

# ST. MARY'S COUNTY ETHICS COMMISSION

MINUTES OF MAY 17, 2004

St. Mary's County Governmental Center  
Room 14

**Members Present:** David Deaderick, Vice Chair  
George Baroniak, Member  
Viola Gardner, Member  
Zora Siemasko, Member  
Shirley Baldwin, Executive Secretary  
John Norris, III, County Attorney

**Members Absent:** M. Martha Neal, Ph.D., Chair

## CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Deaderick at 2:08 p.m.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS:

The May 17, 2004 meeting will begin at 1:00 p.m. in an Executive Session with our attorney. A package of material was distributed for review prior to that meeting.

Ms. Siemasko will be unavailable July 12.

The Red Cross is sponsoring a Blood Drive Friday, May 21, 2004 from 9 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. at the Recreation Center.

## REVIEW/APPROVE MINUTES

Minutes of May 3, 2004 The motion was made by Mr. Baroniak to approve the minutes as written, seconded by Ms. Gardner. The motion carried.

## FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE STATEMENTS

Status of 2003 Outstanding It was noted that 246 statements have been mailed. There are two ready for Commission review with 10 outstanding.

Review Session Two financial disclosure statements were reviewed and approved.

Post-Service Filing of FDS Mr. Norris provided a draft copy of the St. Mary's County Government Organizational Chart, showing that some departments and/or positions have been abolished, and other departments have been combined. This will not be finalized until June when the budget is adopted and implemented in July. Consideration needs to be given to whether Division Heads within Departments need to file as they have a great deal of management over many of the day-to-day operations although subject to the approval of the Department Head. Since the reorganization is still a work in progress, the challenge will be keeping the Ordinance updated or providing a mechanism whereby a revision of the Ordinance is not needed but it is recognized that when certain changes happen, the Ordinance still applies. Mr. Norris gave examples of what some other jurisdictions are doing. Mr. Deaderick pointed out that our offer stands to make presentations to groups to enlighten them about the Ethics Ordinance and the rationale behind filing financial disclosure statements. With regard to small-area plans, Mr. Deaderick offered for the Ethics Commission to attend the first meeting of any small-area groups and make a presentation to them on conflicts of interest.

With regard to a letter received from a former staff member indicating there was no change in his financial disclosure statement since filing in 2002, Mr. Deaderick felt we needed to insist that he file another statement. Mr. Deaderick will draft a letter to be sent.

Mr. Norris will keep us up-to-date on the final reorganization of County Government.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

None

**NEW BUSINESS**

None

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

**ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Baroniak made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 2:52 p.m., seconded by Ms. Siemasko. Motion carried.