

St. Mary's County Ethics Commission
St. Mary's County Governmental Center

Minutes of: 25 February, 2008

Members present: George E. Baroniak, Chair

Joseph B. Bush, Vice Chair

Arthur F. Goeller, Member

Terry Holder, Member

Robert W. Denning, Alternate Member

Sarah L. Cannavo, Executive Secretary

Members not present: Warren Kunz, Member

Call to order:

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Baroniak at 2:10 p.m.

Announcements:

- The next meeting will be held on 3 March, 2008.

Review/approval of minutes:

- Minutes of 4 Feb, 2008. Mr. Bush made the motion to accept the minutes as written. Motion seconded by Mr. Denning. Motion carried.

Unfinished Business:

- Anne Arundel and Calvert Counties have requested the Joint Ethics Training Conference be held during the first part of April, 2008. Charles County has not responded as of yet. Mr. Baroniak will continue to work with Charles County to ensure the April timeframe will work for them as well. As soon as an exact date is selected, Mr. Baroniak will contact Mr. Hahn of the State Ethics Commission to confirm the conference.
- Missing meeting minutes / website update: Mr. Denning and Mr. Baroniak provided copies of the missing minutes for update on the website. Mrs. Cannavo will ensure the Ethics Commission website is updated prior to the next meeting.

New Business:

None

Financial Disclosure Statements:

- 1 Financial Disclosure which was held for review during the 4 February meeting was discussed: a revision was made to the response drafted for a member of the Alcohol Beverage Board concerning a potential conflict of interest. The board determined that there currently was no conflict of interest. However, the individual shall recuse himself during any future board discussions and/or voting involving his family members and/or their businesses. The commission's opinion will be sent to the individual along with a courtesy copy to the Chairman of the Alcohol Beverage Board.

- 79 financial disclosure statements were reviewed

- 1 financial disclosure statement was held by Mr. Baroniak pending contact of the individual requesting commission opinion. Results as follows:
 - The commission received a question from a member of the Board of Education concerning his need to file a financial disclosure statement. The individual did not feel that he needed to file based on the requirement identified in the Ethics Ordinance. Mr. Baroniak explained that the Board of Education determines which of their employees are required to file and are responsible for notifying the individuals (POC: Patricia Van Ryswick).

 - The financial disclosure statement actually protects the individual by providing a written record of situations which may unknowingly be a conflict of interest. Mr. Baroniak also reiterated the strict process in place by the Ethics Commission to protect financial disclosure statements and the data they contain. **Reference Ethics Ordinance 2006-10, Section 7: *any person examining and/or copying a financial disclosure statement shall be required to record his/her name, telephone number, home address and the name of the person whose financial disclosure statement was examined and/or copied. This record shall be forwarded to the person whose financial disclosure statement is so examined or copied.***

Public Comment:

None

Adjournment:

A motion was made by Mr. Goeller to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Baroniak and carried. The St. Mary's County Ethics Commission was adjourned at 3:20 p.m.