

MINUTES

DeKalb County Board of Ethics

May 12, 2010

MEMBERS PRESENT: Bryan Smith, Chair
Bobbie Sanford
Isaac Blythers
Susan Neugent
Thelma Grier
Stephen Irving, Board Attorney

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Bryan Smith called the meeting to order at 6:07 p.m.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

The Agenda was reviewed and approved as provided.

OLD BUSINESS

Ed McBrayer (PATH), Development Authority

Attorney Stephen Irving drafted written interrogatories to the parties, in an effort to resolve the matter and will be sending notice to the Parties that Board will have a hearing on the matter on August 11, 2010

Gerald Bryant, Board of Tax Assessors

Gerald Bryant verbally requested a dismissal of the Complaint against him. The Board, by unanimous decision, decided that Mr. Bryant would have to reduce his request for dismissal to a formal writing. Member Blythers moved (and it was properly seconded) that all materials necessary to prosecute a Formal Hearing in the Gerald Bryant matter be produced and submitted to the Board no later than June 15, 2010.

Ethics Code Book for New Members

Bryan issued a Code Book to all new members with the exception of Member Bobbie Sanford.

Complaint against Commissioner Sharon Barnes Sutton

It was decided that the Counsel for the Board, Stephen Irving, would draft and deliver the Complaint against Commissioner Sutton. The essence of the Complaint is whether Commissioner Sutton has violated the Code of Ethics by issuing bad checks, which resulted in a warrant, and using her influence as a county commissioner to avoid getting arrest. The officers who stopped Commissioner Sutton were disciplined for failing to arrest her.

The following Code Section applies: Section 22 (A) (c) (1) addresses the conduct of governing authorities; Section 22 (A) (c) (2) (A) provides that no member shall request or receive gifts or favors. Section 22 (A) (c) (7) prohibits any member of the governing authority from engaging in any activity that is prohibited by law.

NEW BUSINESS

The Chair, Bryan Smith, presented to the Board information received from Gordon Burkette, Legislative Liaison to DeKalb County CEO Burrell Ellis, a letter from Housing Authority officials outlining a possible Code of Ethics violation. The Board voted to have a Complaint drafted against Housing Authority Commissioners Maddox and Williams.

Advisory Opinions were requested by the CEO concerning a consultant contract with Neville Anderson, Sr. and by Vaughn Irons in reference to Economic Development Authority bids. The Board Counsel will draft those Advisory Opinions for Board review.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:13 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Bryan F. Smith