

## ST. MARY'S COUNTY ETHICS COMMISSION

MINUTES OF APRIL 7, 2003

Second Floor Conference Room, Governmental Center

**Present:** Dr. M. Martha Neal, Chair  
John J. Roberts, Vice Chair  
George Baroniak, Member  
David Deaderick, Member  
Zora Siemasko, Member  
Shirley Baldwin, Executive Secretary

### CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Neal at 2:05 p.m.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Mr. Roberts announced his schedule has changed and he will now be available for the meetings scheduled.

### REVIEW/APPROVE MINUTES

Regular Minutes of March 17, 2003. Mr. Roberts made the motion to approve the minutes as submitted, seconded by Mr. Baroniak. Motion carried

Executive Minutes of March 17, 2003. Four amendments were made in order to clarify the minutes. Mr. Roberts made the motion to approve as amended, seconded by Ms. Siemasko. Motion carried.

### FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE STATEMENTS

- Status 2001 Outstanding. At last meeting, letters received from Board of County Commissioners relative to three outstanding FDS's. Since then, two have filed. There is now one outstanding FDS for 2001. Another individual combined FDS 2001 with FDS 2002. New forms have been sent and that individual has been requested to resubmit for 2001 and 2002. To date, no response has been received. Dr. Neal will contact him directly and give him a deadline for filing.

Dr. Neal will prepare a letter to the BOCC requesting that the two individuals be removed from their appointments.

- Status 2002 Outstanding. To date, over 200 FDS's have been received. There are 39 outstanding. The Committee reviewed 107 FDS's; four of which required additional information. 103 FDS's were approved.

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

- Advisory Opinions on Webpage. Dr. Neal reported the status of scanning and having the IT Department put the Advisory Opinions on the webpage. Shirley Baldwin has been working directly with the IT Department to work out some problems. Shortly some of the opinions should be on the website.
- FDS on webpage. There have been some minor problems when filling out the FDS online. These problems have now been resolved. Some changes need to be addressed in the next version, such as making it explicit that if you serve on more than one board/committee, only one form needs to be filed.
- Education Program.
  - Board of Education. Ms. Siemasko announced that Mr. Roberts did a good job with the presentation and great feedback was received.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

- Memorandum from John B. Norris, III, County Attorney. Memo received inquiring if FDS received for a recent appointee to the St. Mary's County Metropolitan Commission. This FDS has been received and approved today. A response will be sent to Mr. Norris advising his of this action.
- Proposal for Public Hearing. Mr. Roberts suggested at some time the Ethics Commission may wish to conduct a public hearing, possibly at one of our regular sessions, to explore questions concerning conflict of interest. An example would be "Can an individual with real estate interests in the county serve on the Planning Commission, and, if so, under what circumstances?" The public meeting would be for the purpose of getting input from the community. After discussion, it was agreed to table this issue until a later date.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Deaderick made the motion to adjourn; seconded by Mr. Roberts. Meeting adjourned at 3:55 p.m.