

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

Minutes of December 5, 2011

MEMBERS PRESENT: Sean Rogers, Chair
Elizabeth Long, Vice Chair
Karin Bailey, Member
Kathy Suite, Member
Daniel Carney, Alternate Member

MEMBERS ABSENT: Robert Denning, Member

OTHERS PRESENT: Sarah Cannavo, Executive Secretary
George Sparling, County Attorney

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Rogers at 2:06 p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Next Meeting: The next meeting of the Ethics Commission will be held on January 9, 2012, in the Commissioners' Meeting Room of the Chesapeake Building.

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Minutes for Open Session of November 7, 2011: Ms. Long made a motion to accept the minutes as written. Motion was seconded by Ms. Suite and carried.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Update on Ethics Ordinance: Mr. Sparling briefed the membership on the status of the Ethics Ordinance. There were two sections that were being reviewed by the state to determine if the County requirements met the minimum state requirements. The State has not provided any feedback or clarification on these items. Mr. Sparling stated that he intends on presenting the Ordinance to the Board of County Commissioners in early January, with or without the State's input. Mr. Sparling will provide an email update to the Ethics Commission members once a date for Commissioner review / approval has been determined. Mr. Sparling will also provide any state input should it become available.

NEW BUSINESS:

Training for employees on new Ethics Ordinance: Mr. Rogers suggested that an agenda item be added for the next meeting to discuss the best method for training employees and board members on the new ordinance requirements. Items to consider before the next meeting would be:

- Who should received training
- What level of training is required
- Should there be different training for different levels of responsibility
- Training method (lecture, web-based, email, etc)

Frequency of meetings: The membership agreed to discuss the frequency of Ethics meetings; canceling meetings when there are no items on the agenda and adding meeting as needed (FDS review or complaint review). Members suggested a possible revision of the ordinance prior to BOCC review that eliminated the “minimum number of meetings” requirement.

FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE STATEMENTS:

Two FDSs were reviewed.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

None

ADJOURNMENT:

A motion was made by Ms. Long to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Ms. Bailey and the motion was carried. The St. Mary’s County Ethics Commission meeting was adjourned at 2:26 PM.