

CECIL COUNTY ETHICS COMMISSION

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Meeting Minutes

August 8, 2016

Present: Chairman Joe Cline, Nicholas Cusmano, Donna Caudell, L. Michelle Henson

Guest: Donna Nichols

Open Session

Joe Cline called the meeting to order at 4:05 pm. Nick Cusmano moved to accept Agendas (open and closed) as presented, Donna Caudell seconded motion, all approved to adopt Agendas as written.

Nick Cusmano made a motion to approve minutes as written (open and closed), Donna Caudell seconded, and all were in favor to approve minutes as written.

Old Business:

Implementation of Ethics Training Module – Joe Cline reports that Cecil College got back to him with a price of \$1500.00 to complete the Ethics Training Module. Initial thought was around \$500.00. This is still reasonable as other quote was \$3,000. Since the Ethics budget was reduced, Joe Cline suggests that we wait till end of FY 2017 and see how our budget balance looks and possible pay half and then roll over the balance. All leg work has been done so it is just a matter of producing the video. Joe Cline made a formal motion to table the implementation of Ethics Training Module to end of FY 2017, Nick Cusmano seconded and all were in favor of that motion.

L. Michelle Henson advised the link on the County Website for the power point on Ethics did not work for her. Donna Nichols agreed to check on that.

Financial Disclosure Statements – Electronic Implementation for 2016 – Donna Nichols reported that Harford County has given us usage of their software for free. Scott Mesneak, Director of IT, is reviewing the software to determine what adjustments are needed to adapt the software for our use. Donna Nichols agreed to report status at November meeting. Everyone agreed it would be extremely helpful to have this ready for the 2016 Disclosure period.

Status of 2015 Financial Disclosure Statements – Reviewed status of forms. There are some board members (about half as many as last year at this time), a few attorneys and a few on-call employees who have not returned their Disclosure Statements. It was agreed to send a third and final notice to Board Members and Attorneys. Employees have already received their third and final notice.

Michelle Henson suggested that we try to get Ethic Form during any type of exit interview or at a member's final board member. Donna Nichols agreed we could try this, especially with employee terminations.

2016 Ethics Commission Direction - All agree that the Ethics Training Module and Financial Disclosure Statements would be extremely beneficial. Joe also explained to new members of board that Bob has drafted up some language pertaining to County Executive being required to give reasoning if Ethic Board members were removed from appointment. As it presently stands, everyone could be removed at once and replaced. This does not seem right as an issue or an investigation could be affected by replacements with no reasoning. This change in language would probably result in a code change. Joe Cline felt like the charter would not be changed for this language. Once new election is held, Ethics Committee can try to submit this language change again – early 2017.

Appointment Status New Committee Member – New Member L. Michelle Henson introduced herself. Her appointment will run July 2016 to April 15, 2020. She has served on many boards and has ethic law experience. The County Executive also reappointed Bob Boonstoppel from July 2016 to July 19, 2020.

New Business

Bob Boonstoppel completed the State Certification Report last year. Joe Cline will complete this year and send to State.

Motion was made to adjourn to closed session. The meeting was closed by a formal motion by Michelle Henson, seconded by Nicholas Cusmano and unanimous vote of the members present in accordance with Maryland statutes.

Respectfully Submitted by

Linda Barbor