

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

Minutes of April 5, 2010

MEMBERS PRESENT: Robert W. Denning, Acting Chair
Robert E. Elwood, Member
Elizabeth Long, Member
Arthur F. Goeller, Member
Candace Butler, Alternate Member (arrived late)
Sarah Cannavo, Staff Support

CALL TO ORDER:

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Next Meeting: The next meeting will be held on April 19, 2010, in Conference Room 14 of the Potomac Building.

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Minutes for Open Session of March 15, 2010: Mr. Elwood made a motion to accept the minutes with correction. Motion was seconded by Mr. Goeller and carried.

Minutes for Executive Session of March 15, 2010: Mr. Goeller made a motion to accept the minutes as written. Motion was seconded by Mr. Elwood and carried.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Review of Complaint 10-02 and 10-04: Members finalized two complaints received on February 9, 2010. Members discussed the release of the findings; Mr. Denning informed the members that he had spoken to the State Ethics Commission and was instructed to release the information in accordance with the County and State Ethics Ordinance. Findings are independent of any ongoing litigation and should not be withheld.

Complaint 10-02: Ms. Long moved to dismiss the complaint due to lack of merit. Mr. Goeller seconded and the motion to dismiss carried 4/0.

Complaint 10-04: Ms. Long moved to dismiss the complaint due to lack of merit. Mr. Elwood seconded and the motion to dismiss carried 4/0.

Regional Ethics Conference: Mr. Goeller will prepare a presentation on behalf of the St. Mary's County Ethics Commission. Mr. Denning will be attending the event 5/14/10.

NEW BUSINESS:

Annual Report: Ms. Cannavo presented the membership with a draft of the 2009 Annual Report. Mr. Goeller stated that he would like to see more detail in the Advisory Opinion and Complaint section. The membership will review the report and provide feedback during the next regularly scheduled meeting.

Volunteer Applications: Ms. Cannavo presented the membership with a copy of volunteer applications for the upcoming June appointment cycle. There will be two vacancies during this cycle and members are asked to review the applications and provide selection recommendations to the Board of County Commissioners by May 21, 2010. Ms. Cannavo will arrange for the volunteers to appear before the Commission for a brief interview during the next meeting.

Maryland State Ethics Ordinance Revision: Members reviewed the SB315, Public Ethics Law – Elected Local Officials and Board of Education Members – Requirements. The new guidance has very little effect on the current County Ordinance; the county already is in compliance with the FDS requirements.

FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE STATEMENTS:

65 Financial Disclosure Statements were reviewed.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

None.

ADJOURNMENT:

A motion was made by Mr. Elwood to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Ms. Long and the motion was carried. The St. Mary's County Ethics Commission meeting was adjourned at 3:15 PM.