

**From:** Brenda Jones [mailto:brenda@aptalaska.net]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 14, 2012 3:16 PM  
**To:** Julie Cozzi  
**Cc:** sscott@aptalaska.net  
**Subject:** Re: Financial Disclosure

Hi Julie,

Per Stephanie's note below: I am requesting the Assembly hold finalization of the ordinance regarding the local financial disclosure law until the August 28th meeting. This is to allow Assembly more time for input.

Thank you,  
Brenda Jones

On Mon, 13 Aug 2012 19:26:18 -0800, Stephanie Scott wrote:

Hi Brenda,

Unfortunately the school board and the assembly are meeting on the same night! This is happenstance.

Apparently the regularly scheduled school board meeting (August 7) was rescheduled for the 14th. I showed up for the August 7 meeting!

One thing that you could do is request Assembly members, via email through Julie Cozzi ([jcozzi@haines.ak.us](mailto:jcozzi@haines.ak.us)) to hold the ordinance containing the local law over to the August 28th meeting. Doing so will not pose any problem and will give the Assembly more time for input.

I think I mentioned that I will not be chairing tomorrow evening's meeting. I will be in Bethel!

I appreciate dialoguing with you. Thanks to our conversation, I have had an "ah ha" realization. That is: neither financial disclosure filing law (not the state, not the local) demands that any elected official make a public declaration of a conflict of interest. The only law that does that is our existing code of ethics. This is ever so important to take in. A person files the financial disclosure on March 15 annually. Things can happen in the interim. Regardless of what is filed, if a substantial financial interest is held in any matter before the Assembly, our existing code requires declaration of that interest. Following the declaration, the presiding officer rules on whether or not the member must stand aside for the discussion, for the vote. The presiding officer's decision can be overridden by a vote of the Assembly. So many Alaskan communities have concurred that ethics codes exactly like ours protect the public's interest. I agree. Under our existing ethics code, any one at all can challenge any elected or appointed officials' financial entanglement in a matter before the body. What is required is the will and courage to do so. Perhaps having a document that discloses financial interests on file will help people feel more comfortable making the public challenge. I can support that.

I believe that our code of ethics required me to prohibit Debra Schnabel from discussing issues related to manager hire once she filed her application for the position. The safety for the public is the local codified code of ethics.

That is our law. I think it is sufficient, but as I said, I do not object to filing the paper that lists sources of financial sustenance.

Sincerely,  
Stephanie

On Aug 13, 2012, at 5:46 PM, Brenda Jones wrote:

Hi Stephanie,

Thank you for the additional information you provided. Please advise the process for the assembly discussion/action on the memo you attached.

I hope to have an opportunity to discuss this further before the chamber board meeting on Friday. Please let me know your availability for a teleconference.

Thanks again,

Brenda