

ST. MARY'S COUNTY ETHICS COMMISSION

MINUTES OF OCTOBER 20, 2003

Library, St. Mary's County Governmental Center

Present: Martha M. Neal, Ph.D., Chair
David Deaderick, Vice Chair
George Baroniak, Member
Zora Siemasko, Member
Shirley Baldwin, Executive Secretary

Absent: Viola Gardner, Member

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Neal at 2:00 P.M.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Mr. Deaderick will be away for the Nov. 3, 2003 meeting.

REVIEW/APPROVE MINUTES

Minutes of October 6, 2003 Mr. Baroniak made the motion to approve the minutes as submitted, seconded by Mr. Deaderick. Motion carried.

FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE STATEMENTS

- Status 2001 Outstanding. No change in the status of 2001.
- Status 2002 Outstanding. No change in the status of 2002. Dr. Neal will speak to Mr. Forrest again regarding the letter sent to the BOCC on 9/11/03. Mr. Baroniak will initiate a call to the member on the Plumbing Board who is still serving.
- Review Session. One financial disclosure statement reviewed and approved.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- Education Program: No new requests received.

State Ethics Commission Conference: On October 23, 2003, the State Ethics Commission will host a one-day statewide local government ethics conference in Annapolis. Mr. Baroniak, Mr. Deaderick and Ms. Siemasko will attend this meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

- Approved Budget for Fiscal Year 2004 has been received. Approved budget for \$8889, which is what was previously known. Also received was FY 2005 Budget Instructions. This will be put on the Ethics Commission agenda in February, 2004.

- Ethics Commission Meeting Schedule for 2004. The meeting schedule for 2004 was distributed. The motion was made by Mr. Deaderick that it be approved as submitted. This was seconded by Mr. Baroniak and motion carried.
- Verizon Wireless. A memorandum was received from Mr. John B. Norris, III, County Attorney, advising that Verizon Wireless has offered to State and County employees a discount for wireless cellular phone service. Mr. Norris questioned whether this benefit of reduced rates for wireless service may be passed along to County employees as a benefit without creating a conflict of interest. After discussion, it was decided to bring this up at the State Ethics Commission meeting scheduled for October 23, 2003, both during a session on Advisory Opinions and during the Wrap-Up session. This will be reviewed again under Unfinished Business at the November 3, 2003 meeting.
- Appointment to Emergency Services Committee. A memorandum was received from Mr. John B. Norris, III, County Attorney, advising that the Board of County Commissioners approved the appointment of Stanley Williams, Deputy Director of St. Mary's County Department of Emergency Management, was an alternate for Company 79 to the Emergency Services Committee. Mr. Norris advised that Mr. Williams is not currently required to file a financial disclosure statement; but he would advise him that such filing is a condition precedent to his serving as an alternate for his fire company on the Emergency Services Committee.

The activities of the Emergency Services Committee were reviewed. At the present time, the members of that committee are not required to file financial disclosure statements. This is something that needs to be looked at when the Ethics Ordinance is reviewed. That will be put on the agenda for the second meeting in November.

Mr. Deaderick made the motion to send a response to Mr. Norris that the Ethics Commission does not require members of the current Emergency Services Committee to file financial disclosure statements; therefore there is no requirement for Mr. Williams to file. The motion was seconded by Ms. Siemasko. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Deaderick made the motion to adjourn at 2:57 p.m., seconded by Mr. Baroniak. Motion carried.