

**Kent County Ethics Commission  
400 High Street  
Chestertown, MD 21620**

**Meeting Minutes**

A duly advertised public meeting of the Kent County Ethics Commission was held in the Commissioners' Hearing Room located at the R. Clayton Mitchell, Jr., Kent County Government Center, 400 High Street, Chestertown, Maryland on December 5, 2016, at 3:00 p.m.

Commission Members Present:        R. Stewart Barroll, Chair  
    Linda Cooke  
    Maryann Ruehrmund  
    S. Lansing Williams  
    Pam Duke, Acting Commission Attorney

Commission Members Absent:        John Carroll  
    Andrew C. Meehan, County Attorney  
    Shelley L. Heller, County Administrator

Staff Members Present:                Sondra M. Blackiston, Clerk

Mr. Barroll called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. Roll call was completed and a review of the agenda.

On motion by Ms. Ruehrmund and seconded by Mr. Williams the regular and closed session minutes from the November 16<sup>th</sup> meeting, were unanimously approved.

At 3:05 p.m., a motion was made by Ms. Ruehrmund, seconded by Mr. Williams, and carried unanimously to go into closed session citing the statutory authority to close the session under General Provisions Article §3-305 (b) (1) To discuss the appointment, employment, assignment, promotion, discipline, demotion, compensation, removal, resignation, or performance evaluation of appointees, employees, or officials whom this public body has jurisdiction; any other personnel matter that affects one or more specific individuals; and §305 (b) (7) To consult with counsel to obtain legal advice on a legal matter; and §305 (b) (13) To comply with a specific constitutional, statutory, or judicially imposed requirement that prevents public disclosures about a particular proceeding or matter; all in accordance with the Annotated Code of Maryland, respectively.

Mr. Barroll, Ms. Cooke, Ms. Duke, Ms. Ruehrmund, Mr. Williams, and Ms. Blackiston remained for closed session.

Topics to be discussed: Review of Complaint No. 2016-01.

Reason for closing: Complaints are confidential.

Complaint No. 2016-01

In closed session, the Commission reviewed responses from one Respondent to the questions drafted by Ms. Duke. Mr. Barroll stated that it is the Commission's obligation to discuss whether there is a need for an evidentiary hearing on any of the allegations or to decide whether none of the claims merit further consideration. If an evidentiary hearing is necessary, Mr. Barroll stated that each Respondent is entitled to an individual hearing. The Commission began deliberations on the allegations of one the Respondents. On motion by Mr. Williams and seconded by Ms. Cooke, the Commission unanimously agreed to summarily dismiss portions of the Complaint specific to one individual. The Commission then began the review of responses from another Respondent to questions drafted by Ms. Duke. On motion by Mr. Williams and seconded by Ms. Cooke, the Commission unanimously agreed to summarily dismiss portions of the Complaint specific to an individual.

At 3:47 p.m. a motion was made by Ms. Ruehrmund, seconded by Mr. Williams, and carried unanimously to adjourn the closed session. The Commission reconvened briefly in open session. Mr. Barroll reported that on November 16, 2016, a closed session was held. In closed session, the Commission deliberated and reviewed responses from the Respondents to the questions drafted by Ms. Duke. On motion by Mr. Williams and seconded by Ms. Cooke, the Commission unanimously agreed to summarily dismiss portions of the Complaint specific to one individual. The Commission agreed to take additional time to review the responses of the Respondents and agreed to reconvene at a later date.

Mr. Barroll stated that the Commission will meet again in a work session for the purpose of updating the Ethics Commission Chapter of the Code of Public Laws for Kent County. A meeting date is forthcoming. There being no other business before the Commission, a motion was made by Mr. Williams, seconded by Ms. Ruehrmund and carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 3:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Sondra M. Blackiston, Clerk

Approved:



R. Stewart Barroll, Chair  
Kent County Ethics Commission