

**MINUTES OF THE MAY 1, 2014
MEETING OF THE WEST VIRGINIA ETHICS COMMISSION**

The May 1, 2014, meeting of the West Virginia Ethics Commission was called to order in the Commission's Office, located at 210 Brooks Street, Charleston, West Virginia, at 10:00 a.m., by Acting Chairperson Father Douglas Sutton, who was designated Acting Chairperson by Commissioner Kemp Morton. Present and in person were Commissioners Michael Greer, Father Douglas Sutton, and Bob Wolfe. Commissioners Kemp Morton, Drema Radford, Suzan Singleton, Terry Walker, and Monté Williams participated by telephone. Absent were Commissioners Jack Buckalew and Betty Ireland. Executive Director C. Joan Parker, General Counsel Kimberly B. Weber, Deputy General Counsel Meridith O. Johnstone, Staff Attorney Benjamin Visnic, and Special Assistant to the Executive Director M. Ellen Briggs all from the Commission staff were present.

WHEREUPON, Acting Chairperson Father Sutton asked for approval of the April 3, 2014, Commission meeting minutes.

WHEREUPON, Commissioner Morton made a motion to approve the minutes. Commissioner Greer seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

WHEREUPON, Acting Chairperson Father Sutton announced that the next Commission meeting would be held on June 5, 2014, at 10:00 a.m., at the Ethics Commission Office, 210 Brooks Street, Charleston, West Virginia. It was decided by the Commission members that if a special meeting should be necessary, such would be properly scheduled and noticed.

WHEREUPON, Acting Chairperson Father Sutton called upon Ms. Parker to give a recap of the previous month.

WHEREUPON, Ms. Parker discussed training sessions that have been conducted.

Ms. Parker provided an update on the Ethics Act's requirement that certain public officials, employees, and candidates for county and state offices annually complete and file with the Ethics Commission a Financial Disclosure Statement (FDS). She reported that out of 312 candidates for state office, 49 have yet to file their Financial Disclosure Statements. Of the 564 candidates for county office, 22 have not filed (including four that were returned for corrections). Delinquency notice letters have been sent to these candidates. A copy of the form notice was provided to Commission members.

Ms. Parker reported on questions which have arisen in the past regarding the proper method of reporting political campaign contributions on Lobbyist Activity Reports as required by W. Va. Code § 6B-3-4(c). A notice will be sent to lobbyists reminding them of how to report campaign contributions. A copy of the form notice was provided to Commission members.

WHEREUPON, Acting Chairperson Father Sutton called upon Ms. Weber to present Advisory Opinion 2014-16.

WHEREUPON, Ms. Weber presented Advisory Opinion 2014-16 to the Commission for consideration. After discussion, Commissioner Morton made a motion to approve Advisory Opinion 2014-16, and Commissioner Singleton seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

WHEREUPON, Acting Chairperson Father Sutton called upon Ms. Parker to present Advisory Opinion 2014-17.

WHEREUPON, Ms. Parker presented Advisory Opinion 2014-17 to the Commission for consideration. After discussion, Commissioner Wolfe made a motion to approve Advisory Opinion 2014-17, and Commissioner Morton seconded. The motion passed, with Commissioner Williams voting in the negative.

WHEREUPON, Acting Chairperson Father Sutton called upon Mr. Visnic to present Advisory Opinion 2014-18.

WHEREUPON, Mr. Visnic presented Advisory Opinion 2014-18 to the Commission for consideration. After discussion, Commissioner Singleton made a motion to approve Advisory Opinion 2014-18, and Commissioner Greer seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

WHEREUPON, Acting Chairperson Father Sutton called upon Ms. Parker to present Contract Exemption Request 2014-01.

WHEREUPON, Ms. Parker presented Contract Exemption 2014-01 to the Commission for consideration. After discussion, Commissioner Wolfe made a motion to adopt Contract Exemption 2014-01, denying the Webster County Commission's request, and Commissioner Morton seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

WHEREUPON, there were no School Board Advisory Opinion Requests.

WHEREUPON, there were no Property Exemption Requests.

WHEREUPON, Acting Chairperson Father Sutton called upon Ms. Parker to present Employment Exemption Requests.

WHEREUPON, Ms. Parker presented Employment Exemption 2014-04 requested by Clyde W. Myers, Engineering Technologist, West Virginia Division of Highways; Employment Exemption 2014-05 requested by Carrie Grimm, Environmental Resources Specialist II, West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection; and Employment Exemption 2014-06 requested by Joseph M. Hickman, Assistant Chief Inspector of Environmental Enforcement, West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection, for consideration. After discussion, Commissioner Morton made a motion to approve Employment Exemption 2014-04, Employment Exemption 2014-05, and Employment Exemption 2014-06, and Commissioner Wolfe seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

WHEREUPON, Acting Chairperson Father Sutton called upon Ms. Parker to present miscellaneous matters.

WHEREUPON, the Commission reviewed the P-Card monthly report with no comments.

WHEREUPON, Ms. Parker presented a request from Lobbyist Molly Urian, representing West Virginia Lobbyist Group, for waiver of the late fee. After discussion, Commissioner Singleton made a motion to waive the late fee, and Commissioner Morton seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

WHEREUPON, Commissioner Wolfe questioned his latest direct deposit amount, which was higher than he anticipated. Staff reported that the higher amount may be because of the confirmation hearing attended by several Commission members. Commissioner Singleton reported that she, too, received a higher amount. Staff was instructed to confirm the amounts and contact the Commissioners involved.

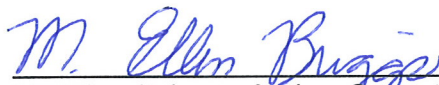
Acting Chairperson Father Sutton stated there were no more items for discussion. Commissioner Singleton made a motion to adjourn, and Commissioner Wolfe seconded. The meeting was adjourned.

The foregoing minutes of the West Virginia Ethics Commission were approved unanimously at the June 5, 2014, meeting.



Father Douglas Sutton
Acting Chairperson
West Virginia Ethics Commission

ATTEST:



M. Ellen Briggs, Acting Secretary
Special Executive Assistant to the Executive Director
West Virginia Ethics Commission