



CALVERT COUNTY
ETHICS COMMISSION
Post Office Box 1104
Prince Frederick, Maryland 20678

MEETING NOTICE

The Calvert County Ethics Commission (CCEC) conducted an open meeting on *Tuesday, Feb. 19, 2019*, at **4:30pm**, at the Phillips House, 28 Duke Street, Prince Frederick, Maryland.

OPEN MINUTES

Roll Call

Members: Jennifer J. Mazur, Chairperson
Wayne Millette, Acting Vice-Chairperson
Rachel Norris, Secretary
Matthew Raymer, Member
Julia Sampson, Member
Vacant, Alternate

Staff: Keisha Arthur, Executive Administrative Aide, Board of County Commissioners
Maureen Frederick, Clerk to the Board of County Commissioners

General Business & Administrative Matters

Determined quorum

Call to order at 4:35 pm

Julia motioned to approve the Feb. 19th open agenda, Matt seconded, all in favor.

Julia motioned to approve the Jan. 15th open minutes, Wayne seconded, all in favor.

Public Comment

There is a time limit of 5 minutes per speaker.

Because there were public attendees, the Board moved to Public Comment.

Pat Buehler of St. Leonard introduced himself, his daughter – Marie Buehler, and their attorney – Charles Donnelly. He asked if he spoke longer than five minutes, would he please be allowed to finish?

Madame Chair Mazur said she would allow more than 5 minutes, but not 25 minutes.

Mr. Buehler stated the packets provided to Ethics Commission members regarding the alleged allegations against Maria are false.

Mr. Buehler presented a map of Calvert County, with notations showing the seven Town Centers. He stated Buehler's Market sits in the center of town and the footprint does not change whether it is in the one-mile radius.

Mr. Buehler referred to first letter; "the second paragraph is where all the confusion begins and ends right here". Mr. Buehler quotes the letter; "Secondly, I am opposed to any damn zoning of rural zoning property – any one that owns it, the idea of opening a business at the right time, we paid \$400,000 for 1.5 acres, that is :we it is in

an LLC and reduce it to a building site is land taking - \$15,000 – I lost \$385,000

Also on the map were check marks showing Rural Commercial (RC) properties within the county. Mr. Buehler explained there are no RC properties within any Town Center within Calvert County.

The RC property he referenced during his public comment to the Planning Commission is 5.5 miles south of the St. Leonard Town Center, he never mentioned the St. Leonard Town Center, and the property he was referring to used to be a bar named the Atomic Diner.

He would like the Ethics Commission to write a formal apology to the Planning Commission, the Press, the Board of County Commissioners, his daughter – Maria, and him.

He believes the complaint letter from a citizen was leaked in the courthouse, which resulted in the investigation of his daughter; it was a confidential letter to staff of the Department of Planning & Zoning and he believes the Clerk to the Board of County Commissioners handles the mail and sent the letter out. The only way it should have been provided to the public is through a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request, which would have taken two weeks; however, the Press had it the next day.

Madame Chair Mazur explained to Mr. Buehler that this would be discussed in Executive Session, which is not open to the public.

Mr. Buehler then referred to a December 6 (2018) letter, but did not elaborate further.

Madame Chair Mazur asked Mr. Donnelly if he had read the Calvert County Ethics Code. He responded affirmatively. She then asked if he would guide his client as to his next steps.

Mr. Donnelly then gave his professional background, in response to Ms. Mazur's reaction to Mr. Buehler asking if she was an attorney.

Following Mr. Buehler's comments, Maureen Frederick – Clerk to the Board of County Commissioners requested to speak, at which time she addressed Mr. Buehler to explain that she is the Clerk to the Board of County Commissioners, does not handle the mail, and, therefore, did not send the letter out to anyone.

Mr. Buehler explained that he is a former County Commissioner and that is the way the mail was handled when he was in office. (He was in office in the early 1990s)

She then reiterated that was a long time ago and things have changed.

New Business

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Old (Unfinished) Business

1. Rachel to take over review of Rules of Procedure
 - A. These rules should be reviewed annually and revised every three years.
2. Training
 - a. Established 12 dates
 - i. Discussed night dates, Jen agreed to do March 28th, at 7:30pm and May ____ at 6pm

- ii. Julia discussed providing water, name tags, mints, maybe a snack
 - A. Projected to only last one hour unless there is a lot of interaction
- iii. Julia agreed to review the MACo training material
 - A. Write memo to accept this as required training, if any topic is missing – highlight in memo to address.

Ongoing Business

- 1. Budget: FY 20 budget due October 31 – contact LaShon to change contact once replacement is hired
- 2. Annual PO Box due Jan. 30th 2019 – paid through 2019
- 3. Lisa checking voicemail for new messages every Monday. Email to committee
- 4. Wayne and Matt to check mailbox weekly.
- 5. Financial Disclosure Statements
 - a. Working with **Technology services** for updated form
- 6. Annual Report to BOCC – January timeline – email to committee for review and instruction to email Lisa Viverette once complete.

Public Comment

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Announcements

At our last meeting three item(s) were discussed: *Closed to the public pursuant to General Provisions Article §3-305 of the Annotated Code of Maryland.*

Recess, subject to Motion of Privilege for Closed Meeting:

Three item(s) to be discussed *closed to the public pursuant to General Provisions Article §3-305 of the Annotated Code of Maryland.*

With no other business to discuss, Wayne motioned at 5:13pm to enter into closed session, Rachel seconded, all in favor.

Minutes transcribed by: Keisha R. Arthur – to be adopted at next meeting

Name _____ date _____