

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

Minutes of August 6, 2012

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

OTHERS PRESENT: Sarah Cannavo, Executive Secretary

CALL TO ORDER:

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Next Meeting: The next meeting of the Ethics Commission will be held on September 10, 2012, in the Commissioner's Meeting Room, Chesapeake Building. Ms. Long will not be able to attend.

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Minutes of June 4, 2012: Ms. Long made a motion to accept the minutes as written. Motion was seconded by Mr. Carney and carried.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Ethics Training – Next Steps: Mr. Rogers asked that the County Attorney, Mr. Sparling, provide an outline of key items from the new ordinance that should be included in the training material. Mr. Sparling responded, stating that although there were no "major changes" to the ordinance, some items that should be highlighted during the training are:

- Solicitation and acceptance of gifts
- Disclosure of confidential information
- Recusal for issues presenting conflict (specifically executives and managers)
- Use of prestige of office
- Appearance of impropriety

Mr. Sparling also thought that the training should emphasize the availability of Advisory Opinions to those employees who are unsure if their activities have / or will violate the Ethics Ordinance.

Members determined the best course of action would be to divide the Ordinance into sections and have each member develop a training outline on their portion.

NEW BUSINESS:

Advisory Opinion 2012-01: The Ethics Commission reviewed for the first time Advisory Opinion 2012-01. The requestor is an employee of MetCom and wishes to serve on the Leonardtown Planning and Zoning Board. The requestor has asked if this situation would pose a conflict of interest.

After initial review and brief discussion, the members determined that more information would be needed regarding the individual's current duties with MetCom and the proposed duties for the Leonardtown Planning and Zoning Board. Mr. Rogers stated that he would get the duty description for both positions for review and discussion at the next meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

None

ADJOURNMENT:

A motion was made by Ms. Long to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Denning and the motion was carried. The St. Mary's County Ethics Commission meeting was adjourned at 3:10 PM.