

ST. MARY'S COUNTY ETHICS COMMISSION
St. Mary's County Potomac Building

Minutes of August 16, 2010

MEMBERS PRESENT: Robert W. Denning, Acting Chair
Robert E. Elwood, Vice Chair
Karin Bailey, Member
Elizabeth Long, Member

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Candace Butler, Alternate Member

OTHERS PRESENT: Sarah Cannavo, Staff Support
George Sparling, County Attorney

CALL TO ORDER:

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Next Meeting: The next meeting will be held on September 20, 2010, in Conference Room 14 of the Potomac Building.

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Minutes for Open Session of August 2, 2010: Mr. Elwood made a motion to accept the minutes with corrections. Motion was seconded by Ms. Bailey and carried.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

New Ordinance Requirements for filing of the Financial Disclosure Statements: Mr. Bob Hahn, State Ethics Commission, sent a letter to the County Attorney concerning the new State requirements for FDS filing by elected officials. Mr. Hahn asked that the individual counties delay the development of the new FDS form and any Ordinance changes until the State Ethics Commission has an opportunity to prepare a template and standardized procedures for the new policy and form.

Because the St. Mary's County Ethics Commission had been working on additional changes to the Ordinance (separate from those proposed by the state), members discussed whether to wait for the State changes or to proceed with the County changes during the current Legislative cycle. It was agreed upon that the Commission would wait to see how quickly the State moved on this process. If it did not appear that the state would be completed by the end of January, the membership would proceed with local changes.

Regional Ethics Training: The membership decided to wait until after the first of the year to host the next Regional Ethics Training. Members agreed that a February date would be best and will set an exact date at the next meeting when Ms. Butler was available.

Recommendation Letter to the Board of County Commissioners: Mr. Sparling, County Attorney, stated that submitting such a letter to the Board of County Commissioners would be outside the scope of the Ethics Commission. Mr. Sparling reminded the membership that their role is to 1) Provide Advisory Opinions when requested, 2) Receive and Rule on Complaints, 3) Training and Education and 4) Document review and processing (Financial Disclosure Statements, Lobbying Forms, and such).

NEW BUSINESS:

Vacancy: Mr. Elwood asked that discussion on filling the current membership vacancy be added to the agenda for the next meeting.

FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE STATEMENTS:

2 Financial Disclosure Statements were reviewed.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

None.

ADJOURNMENT:

A motion was made by Ms. Long to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Elwood and the motion was carried. The St. Mary's County Ethics Commission meeting was adjourned at 3:05 PM.