

ST. MARY'S COUNTY ETHICS COMMISSION

MINUTES OF September 13, 2004

St. Mary's County Governmental Center, Rm. 14

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

Members Absent: Arthur Goeller, Alternate Member

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Deaderick at 2:02 p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

The next meeting is scheduled for September 27, 2004.

REVIEW/APPROVE MINUTES:

Minutes of August 16, 2004. The motion was made by Mr. Baroniak to approve the minutes as presented, seconded by Mr. Bush. Motion carried.

FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE STATEMENTS

FDS Status: Mr. Norris advised that Mr. Savich, the staff person for the EDC, and who is also working with the Housing Authority, has contacted those individuals who have not filed to gain compliance.

Review Session: Two Financial Disclosure Statements were reviewed and approved. It was noted that one of the Statements contained a request for an Advisory Opinion, which Mr. Deaderick will follow up on and request that it be submitted in writing.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Revisions to Ethics Ordinance: As all changes to the Ethics Ordinance have been approved with the exception of Section 9 – Enforcement, Mr. Norris provided suggested language for this section, which is a composite of St. Mary's, Baltimore City, Carroll and Prince George's Counties. After discussion of Section 9. A, Ms. Gardner made the motion to approve the section as written. The motion was seconded by Mr. Bush. Motion carried.

Section 9. B. After discussion of this item, Mr. Baroniak made the motion to accept the language as written. This was seconded by Ms. Gardner. The motion carried.

Section 9. C. This item is already in our Ordinance, and is being re-numbered as an editorial change.

Section 9. D. Mr. Bush made the motion to approve this section as presented with one editorial change, the second "(ii)" will be changed to "(iii)." The motion was seconded by Mr. Baroniak. Motion carried.

Mr. Norris will provide a clean copy of the revised Ethics Ordinance for the next meeting.

Recognition of Dr. Neal's Service: Mr. Deaderick will contact Dr. Neal to determine her availability to attend the next meeting, where a plaque will be presented to her honoring her service as Chair of the Ethics Commission.

NEW BUSINESS

Requests for Advisory Opinions.

1. A letter dated August 27, 2004, was received from an individual who is employed by the St. Mary's County Public School System. Her letter raised questions regarding conflicts of interest regarding her additional employment as an independent consultant. It was agreed that this individual should be invited to the next meeting for further discussion. Mr. Deaderick will contact her and invite her to the meeting of September 27.
2. A letter dated September 12, 2004, was received from Commissioner Jarboe regarding a potential conflict of interest in the Wal-Mart matter. Mr. Jarboe requests that the Ethics Commission either affirm or correct his decision to recuse himself from any future votes regarding the Wal-Mart expansion issue. Mr. Deaderick will contact Mr. Jarboe and invite him to attend the meeting to be held September 27, 2004.
3. Mr. Norris informed the commission that a request for an advisory opinion would be forthcoming from Commissioner Raley regarding his participation in the Wal-Mart matter.

2005 Meeting Schedule – The meeting schedule for the Ethics Commission to meet in 2005 was distributed. The motion was made by Mr. Baroniak that the schedule as presented be adopted. Motion seconded by Mr. Bush. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Gardner moved to adjourn at 2:55 p.m., seconded by Mr. Bush. Motion carried.