

CECIL COUNTY ETHICS COMMISSION

www.ccgov.org/ethics_bd/index.cfm

c/o Cecil County Department of Human Resources

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Meeting Minutes

May 8, 2017

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

Absent: Bob Boonstoppel

Open Session

Joe Cline called the meeting to order at 4:06 pm.

Nick Cusmano moved to accept the agenda as presented, L. Michelle Henson seconded the motion, the agenda was unanimously approved.

Michelle moved to approve the minutes, Nick seconded, the February minutes were unanimously approved.

Old Business:

Financial Disclosure Statements/Electronic and Ethics Training Module Implementation: The Commission has not yet spent any of their FY17 budget. Joe spoke with John Ferguson in IT who recommended purchasing the middle tier software package from DevExpress, at a cost of \$1,500, for moving the financial disclosures statements from the current paper based system to an electronic system. The remaining \$500 of the budget amount will be used as a down payment on the ethics training module from Cecil College, the balance to be paid out of the FY18 budget. The Commission unanimously approved this spending. Joe will inform Sally Thompson of these decisions and contact John Ferguson to proceed with the software purchase. However, he will wait until the end of June to contact the college, in case a budget needs arises before the end of the fiscal year as well as approval of the FY18 budget. In all likelihood, the ethics training module will be a fall project.

Status of 2016 Financial Disclosure Statements: Joe explained the review procedure and will set the schedules for the Commission to review the forms.

2017 Ethics Commission Direction: The Ethics Training Module and electronic access of the Financial Disclosure Statements will be two main focuses; therefore, this item will remain open.

Ethics Commission Board Member Removal Process: Bob Boonstoppel's draft process was reviewed. The Commission will wait until the next meeting when Bob can be in attendance before proceeding with this.

Chesapeake City Government Complaint: A letter explaining the Commission's position was sent to the complainant. The complainant had contacted Human Resources alleging that someone on the

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Commission must have shared the complaint information with the mayor of Chesapeake City. Every Commission member responded that they had not shared any information with anyone outside the Commission. This item is formally closed.

Councilperson Meffley's Advisory Opinion: The Commission issued their advisory opinion and this item is formally closed.

Ethics Commission Member/County Council Member Familial Relationship: The Commission issued their advisory opinion and this item is formally closed.

New Business

DaGraca/Harris Complaint: A letter/complaint from a Mrs. DaGraca forwarding a complaint from a Cassandra Harris, addressed to Ethics Commission, Nicholas T Cusmano, 200 Chesapeake Blvd, Elkton, MD, was received. This matter is well out of the Ethics Commission's purview and was referred to the county attorney. Michelle will follow up with Jason Allison who is now handling this matter on behalf of the county. Numerous duplicate copies of this complaint were received, all addressed Nicholas T. Cusmano. Mr. Cusmano's middle initial is not T and he stated, for the record, that he has no knowledge of the complaint or the parties mentioned in the complaint.

Nick made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Michelle, unanimously approved and the meeting adjourned at 4:36 p.m.

The next meeting will be held on August 14th at 4:00 pm in the Rising Sun Room.

Respectfully Submitted by
Edie (Crick) Tinsman