



OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
STATE OF ILLINOIS

KWAME RAOUL
ATTORNEY GENERAL

July 6, 2022

Via electronic mail

The Honorable Bret Austin
Chairman, Finance Committee
Adams County Board
507 Vermont Street
Quincy, Illinois 62301
financechair@co.adams.il.us
and countyboard@co.adams.il.us

RE: OMA Request for Review – 2022 PAC 72471

Dear Mr. Austin:

The Public Access Bureau has received the enclosed Request for Review under section 3.5(a) of the Open Meetings Act (OMA) (5 ILCS 120/3.5(a) (West 2020)) from Mr. Barney Bier alleging that the Finance Committee (Committee) of the Adams County Board (Board) potentially violated OMA during its May 9, 2022, meeting. We have determined that further action is warranted.

In this Request for Review, received July 1, 2022, Mr. Bier alleged that the Committee improperly discussed the salaries of elected officials in closed session on May 9, 2022.¹

In order to further evaluate this matter, this office requests that the Committee provide this office with copies of the agenda, open and closed session minutes (in draft form if necessary), and closed session verbatim recording from its May 9, 2022, meeting for this office's review; this office will keep the closed session materials confidential. This office also asks the Committee to respond in writing to the allegation that it violated OMA by discussing elected

¹Mr. Bier also submitted a Request for Review concerning the Board's May 10, 2022, meeting, which is under review in file number 2022 PAC 72471.

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officials' salaries in closed session because that topic does not fall within the scope of any exception set out in section 2(c) of OMA.²

As required by section 3.5(b) of OMA (5 ILCS 120/3.5(b) (West 2020)), please provide this information to our office within 7 business days after receipt of this letter. As we review this matter, we will notify you if we require additional records or information. Please note that under OMA, this office is required to forward a copy of any response to the requester and to provide the requester with an opportunity to reply. 5 ILCS 120/3.5(c) (West 2020). The Act also permits the public body to provide a redacted version of its response for release to the requester. Accordingly, **if you claim that any portion of your written response is confidential, please send two versions of your response letter: a complete copy for this office's confidential review and a redacted version suitable for this office to forward to the requester.**

Please contact me at joshua.jones@ilag.gov if you have questions or would like to discuss this matter. Thank you.

Very truly yours,



JOSHUA M. JONES
Deputy Bureau Chief
Public Access Bureau

Enclosure

cc: *Via electronic mail*
Mr. Barney Bier
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²5 ILCS 120/2(c) (West 2020), as amended by Public Acts 102-237, effective January 1, 2022; 102-520, effective August 20, 2021; 102-558, effective August 20, 2021; 102-813, effective May 13, 2022.