

**Delaware Coalition for Open Government  
Virtual Board Meeting by Zoom  
Tuesday, March 4, 2025**

**Meeting Minutes**

**Present:** John Kowalko III, Al Jackson, Anita Rush, John Flaherty, Coralie Pryde, Keith Steck, Nick Wasileski, Rep. John Kowalko, Katherine Ward

**Absent:** None

**DelCOG Members:** Connie Merlet, Amy Roe

**Call to Order:** John Kowalko III called meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.

**Order of Business**

Welcome and introductions by John Kowalko III.

No minutes were approved because they had not been written yet.

Treasurer's report by Anita Rush.

**Committee Reports**

1. Inspector General Committee
  - a. Nick reported that the OIG bill was introduced as SB 4 and is waiting on a committee hearing in Senate
2. Inspector General Book Chapter Committee
  - a. No update
3. FOIA Committee
  - a. No update
4. LLC Committee
  - a. Nick reported that the beneficial owner reporting requirement went active a year ago, but a federal court case put it on hold until it was overturned. FinCEN was supposed to require disclose by March 21, but that has been delayed to allow for further time for compliance.
5. Bylaws and Procedures Committee
  - a. No update
6. Technology Committee
  - a. No updates

**Unfinished Business**

1. General Assembly Renovation

- a. John F reported that the Bond Bill Committee will meeting on March 31, with OMB seeking \$50 million for the proposed renovations
  - b. Already appropriated around \$47 million, and looking for another \$50 next year in addition to \$50 this year
  - c. John F will be on WDEL each week with Rick Jensen to give updates from 1-1:30pm on Thursdays
2. DOL Embezzlement
  - a. Nick reported there has been no investigations or accountability in the 2 years since the scandal occurred and proposed writing an op-ed

## **New Business**

1. Resignation of Sharon Kwiatkowski from Board
2. Nomination of Keith Steck to Board
  - a. Motion by John Kowalko III passed unanimously: **Nominate Keith Steck to the Board of Directors.**
3. Lead Free Delaware Sign-On Letter
  - a. Amy Roe reported that a FOIA complaint was sent on March 3 with several organizations regarding Sunset Committee
  - b. Concerns expressed over lack of transparency at Sunset Committee
  - c. John F noted that it is the only committee established by statute
4. SB 13 & HB 311
  - a. Amy will send letter to John K to forward to rest of Board, with plan to vote on it at next meeting
5. City of Newark Folk Memorial Park FOIA Request
6. HB 9 (Dual State Employment)
  - a. Motion by John F passed unanimously: **DelCOG supports strengthening double dipping laws by supporting HB 9.**
7. HB 6 (State Auditor Subpoena Power)
  - a. Motion by Keith passed unanimously: **DelCOG actively supports passing HB 6.**
8. SB 21 (Corporate Law Amendments)
  - a. Nick reported that the bill would curtail the effect that stockholders have over corporations and would allow boards to do whatever they want
    - i. Bill was written without the Corporate Law Council
    - ii. <https://www.cnn.com/2025/02/18/firm-representing-musk-tesla-drafts-bill-for-delaware-corporate-law.html>
    - iii. <https://www.businesslawprofessors.com/2025/02/delaware-decides-delaware-law-has-no-value/>
  - b. Motion by John K passed unanimously: **DelCOG opposes the changes to Delaware's Corporation Law proposed in SB 21.**
9. SB 44 (Port of Wilmington)
  - a. <https://spotlightdelaware.org/2025/01/22/wilmington-port-board-fight/>
10. League Day Sponsorship Request
  - a. John K reported that Tiffany Lydon has asked if we would sponsor the League Day event "Successful Delaware: Healthy, Housed, Educated", which would be

“addressing the intersectionality of an insufficient healthcare workforce, a shortage of affordable housing and inadequate early care and education”

i. April 8 in Dover, with panel of subject matter experts

- b. Motion by John K passed unanimously: **DelCOG sponsor League Day in 2025 and provide \$400 for our sponsorship.**

11. DelCOG Franchise Tax

a. Nick reported that \$25 franchise tax was paid on January 22, 2025

- b. Motion passed unanimously: **Reimburse Nick \$25 for the DelCOG 2025 Franchise Tax.**

12. DelCOG Tax Return

- a. Nick reported that he would be submitted tax return in next week or two on 990ez.org.

**Open Forum**

Rep. John Kowalko discussed corporate giveaways.

**Next Meeting**

Next meeting will be on April 1, 2025.

**Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned by John Kowalko III.

*Submitted by John Kowalko III, President.*