

ST. MARY'S COUNTY ETHICS COMMISSION

St. Mary's County Potomac Building

Minutes of 4 August, 2008

MEMBERS PRESENT: Joseph B. Bush, Chair

Robert W. Denning, Vice Chair

Arthur F. Goeller, Member

George E. Baroniak, Member

Terri L. Holder, Member

Robert E. Elwood, Alternate Member

Sarah L. Cannavo, Executive Secretary

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Bush at 2:02 p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Next Meeting: The next meeting will be held on 18 August, 2008 in conference room 14 of the Potomac Building.

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Minutes of 21 July, 2008: Mr. Baroniak made a motion to accept the minutes as written. Motion seconded by Mr. Denning and carried.

Executive Session Minutes of 21 July, 2008: Mr. Baroniak made a motion to accept the minutes as written. Mr. Elwood seconded the motion. Motion carried.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

AO 2008-01: The commission reviewed and made several corrections to Advisory Opinion 2008-01. The advisory was reprinted, signed, and sent to the individual who requested the opinion.

Executive Session: Ms. Holder 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. The motion was seconded by Mr. Goeller. Motion carried, 5-0.

Executive Session: 2:15 p.m. to 2:22 p.m.

Mr. Goeller made a motion to close the Executive Session. The motion was seconded by Mr. Elwood. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

Annual Report: Mrs. Cannavo presented the 2007 Annual Report to the board for review. Several items in the report were changed and a final draft will be presented to the commission for approval during the next regularly scheduled meeting.

Advisory Opinion Procedures: During the course preparing the report, several questions arose concerning the issuance of Advisory Opinions versus Advisory Memorandums. The board determined that an Advisory Opinion should be issued whenever the Ethics Ordinance was used to reach a decision. An Advisory Memorandum would be used for all other cases to document actions taken by the commission.

Additionally, the commission decided to change the format used to issue Advisory Opinions. Members of the commission unanimously decided to return to the original Advisory Opinion format which included a "discussion" section. This section records the discussion and how Ethic Commission decisions are made on any given issue. A motion was made by Mr. Baroniak to change the Advisory Opinion format and was seconded by Mr. Goeller. Motioned carried.

FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE STATEMENTS:

Reviewed: Three Financial Disclosure Statements were reviewed.

Delinquent: There are 6 individuals who have failed to file their FDS in accordance with established timelines set forth in the Ethics Ordinance. A certified letter will be sent to these individual notifying them that the Ethics Commission will be forwarding their names to the County Administrator to enforce the Ethics Ordinance filing requirement.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Perkins Letter: Mr. Bush read a letter from Mr. Bruce Perkins, Charles County Ethics Commission, concerning the last Ethics meeting in which he attended. Mr. Perkins wished to thank the St. Mary's Ethics Commission for inviting him to attend the 7 July meeting and for sharing information to assist the Charles County Ethics Commission.

ADJOURNMENT:

A motion was made by Mr. Goeller to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Baroniak and the motion was carried. The St. Mary's County Ethics Commission was adjourned at 3:02 p.m.