

ETHICS COMMISSION
McHenry County Administration Building
2200 N. Seminary – Room B120
Woodstock IL 60098

MINUTES OF TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2005

Tom Carroll, Assistant State's Attorney called the meeting to order at 2:15 p.m. The following members were in attendance: Bob Blazier; Tim Clifton; Art Osten, Jr.; and Rev. Karen Stunkel. Walter Packard was absent. Also in attendance: Tom Carroll, Chief, Civil Division State's Attorney and Michelle Courier, Assistant State's Attorney; Ken Koehler, County Board Chairman; John Labaj, Deputy County Administrator; and the press.

County Board Chairman, Ken Koehler addressed committee members and thanked them for accepting the appointment to the Ethics Commission.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

None

NEW BUSINESS

Determination of Terms of Commissioners: Tom Carroll, State's Attorney noted that the first order of business of the Ethics Commission was to determine the term of office for the commissioners. He noted there are 3 two year terms and 2 one year terms. Commissioners drew terms for the Ethics Commission, the following were chosen, Mr. Bob Blazier, two years; Ms. Karen Stunkel, two years; Mr. Art Osten, Jr., one year; Mr. Tim Clifton, one year. Mr. Walter Packard received the remaining two year term. Mr. Clifton made a motion, seconded by Mr. Blazier to elect Mr. Walter Packard as Chairman of the Ethics Commission. Mr. Blazier made a motion, seconded by Mr. Clifton, to close the nominations for Chairman, the motion carried with all ayes on a voice vote. The motion to elect Mr. Walter Packard as Chairman of the Ethics Commission passed with all members present voting aye on a roll call vote (Blazier, Clifton, Osten, Stunkel)

Review and Training of the McHenry County Ethics Ordinance: Mr. Carroll addressed commission members to discuss the powers, duties and procedures of the Ethics Commissioners. The Illinois General Assembly has enacted the State Officials and Employees Ethics Act, which is a comprehensive revision of State statutes regulating ethical conduct, political activities and the solicitation and acceptance of gifts by State officials and employees. The Act requires all units of local government to adopt an ethics ordinance or resolution as well. Mr. Carroll reviewed each section of the ordinance as has been recently amended by the County Board on February 1, 2005 with commission members. The sections included The Purpose, Definitions, Prohibited Political Activities, Gift Ban, Ethics Advisor, Ethics Commission, Penalties, Severability Clause and Repeal of Prior Ordinances. Mr. Carroll informed committee members that the McHenry County State's Attorney is the Ethics Advisor for the County. Mr. Bianchi, State's Attorney has delegated Mr. Carroll as this Advisor. Mr. Carroll noted that, if a complaint is received where the complaint happened prior to the adoption of the amended ethics ordinance, and it is deemed necessary to hold a hearing, the commissioners will operate under the terms of the old ordinance.

ADJOURNMENT

Noting no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:20 p.m. on a motion by Mr. Osten, seconded by Ms. Stunkel, with all members present voting aye.

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RECOMMENDATIONS FOR COUNTY BOARD ACTION