  
3 make any suggestions or amendments. There is no effort  
4 to preclude that. Right now we have three elected  
5 Commissioners who are charged with running the agency.  
6 That doesn't stop because someone may be coming in a  
7 month or so. So I did take issue with the way you  
8 characterized it. I don't think it's fair or accurate.

9 COMMISSIONER WENDT: Well, I take issue with  
10 the way that you are characterizing that it's our job  
11 to implement policy when -- what have you been doing  
12 for the last two years while I have been here. You  
13 know, why do you have to push through seven a couple  
14 weeks before the majority of the Board leaves? That's  
15 all.

16 CHAIRMAN ROGERS: On the question, Motion 7,  
17 all in favor of the adoption of the Cook County Board  
18 of Review Public Comment Policy indicate so by saying  
19 "aye".

20 MR. CABONARGI: Aye.

21 CHAIRMAN ROGERS: Aye. All opposed indicate  
22 so by saying "nay". I think we voted actually already  
23 and Commissioner Wendt you said "nay". Let the record  
24 reflect that the ayes have it and the motion passes and

1 the rule shall be adopted as reflected in the motion.

2 I do want to go back to the adoption of  
3 the minutes. I believe we need to also formally adopt  
4 the minutes from August 31st.

5 MR. CABONARGI: So moved.

6 CHAIRMAN ROGERS: I will second that motion.

7 COMMISSIONER WENDT: That's not on the  
8 agenda.

9 CHAIRMAN ROGERS: It was on the agenda at the  
10 prior Board meeting and continued to this one. All in  
11 favor of approving the August 31, 2022 minutes,  
12 indicate by saying "aye".

13 MR. CABONARGI: Aye.

14 CHAIRMAN ROGERS: All opposed?

15 COMMISSIONER WENDT: I don't think that we  
16 can legally approve these minutes. They are not on the  
17 agenda.

18 CHAIRMAN ROGERS: Nay or abstention.

19 COMMISSIONER WENDT: That is nay.

20 CHAIRMAN ROGERS: Let the record reflect that  
21 the ayes have it and the minutes from August 31st are  
22 hereby approved.

23 Before we move on, I do want to extend  
24 an opportunity for comment under the New Business



1 section of our agenda on the departure of a colleague  
2 who has done, in my estimation and opinion, a fantastic  
3 job at the Cook County Board of Review over the last  
4 eleven years. He has brought a number of different  
5 improvements to the agency. He has worked tirelessly  
6 to ensure that taxpayers throughout Cook County receive  
7 a fair, honest and thorough evaluation of their  
8 assessment appeals. He has just been an outstanding  
9 colleague to work with. In that regard, I believe we  
10 have a resolution. I would ask our Secretary, Jonathan  
11 Chapman, to read the resolution that will be presented  
12 to Commissioner Cabonargi.

13                   What Mr. Chapman is showing you now is a  
14 plaque that will be present to Mr. Cabonargi. It  
15 reads: Honoring your service presented to Mr. Michael  
16 Cabonargi, we sincerely appreciate your hard work and  
17 commitment. Thank you for over eleven years of loyal  
18 and dedicated service to the Cook County Board of  
19 Review from February 2011 through November 2022. I'm  
20 sorry, Jonathan, you are muted. Did you have something  
21 to add?

22                   MR. CHAPMAN: Yes. It is both an honor and a  
23 pleasure to read the resolution honoring Commissioner  
24 Michael Mario Cabonargi for his service to Cook County,

1 Illinois.

2                   And whereas, Commissioner Michael Mario  
3 Cabonargi has had an accomplished and wildly admired  
4 four term tenure as Commissioner of the Cook County  
5 Board of Review.

6                   And whereas, Commissioner Cabonargi  
7 leaves the Cook County Board of Review, the Board, when  
8 his terms ends on December 2, 2022.

9                   And whereas, Commissioner Cabonargi  
10 received his JD with honors from the University of  
11 Illinois, College of Law and a B.A. in Political  
12 Science and a B.A. in Foreign Affairs from Miami  
13 University.

14                   And whereas, Commissioner Cabonargi  
15 began his career in public service as an aide to United  
16 States Senator, Richard J. Durbin and United States  
17 Senator Paul Simon.

18                   And whereas, Commissioner Cabonargi  
19 continued his public service as the Senior attorney in  
20 the Chicago Regional Office of the United States  
21 Securities and Exchange Commission from 2005 to 2011  
22 and investigated and litigated a wide variety of cases  
23 including insider trading, offering fraud, pay to play,  
24 Pyramid/Ponzi Scheme and received the SEC Director's

1 Award for Excellence for combating financial fraud  
2 targeting seniors and the Chairman Award for bringing  
3 the largest private offering fraud case by the  
4 Commission in the amount of \$2.8 billion.

5 And whereas, Commissioner Cabonargi was  
6 appointed and sworn in on February 10, 2011 as the  
7 Commissioner of the Second District of the Cook County  
8 Board of Review by Chief Judge, Timothy Evans.

9 And whereas, Commissioner Cabonargi has  
10 worked to ensure homeowners and business owners receive  
11 a full and fair review of the assessed values of their  
12 properties and to guarantee schools and local  
13 communities to receive their needed revenues when they  
14 need them.

15 And whereas, to accomplish these goals,  
16 Commissioner Cabonargi has worked to make the Board  
17 more transparent, open, efficient and effective, and it  
18 has contacted more than \$1.5 million residents and held  
19 hundreds of community outreach sessions to educate  
20 homeowners and help them file appeals with the Board.

21 And whereas, Commissioner Cabonargi  
22 further opened the Board for the public by making  
23 translations of the Board's appeals forms and  
24 presentations available in Spanish, Polish, Korean,

1 Mandarin and Cantonese.

2           And whereas, Commissioner Cabonargi  
3 specialized his staff and supported modernizing the  
4 technology of the Board, hiring attorneys and real  
5 estate professionals to serve as analysts and hearing  
6 officers, drafted the Board's Ethics Policy and  
7 collaborated to provide an on-site training program  
8 with coursework offered by the Illinois Department of  
9 Revenue and leading property appraisal organizations.

10           And whereas, in his first year at the  
11 Board in 2011, Commissioner Cabonargi supported the  
12 development and implementation of an online complaint  
13 system for taxpayers to appeal their assessments  
14 online. And by 2014 more than 86 percent of all  
15 appeals were filed online as the Board launched a  
16 Digital Appeals Processing System known as DAPS, one of  
17 the most advanced technology projects undertaken by  
18 Cook County.

19           And whereas, DAPS, re-engineered and  
20 digitized the appeal review process saved Cook County  
21 residents millions of dollars in employee overtime and  
22 physical rent and ultimately provided residents a more  
23 efficient, complete and reliable review of the appeal.

24           And whereas, in 2017 the Board of Review knew

1 DAPS system was recognized with an Achievement Award in  
2 Information Technology from the National Association of  
3 Cook County. And in 2022 the Board was named a  
4 finalist for the Granicus Digital Government Award for  
5 Digital Government Experience for organizations that  
6 improve the online end to end government experience for  
7 their residents.

8                   And whereas, Commissioner Cabonargi  
9 played a leadership role in getting tax money on time  
10 to schools and local communities for the first time in  
11 34 years leading public schools and other local  
12 services to not incur the expense of short-term loans  
13 and lost interest on rainy day reserve funds while they  
14 waited for their property tax revenue.

15                   And whereas, the Commissioners of the  
16 Cook County Board of Review wish Mike well on his next  
17 chapter of life with his wife, Erin, and sons Will and  
18 Jack.

19                   Therefore, be it resolved that the  
20 Chairman and the Commissioners of the Cook County Board  
21 of Review on behalf of the 5.2 million taxpayers of  
22 Cook County congratulate Michael Mario Cabonargi on his  
23 tenure as past Chairman and Commissioner of the Cook  
24 County Board of Review.

1                   And, be it further resolved that a  
2   suitable copy of this resolution be spread among the  
3   official proceedings of this honorable body and that an  
4   official copy of the same be tendered to Michael Mario  
5   Cabonargi.

6                   CHAIRMAN ROGERS: Good job, Jonathan. As  
7   Chairman of the Board of Review, I put forth that  
8   resolution for inclusion in the official record of the  
9   Board of Review. I want to thank you personally, Mike.  
10   You have been a fantastic Commissioner to work with. I  
11   have had a chance to work with a variety of  
12   Commissioners over the years. And your service to Cook  
13   County and the Board has been absolutely outstanding.  
14   You will be missed. Your efforts at the Board, your  
15   commitment to the taxpayers of Cook County, everything  
16   about you and what you've done as a Commissioner is  
17   something you should be very proud of, something I'm  
18   very proud of. I will forever be indebted to you as  
19   will the citizens of the Cook County. Thank you for  
20   your service.

21                   MR. CABONARGI: Thank you very much. I'm  
22   surprised. I didn't know you all were doing this. I'm  
23   really touched. I loved working at the Board for  
24   eleven years. We've got just a really remarkable team.

1 And we have all talked about it. But what we do is  
2 behind the scenes. The Board of Review isn't some  
3 place that most folks interact with in their day-to-day  
4 lives. What we do is really important.

5 I took my staff out earlier this week to  
6 thank them for working 58 hours a week for eleven weeks  
7 in a row this summer to do their part to get the bills  
8 out on time. And I'm pleased to say it appears that  
9 the bills will be going out this year so that  
10 homeowners would be helped and Cook County can write  
11 out their property taxes on their income tax bill next  
12 year. Get some tax relief.

13 When I looked around my staff, I was  
14 just so happy and humbled and just excited. They are  
15 really -- and the larger staff of the Board is this way  
16 as well. They work really hard, really smart. It is  
17 really a low drama team where folks just have their  
18 work to do.

19 And again, Commissioner Rogers, you  
20 remember in March of 2020 we were sitting around in the  
21 hearing room waiting to be told that the elevator would  
22 be shut down and we would all have to evacuate the  
23 building because there is this COVID virus and we all  
24 couldn't be together. And then Commissioner Pawlack

1 and you and I said, I think the safe thing to do is let  
2 the staff go home. They worked remotely. And they are  
3 just professionals. Everybody there -- it is -- you  
4 all do a great job. And thank you for what you are  
5 doing.

6 Before this meeting, the Commissioners  
7 had a meeting with President Preckwinkle and the larger  
8 tax team Assessor's Office, Treasurer, what have you.  
9 It just reminded us again what all of you do here is so  
10 important.

11 As you mentioned, when you were reading  
12 out my background, I spent my career in public service.  
13 I believe that is the most noblest call you could have  
14 is to be in public service. And I've worked with a lot  
15 of folks in all three branches of government, the  
16 Executive, Legislative and Judicial. And I would stack  
17 anybody at the Board of Review against any of them. So  
18 thank you.

19 I don't know what I'm doing next, but I  
20 look forward to keeping in touch with all of you.  
21 Thank you so much for the plaque. I look forward to  
22 getting that and a place where Erin will let me hang it  
23 at home. And where my kids will at some point move it  
24 and hang something else. But thank you. I am going to



1 try not to get too choked up. It has been a real  
2 pleasure working with folks.

3 I'm really, really proud of the Board of  
4 Review that I'm stepping away from and I will always  
5 look fondly on my days here. So thank you.

6 CHAIRMAN ROGERS: Thank you. I would just  
7 include my comments by saying that public service is  
8 not easy. When you are elected to office, it is very  
9 easy for others to sit on the sidelines and throw  
10 stones and lodge criticisms and baseless attacks. It  
11 takes a lot to sit back and listen to those and  
12 recognize them for what they are and not respond in  
13 kind. It's very challenging to do that. You have done  
14 a yoeman's job and not elevating baseless criticisms  
15 and attacks and giving them any more air than they  
16 deserve. You have been a fantastic public service and  
17 you should leave this office knowing that we all  
18 recognize that and are appreciative.

19 I have worked with a lot of different  
20 Commissioners. I've had some that are easy to work  
21 with, some that are not. But again, I try to recognize  
22 and appreciate how difficult public service can be. A  
23 lot of times people run for office and throwing stones  
24 and once they get in, they are still throwing stones,

1 not appreciating that they are in the office and could  
2 bring about changes today that need to be made. So you  
3 didn't do that. You ran. You won. And you served.  
4 So thank you.

5 COMMISSIONER CABONARGI: I appreciate that.  
6 Thank you.

7 CHAIRMAN ROGERS: With that, we'll move on  
8 down the agenda to Executive Session. Is there any  
9 issue that needs to be discussed in Executive Session?

10 (NO RESPONSE)

11 CHAIRMAN ROGERS: Hearing none, is there a  
12 motion to adjourn the meeting?

13 MR. FIELDMAN: Commissioner Rogers, can I  
14 finish reading my public comment?

15 CHAIRMAN ROGERS: The period of time for  
16 public comment has concluded and you were granted the  
17 allotted time. So no. Is there a motion to --

18 MR. CABONARGI: Commissioner Rogers, I would  
19 like my last action here. I move to adjourn the  
20 meeting of the Board of Review.

21 CHAIRMAN ROGERS: Is there a second? I  
22 second the motion.

23 COMMISSIONER WENDT: Second.

24 THE COURT: All in favor of adjourning the

1 meeting of the Board of Review indicate by saying  
2 "aye".

3 COMMISSIONER WENDT: Aye.

4 COMMISSIONER CABONARGI: Aye.

5 CHAIRMAN ROGERS: Aye. Let the record  
6 reflect that the motion to adjourn passes unanimously  
7 and the Board is hereby adjourned. Thank you all for  
8 attending the meeting. Thank you.

9

10 (WHEREUPON the meeting was  
11 adjourned at 3:12 p.m.)

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1 STATE OF ILLINOIS )

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3 COUNTY OF C O O K )

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5 C E R T I F I C A T E

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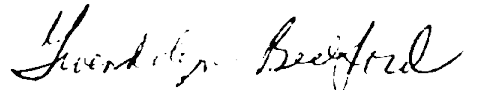
7 The within and foregoing meeting was taken  
8 before GWENDOLYN BEDFORD, Certified Shorthand Reporter  
9 and Notary Public, in the City of Chicago, County of  
10 Cook and State of Illinois.

11 The undersigned is not interested in the  
12 within meeting, nor of kin or counsel to any of the  
13 members.

14 IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my  
15 hand this 4th day of December, 2022.

16

17



GWENDOLYN BEDFORD, C.S.R.  
No. 084-003700

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