

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

Minutes of December 15, 2008

MEMBERS PRESENT: Joseph B. Bush, Chair
Robert W. Denning, Vice Chair
George E. Baroniak, Member
Robert E. Elwood, Member
Elizabeth Long, Alternate Member
Sue Mahone, Executive Secretary

MEMBERS ABSENT: Arthur F. Goeller, Member

CALL TO ORDER:

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Next Meeting: The next meeting will be held on 5 January, 2009 in conference room 14 of the Potomac Building.

New Members: Mr. Bush introduced Ms. Elizabeth "Beth" Long as the new Alternate Member of the Ethics Commission. Welcome Beth and thanks for volunteering to serve on the Commission.

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Minutes of 1 December, 2008: Mr. Elwood made a motion to accept the minutes as written. Motion seconded by Mr. Denning and carried.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Anne Arundel County Joint Ethics Training: Mr. Elwood attended the Regional Ethics Conference held in Anne Arundel County and delivered a presentation to the forum. Mr. Elwood stated that the Regional meeting went very well and was very informative. He also provided the members with copies of the material presented by the Maryland State Ethics Commission. The next Regional Meeting will be hosted by Calvert County, tentatively scheduled for February, 2009.

Advisory Opinion 2008-02: Mr. Baroniak has Advisory Opinion 2008-02 and will present it during the next meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

Change to Rules of Procedures: Mr. Baroniak suggested that citizens requesting an Advisory Opinion (via the last page of the FDS form) should be personally contacted by a member of the Ethics Commission and the results of that conversation should be documented on a memo and kept in the file. This procedure for answering requests should be added to the Rules of Procedures to ensure continuity between board members. Mr. Elwood suggested a formal response to the individual member requesting the advisory opinion. Mr. Baroniak will prepare a draft amendment to present to the BOCC.

Executive Session: Mr. Elwood 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 Mr. Denning. Motion carried, 5-0.

Executive Session: 2:25 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Mr. Elwood made a motion to close the Executive Session. The motion was seconded by Mr. Denning. Motion carried.

FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE STATEMENTS:

Reviewed: No Financial Disclosure Statements were reviewed.

New 2009 FDS forms: the forms for calendar year 2008 have been prepared and are ready to be mailed. Delores Lacey provided address information for volunteer boards and commissions. Sue Mahone will try to get disclosures out in the next two weeks. New Financial Disclosure Statements must be submitted and returned for all new Board and Commission members prior to the member's official appointment. Delores Lacey has sent out FDS forms for to new members.

Community Development Corporation: the commission determined that the Director of the Community Development Corporation must file a Financial Disclosure Statement.

Outstanding: Mr. Baroniak asked if all FDSs were returned from last year. Three are outstanding and the status is unknown at this time. Sue will get with Sarah to determine the status.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

None.

ADJOURNMENT:

A motion was made by Mr. Elwood to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Baroniak and the motion was carried. The St. Mary's County Ethics Commission was adjourned at 2:32 p.m.