

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

Minutes of July 5, 2011

MEMBERS PRESENT: Robert W. Denning, Chair
Elizabeth Long, Member
Sean Rogers, Member
Kathy Suite, Member
Daniel Carney, Alternate Member

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Karin Bailey, Member

OTHERS PRESENT: Sarah Cannavo, Executive Secretary
David Weiskopf, Deputy County Attorney

CALL TO ORDER:

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Mr. Denning welcomed Mr. Carney, the newest member of the Ethics Commission. Mr. Carney will be filling the alternate member position vacated by Ms. Suite. Ms. Suite has been appointed as a primary member filling the seat vacated by Mr. Elwood.

Next Meeting: The next meeting of the Ethics Commission will be held on July 18, 2011, in conference room 14 of the Potomac Building.

Mr. Denning informed the membership that he will not be available for the next meeting. Ms. Long stated that she may be late to the meeting due to a possible conflict in her schedule.

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Minutes for Open Session of June 6, 2011: Ms. Long made a motion to accept the minutes as written. Motion was seconded by Mr. Rogers and carried.

Work Session Minutes of June 13, 2011: Ms. Long made a motion to accept the minutes as written. Motion was seconded by Ms. Suite and carried.

Agenda Change: Members moved to make a change in the agenda by reviewing the Financial Disclosures Statements prior to continuing the review of the draft ordinance.

FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE STATEMENTS:

Three FDS forms were reviewed.

Executive Session: Mr. Rogers 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 Ms. Long.

Executive Session: 2:19 PM to 2:30 PM.

Ms. Long made a motion to close the Executive Session. The motion was seconded by Mr. Rogers.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

New Ethics Ordinance: The members continued their review of the draft ordinance. There was lengthy discussion concerning the section involving Complaint Processing and the role of the Ethics Commission members during the initial Complaint Review (fact gathering stage). Ms. Long would like this section to be clarified by Mr. Sparling, specifically detailing the members' role during the interview process.

NEW BUSINESS:

Elections: Members discussed their interest in holding the position(s) of Chairperson or Vice Chairperson. Mr. Denning stated that he would prefer not to be nominated again and would like to give other members an opportunity to fill the leadership position(s). Ms. Cannavo will prepare ballots for the next meeting so members can vote for the new Ethics Commission officers.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

None

ADJOURNMENT:

A motion was made by Ms. Long to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Rogers and the motion was carried. The St. Mary's County Ethics Commission meeting was adjourned at 4:15 PM.