

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

Minutes of February 1, 2010

MEMBERS PRESENT: Joseph B. Bush, Chair
Robert W. Denning, Vice Chair
Arthur F. Goeller, Member
Robert E. Elwood, Member
Elizabeth Long, Member
Sarah Cannavo, Administrative Support

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Candace Butler, Alternate Member

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Bush at 2:05 p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Next Meeting: The next meeting will be held on February 16, 2010 in the Public Safety conference room.

Mr. Goeller will not be able to attend the next meeting.

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Minutes for Open Session of January 4, 2010: Ms. Long made a motion to accept the minutes as written. Motion seconded by Mr. Elwood and carried.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Ordinance Update: The Commission members reviewed feedback from four board / commissions concerning the proposed Ordinance change which would require the membership to file a Financial Disclosure Statement. Mr. Elwood will prepare a response to the Board of Code of Appeals and to the membership of the Library Board of Trustees. Ms. Cannavo will request official response from the board members / Chairpersons of the Airport Advisory Committee and the Agriculture, Seafood, and Forestry Commission.

Lobbyist: Mr. Elwood asked if individuals hired to represent property owners at Public Meetings (Planning Commission, Development Review Forum, Code of Appeals, etc) should be considered Lobbyist as defined in the County's Ethics Ordinance. Membership discussed the matter and determined that some individuals may in fact fall into the category of "Lobbyist" depending on other criteria which would need to be addressed on a case-by-case basis.

Commission members determined that the best course of action would be to send a memorandum reminding these individuals of the county's Lobbyist regulations and the requirements to register as a Lobbyist with the Ethics Commission.

NEW BUSINESS:

7% Reduction in Ethics Commission Budget: Ms. Cannavo provided budget material to the commission members requiring the Commission to identify areas of the current FY 2011 Budget that could be reduced by 7%. Mr. Elwood made a motion to reduce the Operating Supply Budget by \$8 (to \$175) and the Consulting Budget by \$50 (to \$600). Ms. Long seconded the motion and all members agreed. Motion carried.

FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE STATEMENTS:

60 FDS statements were reviewed.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

None.

ADJOURNMENT:

A motion was made by Mr. Denning to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Ms. Long and the motion was carried. The St. Mary's County Ethics Commission was adjourned at 3:20 PM.