

ST. MARY'S COUNTY ETHICS COMMISSION

MINUTES OF March 20, 2006

St. Mary's County Governmental Center

Members Present: George E. Baroniak, Vice Chair
Joseph Bush, Member
Arthur Goeller, Member
Viola M. Gardner, Alternate
Susan J. Wolfe, Executive Secretary

Others Present: Christy Holt Chesser, County Attorney
Fran Hammett, St. Mary's County Employees Association

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Baroniak at 2:04 p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Messrs. Deaderick and Kunz were unable to attend the meeting.

Mr. Baroniak introduced Ms. Chesser, the newly appointed County Attorney, and Ms. Hammett, representing the St. Mary's County Employees Association.

Next Meeting. The next meeting will be held on April 3, 2006.

REVIEW/APPROVE MINUTES:

Minutes of March 6, 2006. A motion was made by Mr. Bush to approve the minutes as written. The motion was seconded and carried.

FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE STATEMENTS:

Forty statements for calendar year 2005 were reviewed. To date, 198 statements have been reviewed.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Revised Ethics Ordinance; Maryland State Ethics Commission Advisory Opinion Re Acceptance of Tickets to College and Professional Sporting Events. Mr. Baroniak and other commission members provided a briefing to Ms. Chesser on the progress of the revised Ethics Ordinance and the recent State Ethics Commission decision on gifts of tickets to collegiate and professional sporting events. Copies of the revised Ordinance and the suggested changes to the "Gift" section will be forwarded to Ms. Chesser. Further changes to that draft were suggested by Messrs. Deaderick and Goeller. Further discussion will occur at the April 3 meeting.

Request for Information from St. Mary's County Employees Association. Ms. Hammett provided a briefing on the

purpose and activities of the Employees Association. The Association is requesting an advisory opinion on whether members may accept discounts offered by members of the St. Mary's County Chamber of Commerce. She noted that the St. Mary's County Government is a member of the Chamber. Discussion on this request will continue at the April 3 meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

Request for Information as to Whether a Candidate for County Commissioner Can Continue Serving as a Volunteer on a County Board/Commission. A request was received from a candidate for county commissioner as to whether he may continue to serve as a volunteer member of a county board/commission while running for office. After discussion it was agreed that Mr. Bush will draft the opinion for review at the April 3 meeting.

Alcohol Beverage Board. Members noted that four members of the Alcohol Beverage Board were not reappointed by the Governor for 2006. Those members are responsible for filing calendar year 2005 Financial Disclosure statements.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

None.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Bush moved to adjourn at 3:09 p.m. The motion was seconded and carried.