

**MINUTES OF THE CHESAPEAKE BEACH ETHICS COMMISSION MEETING
MAY 9, 2017**

Commission Members Present: Phillip Kete, Chair
Ingrid Lamb
Michael Linsenbigler

Staff Members Present: Sharon Humm, Town Clerk
Karen Ruff, Board Counsel

The meeting convened at 6:00 p.m. at the Chesapeake Beach Town Hall at 8200 Bayside Road, Chesapeake Beach, MD. Those listed as present participated in all portions of the meeting unless otherwise noted. If other individuals participated in aspects of the meeting, they will be identified in the specific line item where their participation occurred.

ITEM 1: Nomination of Chair.

Discussion: Ms. Lamb nominated Mr. Kete as Chair, seconded by Mr. Linsenbigler.

Decision: The Commission moved all in favor of Mr. Kete as Chair of the Commission.

ITEM 2: The introduction of Counsel to the Commission, Karen Ruff.

Discussion: Commission member Lamb introduced and welcomed Ms. Ruff. Ms. Lamb stated this is a newly appointed Ethics Commission, holding its first meeting tonight, and is looking for direction from Counsel. Ms. Ruff recommended the Commission first take on the task of drafting "Rules of Procedure". Counsel presented to the Commission sample Rules of Procedure from two different municipalities for the Commission to use as a guide. Counsel offered to prepare a draft for review by the Commission. Commission member Lamb suggested she work on a draft using the samples provided and then pass onto Counsel for review before presenting to the other Commission members. Ms. Ruff commented on a concern she had when reviewing Chapter 25, "Public Ethics" of the Town Code. Ms. Ruff stated that in §25-2 "Ethics Commission" (b), it states that the Commission shall make determinations by unanimous vote of **ALL** three members in regards to complaints filed with the Commission. So in making any decisions there must be a unanimous vote of **ALL** three members. Ms. Ruff suggested the Commission consider the ramifications this requirement might impose.

Decision: The Commission agreed that Ms. Lamb would work with the Board Counsel in drafting Rules of Procedure for the Ethics Commission before circulating to all members.

ITEM 3: Discussion of the Town's Ethics Ordinance and the State model

Discussion: Ms. Ruff explained that the State has two models. Model A is mostly used for larger jurisdictions and Model B for smaller jurisdictions. The State would allow a jurisdiction to modify the model but only deviate slightly. The Town's current Ethics Ordinance, O-16-11, which was passed by the Town Council July 21, 2016, was submitted to the State Ethics Commission for review. In a letter dated October 3, 2016, the State Commission determined that the law did not meet the requirements of Subtitle 8 of the Maryland Public Ethics Law and detailed specific provisions which were not approved.

Decision: The Commission agreed to proceed at this time in drafting Rules of Procedure with discussion and adoption at the next meeting. Once accomplished, the Commission will begin work on the Ethics Ordinance to bring into State compliance.

ITEM 4: Provision for addressing ad hoc issues

Discussion: The Commission determined this would be addressed under the Rules of Procedure once in place.

ITEM 5: Scheduling of next meeting

Discussion: The Commission will schedule its next meeting for June 7, 2017.

ITEM 6: Public Comment

Discussion: Public comment was received by Councilman Derek Favret and Councilman Keith Pardieck.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

Submitted by:

Sharon L. Humm
Town Clerk