

ST. MARY'S COUNTY ETHICS COMMISSION

MINUTES OF JANUARY 5, 2004

Rm. 14, St. Mary's County Governmental Center

Present: Martha M. Neal, Ph.D., Chair
David Deaderick, Vice Chair
George Baroniak, Member
Shirley Baldwin, Executive Secretary

Absent: Viola Gardner, Member
Zora Siemasko, Member

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Neal at 2:06 p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Dr. Neal reminded the Committee that she will be out of town and not attending meetings until the first meeting in April.

Ms. Siemasko was excused from attending today's meeting due to family matters.

REVIEW/APPROVE MINUTES

Minutes of December 15, 2003 The motion was made by Mr. Deaderick to abbreviate the discussion under New Business regarding the School Board. Mr. Baroniak seconded. The minutes were approved as amended.

The dates for filing Financial Disclosure Statements as well as follow-up action as stated in the minutes will be sent to the Webmaster for posting on the website.

FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE STATEMENTS

- Status 2002 Outstanding. No change in the status of 2002. There are still three outstanding, two of whom are no longer serving and one serving on the Plumbing Board. No progress has been made in obtaining the FDS from the person serving on the Plumbing Board. Dr. Neal will contact the County Attorney to have him follow up with the BOCC.
- Review Session. Seven financial disclosure statements were reviewed. Six were approved and one was held pending further information.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- Alternate Member. Dr. Neal sent a memo to Mr. Forrest regarding appointment of an alternate member. Mr. Forrest responded that a person has been identified as a potential candidate, but no action will be taken until after the BOCC meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

- Request for Advisory Opinion from Clare Whitbeck. Ms. Whitbeck requested an Advisory Opinion regarding whether there is a conflict of interest in voting on public school salaries when the member's spouse has a cousin who is employed as a nurse in the St. Mary's County Public School System. The Ethics Commission determined that there is no conflict of interest.
- Request for Advisory Opinions from Mary Broadhurst. Ms. Broadhurst requested an Advisory Opinion regarding whether a conflict of interest exists when a Board of Education member's spouse is president of the Education Association of St. Mary's County (EASMC) and the Board is considering a contract with teachers who are represented by the EASMC in negotiations with St. Mary's County Public School System. The Ethics Commission determined that a conflict of interest does exist.

Ms. Broadhurst also requested an Advisory Opinion on whether a conflict of interest exists when a Board of Education member's spouse is the former president of the EASMC which represents teachers in contract negotiations with St. Mary's County Public Schools. She further asks whether a conflict of interest exists when the spouse of a Board of Education member is a teacher in the St. Mary's County Public School System. The Ethics Commission determined that there is no conflict of interest in either case.

Dr. Neal will draft the above Advisory Opinions and distribute them to members for final approval and signature..

- Education Tools. Dr. Neal handed out a card produced by Science Applications International Corporation regarding company ethics as a sample of a tool that could be used by the Ethics Commission.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Deaderick made the motion to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Baroniak. Meeting adjourned at 3:10 p.m