

ST. MARY'S COUNTY ETHICS COMMISSION

MINUTES OF JANUARY 27, 2003

Second Floor Conference, Governmental Center

Present: Dr. M. Martha Neal, Chair
David Deaderick, Member
Zora Siemasko, Member
Shirley Baldwin, Executive Secretary

Excused: John Roberts, Member

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Neal by 2:10 p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

The February 3 meeting has been canceled. Mr. Deaderick will not be available to attend the Feb. 24 meeting and Dr. Neal will not be available for the March 3 meeting.

REVIEW/APPROVE MINUTES

Regular Minutes of January 6, 2003. Mr. Deaderick requested clarification on page 3, second full paragraph. Sentence changed to read "It was agreed the Statement itself does not necessarily indicate conflict of interest, it's the action of the filer while serving on the Board/Commission." Dr. Neal requested a change under "Announcements," sentence changed to read "Because of the lack of a quorum, [not because of holidays] the Feb. 3 meeting will be canceled."

Ms. Siemasko made the motion to approve as corrected, seconded by Mr. Deaderick. Motion carried.

Executive Minutes of January , 2003. Mr. Deaderick made the motion to approve as submitted, seconded by Ms. Siemasko. Motion carried.

FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE STATEMENTS

- Status 2000 outstanding

There has been no change with regard to those in non-compliance for 2000. There is one person in non-compliance for 2000 and 2001 who is still serving on a Board.

- **Status 2001 Outstanding**

There are currently 10 financial disclosure statements outstanding for 2001. It was agreed to make a final effort to telephone six of those people, one of whom is also in non-compliance for 2000, ask them to send their statement in prior to February 10. On February 14, we will send a letter to the BOCC advising them that we have exhausted our efforts and asking BOCC if they would like to dismiss the people who are still in non-compliance. At our next meeting on February 24, we will make a decision about following up with a court ordered cease and desist.

- **Review Session**

Seven FDS's were reviewed, six were approved and one will be returned for proper filing.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- **Advisory Opinions on Web Page**

The topic index has been forwarded to John Roth who is putting this on the web page. When complete, you will be able to click on the index to go to the advisory opinion. The 2002 advisory opinions have been forwarded to him. Shirley Baldwin will forward to Mr. Roth the advisory opinions which are in electronic format. We need to check with IT Dept. to find out how we can get the ones from 1990 - 1998 scanned.

- **Complaint #02-03**

The Ethics Commission did receive a supplement to the complaint filed and also received a response back from both the complainant and the respondent. The complainant said OK to go public; however, the respondent did not.

The Ethics Commission entered Executive Session at 3:10 p.m. and the regular meeting resumed at 3:27 p.m.

- **Education Program**

- **Board of Education:** No response received from Dr. Fulton regarding a presentation to the Board of Education.
 - **Sheriff's Department:** Mr. Deaderick was approached by the Sheriff who indicated he wanted to ask questions or get advice from the Ethics Commission. Mr. Deaderick e-mailed him the following options (1) a couple of members could visit with him; (2) he could come to one of our meetings where there is time for public comment and he could ask general questions; (3) Ethics Commission could make presentation to him and his senior staff; and (4) if there is anything specific he has in mind, we could respond in the form of an advisory opinion.
 - **Publicity:** Dr. Neal will meet with PIO Office following today's meeting to have a press release put in newspaper that the Ethics Commission will meet with organizations and do a presentation to those who are interested.
 - **Chamber of Commerce:** Dr. Neal contacted the Chamber of Commerce whose response was they would be glad to include us on their program; however, the next two meetings are full and they will get back in touch. Dr. Neal will follow up in March.
- **Review meeting with BOCC Jan. 14, 2003:**

The general consensus was that it was a good meeting and positive feedback was received.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Amendment of Community Health Advisory Committee Bylaws**

A memorandum was received from John B. Norris, III. County Attorney, submitting an amendment to the bylaws of the Community Health Advisory Committee. This was forwarded for review and determination as to whether or not requested amendments will require members to file financial disclosure forms.

It was determined that this only changes membership and nothing is presented that changes their status. A response will be sent to Mr. Norris that the Ethics Commission finds no reason for this group to file financial disclosure statements.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Deaderick moved to adjourn at 3:44 p.m., seconded by Ms. Siemasko. The motion carried.