

ST. MARY'S COUNTY ETHICS COMMISSION

MINUTES OF April 3, 2006

St. Mary's County Governmental Center

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

CALL TO ORDER:

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Next Meeting. The next meeting will be held on April 24, 2006.

REVIEW/APPROVE MINUTES:

Minutes of March 20, 2006. A motion was made by Mr. Baroniak to approve the minutes as written. The motion was seconded and carried.

FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE STATEMENTS:

To date, 221 statements have been reviewed. Reminder letters will be sent to all individuals who have not submitted their Financial Disclosure Statements for calendar year 2005, noting that statements are due no later than April 30 as required by the Ethics Ordinance.

Mr. Deaderick reported on a conversation with Merrill Rivers, Wicomico Shores Golf Course Advisory Board, in which Mr. Rivers asked about notifying his company about scrap metal removal as the golf course clubhouse is rebuilt.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Revised Ethics Ordinance; Maryland State Ethics Commission Advisory Opinion Re Acceptance of Tickets to College and Professional Sporting Events. Members agreed on the final redraft and Mr. Baroniak moved that Mr. Deaderick send it to the County Attorney for review. The motion was seconded and carried. After approval by the County Attorney, the revised Ordinance will be sent to the State Ethics Commission for review of the specific language regarding acceptance of tickets to collegiate and professional sporting events. After approval by the State Ethics Commission, the Ordinance will be presented to the Board of County Commissioners and then proceed through the public hearing process.

Request for an Advisory Opinion from St. Mary's County Employees Association. Mr. Baroniak will draft the advisory opinion. It will be reviewed at the April 24 meeting.

Request for an Advisory Opinion as to Whether a Candidate for County Commissioner Can Continue Serving as a Volunteer on a County Board/Commission. Mr. Bush will redraft the advisory opinion. It will be reviewed at the April 24 meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

Request for Information as to Whether a County Commissioner Who is a Member of a County Volunteer Fire Department May Vote on Budget Matters Pertaining to the Fire Department. As a member of the Leonardtown Volunteer Fire Department, Commissioner Mattingly sent a request to the Commission asking if it was a conflict for him as a county commissioner to vote on budget matters pertaining to that fire department. He will attend the April 24 meeting to discuss this matter.

Conversation with Member of Plumbing Board. Mr. Goeller reported that he contacted Charles Bryson, Plumbing Board, as a result of Mr. Bryson's request on his Financial Disclosure Statement. Mr. Bryson expressed concern that the Board meets very infrequently and he is concerned that they are not being utilized effectively as volunteer board members. Mr. Deaderick will contact George Forrest, County Administrator, about this matter and report back to the commission.

Business Cards. Mr. Deaderick requested that Ms. Wolfe prepare business cards for Commission members with a pointer to the URL of the Commission for those situations in which members between meetings are asked about the Ethics Ordinance or advisory opinion or complaint forms.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

None.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Baroniak moved to adjourn at 3:58 p.m.