

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

August 14, 2017

OPEN SESSION

Present: Chairman Joe Cline, Vice Chairman Bob Boonstoppel, L. Michelle Henson

Absent: Nicholas Cusmano

Joe Cline called the meeting to order at 4:45 pm after having reviewed Financial Disclosure Statements that were submitted after the due date.

Bob Boonstoppel moved to accept the agenda as presented, L. Michelle Henson seconded the motion; the agenda was unanimously accepted.

Michelle moved to approve the minutes from the May meeting, Bob seconded; the minutes were unanimously approved.

Old Business:

Ethics Training Module Implementation: Joe has reached out multiple times to the Cecil College department regarding the ethics training module and has yet to receive a response. He will now contact the college's administration.

Electronic Financial Disclosure Statements: Confirmation was received that \$1,500 for the DevExpress software package was spent during the FY17 budget. There is a possibility that this project may involve additional, unexpected costs. The Ethics Commission is concerned that when Information Technology made the original recommendation on which software package to purchase, they should have recommended the more customizable package which could have prevented the possibility of this additional cost. Joe requested that John Ferguson from Information Technology contact him for a better understanding of this possible new issue.

Status of 2016 Financial Disclosure Statements: Al Wein should now issue a third notice to those who have not yet submitted their financial disclosure statements. Thirty days after this third notice is sent, the Ethics Commission will send a letter to the County Executive informing him of any whose forms remain delinquent. The financial costs involved in having to follow up on these forms, multiple times, because of the failure of those who do not submit their forms when due, and if this should somehow be addressed, was discussed.

Ethics Commission Board Member Removal Process: The Ethics Commission has drafted a written procedure based on similar processes of other Maryland counties, most of which have a written procedure. The Commission does not believe that this would restrict the County Executive's ability to

remove any member. The Commission's purpose for this procedure is to maintain the integrity of the Commission and prevent a public perception that the Ethics Commission's membership could be impacted by politics. Bob will follow up with the County Attorney on this.

New Business

Ethics Commission Open Position: Donna Caudill resigned from the Ethics Commission via email on May 10, 2017. Applications of two candidates to fill the position were presented; the Commission declined to make a recommendation as this is the County Executive's decision.

Kenneth Jackson Advisory Opinion: The Ethics Commission issued their advisory opinion.

At 5:08 p.m., Bob made a formal motion to adjourn to a closed session, seconded by Michele and unanimously voted by the members present in accordance with Maryland statutes.

The next meeting will be held on November 13th at 4:00 pm in the Rising Sun Room.

Respectfully Submitted by
Edie (Crick) Tinsman