

ST. MARY'S COUNTY ETHICS COMMISSION

MINUTES OF January 8, 2007

St. Mary's County Governmental Center

Members Present: George E. Baroniak, Chair

Joseph B. Bush, Vice Chair

Warren Kunz, Member

Viola M. Gardner, Alternate

Susan J. Wolfe, Executive Secretary

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Baroniak at 2:00 p.m.

Mr. Goeller was not able to attend the meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Next Meeting. The next meeting will be held on January 22, 2007.

REVIEW/APPROVE MINUTES:

Minutes of December 18, 2006. A motion was made by Ms. Gardner to accept the minutes as written. The motion was seconded and carried.

FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE STATEMENTS:

Of the three individuals who did not file Financial Disclosure Statements for CY 2005, two moved from the area and one did not serve during the year.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

FY08 Budget Process. Mr. Baroniak contacted the Director for Human Resources about a raise for the Executive Secretary. Ms. Sabo will provide a response as soon as possible as how to determine a raise for a hourly employee.

VOTE TO MOVE INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Mr. Bush made a motion to move into Executive Session as provided for in Article 25, Section

4-210(a)(1) Boards and Commissions and the St. Mary's County Ethics Ordinance Rules of Procedure, Section 7, and the motion was seconded. Motion carried, 4-0.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Present: George Baroniak, Chair

Joseph Bush, Vice Chair

Warren Kunz, Member

Viola Gardner, Alternate

Authority: St. Mary's County Code, Article 25, Section 4-210(a)(1) Boards and Commissions; St. Mary's County Ethics Commission Rules of Procedure, Section 7.

Time Held: 2:30 to 2:35 p.m.

Mr. Bush moved that the Executive Session be closed. The motion was seconded and approved.

The regular meeting resumed at 2:36 p.m.

Revised Ethics Ordinance. Mr. Baroniak noted he spoke with the County Attorney about the revised Ethics Ordinance. The County Attorney noted the busy schedule of the Board of County Commissioners and recommended that the Ethics Commission concerns about the BOCC revision of Ethics Ordinance be discussed later in the year. A discussion ensued about which revision of the Ethics Ordinance is now in force. It was agreed that the BOCC revision is now in place and any Ethics Commission concerns about that revision should be addressed as soon as possible. The Ordinance has not yet been published.

Lobbying. Members discussed the Commission's role in the registration and review of lobbying disclosure forms and related annual reports. Mr. Baroniak will invite a recent contact to advise the Commission on changes in lobbying rules for the Federal government. Information on any changes to lobbying regulations at the State level will also be pursued. Members agreed that lobbying and the role of the Ethics Commission should be discussed at the proposed Tri-County ethics training.

NEW BUSINESS:

None.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

None.

ADJOURNMENT:

A motion was made by Ms. Gardner to adjourn the meeting at 2:54 p.m. The motion was seconded and carried.