



CECIL COUNTY ETHICS COMMISSION

Cecil County Administration Building
c/o Human Resources Department
200 Chesapeake Boulevard, Suite 2800
Elkton, Maryland 21921
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(866) 230-2578 (fax)

<http://www.ccgov.org/government/boards-and-commissions/ethics-commission>

Open Meeting Minutes

November 8, 2021

Present: Andrew Goins, Charles Kelso, Chip Peterson, Janet Pope

Absent: Heather O'Rourke

Guest: Lawrence Scott, County Attorney

Call to Order:

- o Andrew Goins, Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:06 pm.

Agenda Approval:

- o Charles Kelso made a motion to approve the draft November 8, 2021 agenda, seconded by Janet Pope, and approved by all.

August 3, 2021 Meeting Minutes Approval:

- o Janet Pope made a motion to approve the draft August 3, 2021 open meeting minutes, seconded by Charles Kelso, and approved by all.

Old Business:

- o Lawrence Scott, County Attorney, reviewed the 2019 and 2020 Financial Disclosure status report.
 - o DHR has modified their exit process as of 2021 to include a requirement of the current year Financial Disclosure upon termination.
 - Motion was made by Chip Peterson to make the Financial Disclosures a condition of employment and withhold final paycheck until the appropriate form is submitted, seconded by Janet Pope, and approved by all.
 - Motion made by Janet Pope to send a final letter to terminated employees in non-compliance stating they are ineligible for rehire due to the non-compliance in filing the required Financial Disclosure, seconded by Charles Kelso, and approved by all.
- o Janet Pope made a motion that a listing of those board and commission members who are non-compliant with submitting the required 2019 Financial Disclosure form be submitted to the County Executive with a recommendation that they should no longer be eligible to serve on any Board or Commission, nor eligible for employment with Cecil County due to the non-compliance; seconded by Chip Peterson, and approved by all.

Old Business (cont'd):

- 2020 Financial Disclosure Status:
 - The Board reviewed Financial Disclosure forms (including Acknowledgements, Form 1, Form 2, and Lobbyist) that were received after or updated since the Board's last review of the forms.

New Business:

- Lawrence Scott, County Attorney, advised the Board that he has spoken with the State of Maryland Ethics Board regarding upcoming changes. Once they are published, they will be forwarded to each jurisdiction.
- Lawrence Scott, County Attorney, advised the Board that he has spoken with the County's Department of Information Technology Director and was informed the online forms will be available no later than the end of February for CY2021 submission.
- Lawrence Scott, County Attorney, advised the Board that the raised concern over public stock ownership has been brought to his attention for the Board's review.
 - There is a potential conflict if there is County oversight with certain stock ownership; however, that potential is minimal and could be addressed within the form.
 - Motion was made by Charles Kelso to direct Lawrence Scott, County Attorney, to draft a revision to the Stock Ownership section of the Financial Disclosure to simplify the process and expose any potential conflict by focusing on the intended goal of the section; motion seconded by Janet Pope, approved by all.
- 2022 Meeting Schedule –
 - 5pm on Monday
 - Quarterly meetings
 - Draft schedule to be provided to Board.
- Board Member Term:
 - Janet Pope indicated her term was expiring; was advised the term would continue until the earlier of a request to resign from the Board was received or a replacement was obtained.

Closed Session:

- Andrew Goins indicated the Commission needed to go into Closed Session to address:
 - Complaints 19-03 and 19-04
 - Lobbyist submissions
 - Financial Disclosure concerns
- Charles Kelso made a motion to move the meeting to closed session as of 6:40pm, seconded by Chip Peterson, and approved by all.
- Charles Kelso made a motion to move the meeting back to open session as of 7:19pm, seconded by Janet Pope, and approved by all.

Adjourn:

- Charles Kelso made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:20pm, seconded by Chip Peterson, and approved by all.

Next meeting:

- February 7th at 5:00 p.m., County Administration Building, 200 Chesapeake Boulevard, Perryville Room, Elkton, MD