

STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

Commission Meeting Minutes

April 5, 2007
State Capitol, Room 341
Atlanta, Georgia

Present:

William H. Jordan, Chairman
Sonny Watson, Vice Chairman
Emmett Bowers, Member
Griffin B. Pollard, Jr., Member
James C. Gatewood, Member (was absent during this meeting)

The meeting commenced at approximately 11:01 a.m.

REGULAR MEETING

The minutes of February 22, 2007 meeting were approved and adopted as amended.

Motion made by Mr. Bowers
Carried Unanimously

Seconded by Mr. Watson

Mr. Gatewood was absent during this voting.

PRELIMINARY HEARINGS

Due to Mr. James F. Maddox's request, the matter of James F. Maddox, No. 2006-0008, was moved up on the Agenda.

IN THE MATTER OF JAMES F. MADDOX

CASE NO. 2006-0008

The Commission found reasonable grounds to believe that the Ethics in Government Act was violated and consequently set this matter down for an Administrative hearing.

Moved by: Mr. Jordan
Carried Unanimously

Seconded by: Mr. Bowers

Mr. Gatewood was absent during this voting.

Due to Mr. Steve Brodie's request, the matter of Committee to Elect Steve Brodie, No. 2006-0003, was moved up on the Agenda.

IN THE MATTER OF COMMITTEE TO ELECT STEVE BRODIE

CASE NO. 2006-0003

The Commission found that there were no reasonable grounds to believe that the Ethics in Government Act had been violated, and this matter was dismissed.

Moved by: Mr. Bowers

Seconded by: Mr. Jordan

In favor: Mr. Bowers, Mr. Jordan, Mr. Pollard

Opposed: Mr. Watson

Motion carried.

Mr. Gatewood was absent during this voting.

IN THE MATTER OF PAM STANLEY

CASE NO. 2005-0019

The Commission found that there were reasonable grounds to believe that the Ethics in Government Act had been violated, and consequently this matter was set down for an Administrative hearing.

Moved by: Mr. Bowers

Seconded by: Mr. Watson

Carried Unanimously

Mr. Gatewood was absent during this voting.

Mr. Jordan suggested the Attorney General's Office dually report to the appropriate authorities the possible criminal issues that may be associated with this case.

IN THE MATTER OF SHIRLEY FRANKLIN

CASE NO. 2005-0087

The Respondent waived their right for a preliminary hearing. Therefore, the matter will be scheduled for an Administrative hearing. (See attached letter.)

IN THE MATTER OF DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF CHATHAM COUNTY

CASE NO. 2005-0088

The Commission adopted a Consent Order finding violations and assessing civil penalties in the amount of Seven Thousand dollars (\$7,000.00) and late filing fees in the amount of Nine Hundred dollars (\$900.00).

Moved by: Mr. Watson

Seconded by: Mr. Pollard

Carried Unanimously

Mr. Gatewood was absent during this voting.

IN THE MATTER OF STEVE BROWN

CASE NO. 2005-0102

The Commission found that there were no reasonable grounds to believe that the Ethics in Government Act had been violated, and the matter was dismissed.

Moved by: Mr. Bowers

Seconded by: Mr. Watson

Carried Unanimously

Mr. Gatewood was absent during this voting.

The Commission was in recess for five minutes.

IN THE MATTER OF MARK TAYLOR

CASE NO. 2005-0103

Motion was made to dismiss allegations 2, 5, 7, 8, 10, 12, 13, 14, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, and 22 outlined in the Investigatory Report associated with "field expenses".

Moved by: Mr. Bowers

Seconded by: Mr. Watson

Carried Unanimously

Mr. Gatewood was absent during this voting.

Motion was made to dismiss allegations 1, 33, and 35 outlined in the Investigatory Report associated with incorrect numbers on the summary pages of the CCDR.

Moved by: Mr. Jordan

Seconded by: Mr. Pollard

Carried Unanimously

Mr. Gatewood was absent during this voting.

The Commission found reasonable grounds to believe that the Respondent violated the Ethics in Government Act as listed in allegations 23, 28, 29, 32, 36, 39, 42, 45, 48, and 47 outlined in the Investigatory Report associated with missing information of the committees, PAC affiliations, and acceptance of excess contributions.

Moved by: Mr. Bowers

Seconded by: Mr. Watson

In favor: Mr. Bowers, Mr. Watson, Mr. Pollard

Opposed: Mr. Jordan

The motion carried.

Mr. Gatewood was absent during this voting.

Motion was made to table allegations 24, 26, 37, and 40 outlined in the Investigatory Report associated with excess contributions that were received by the Respondent.

Moved by: Mr. Bowers

Seconded by: Mr. Watson

Substitute motion was introduced by Mr. Jordan to dismiss allegations 24, 26, 37, and 40 if no further evidence is found to support a violation.

Moved by: Mr. Watson
Carried Unanimously
Mr. Gatewood was absent during this voting.

Seconded by: Mr. Jordan

Motion was made to dismiss allegations 49 and 50 outlined in the Investigatory Report associated with deficiencies in the Personal Financial Disclosure Statements.

Moved by: Mr. Jordan
Carried Unanimously
Mr. Gatewood was absent during this voting.

Seconded by: Mr. Watson

Motion was made to dismiss all the allegations that were not discussed.

Moved by: Mr. Jordan
Carried Unanimously
Mr. Gatewood was absent during this voting.

Seconded by: Mr. Pollard

The Commission was in recess for approximately one hour for lunch.

The session came to order at approximately 2:25 p.m.

IN THE MATTER OF CATHY COX

CASE NO. 2005-0104

This matter was continued until the next hearing date.

IN THE MATTER OF LAURA SEARCY

CASE NO. 2005-0111

The Commission found that there were no reasonable grounds to believe that the Ethics in Government Act had been violated, and the matter was dismissed.

Moved by: Mr. Watson
Carried Unanimously
Mr. Gatewood was absent during this voting.

Seconded by: Mr. Bowers

IN THE MATTER OF GERALD L. PONCEY

CASE NO. 2006-0002

The Commission found that there were no reasonable grounds to believe that the Ethics in Government Act had been violated, and the matter was dismissed.

Moved by: Mr. Bowers
Carried Unanimously
Mr. Gatewood was absent during this voting.

Seconded by: Mr. Pollard

IN THE MATTER OF FULTON COUNTY TAXPAYERS ASSOCIATION

CASE NO. 2006-0004

This matter was continued until the next hearing date.

**IN THE MATTER OF WILLIAM G. USRY AND FLINT RIVER
REGIONAL WATER COUNCIL**

CASE NO. 2005-0101

The Respondent waived their right for a preliminary hearing. Therefore, the matter will be scheduled for an Administrative hearing. (See attached letter.)

IN THE MATTER OF CITIZENS FOR GOOD GOVERNMENT

CASE NO. 22006-0009

The Commission found that there were reasonable grounds to believe that the Ethics in Government Act had been violated, and consequently this matter was set down for an Administrative hearing.

Moved by: Mr. Bowers

Seconded by: Mr. Pollard

Carried Unanimously

Mr. Gatewood was absent during this voting.

IN THE MATTER OF JUSTIN WIEDEMAN

CASE NO. 2006-0012

This matter was continued until the next hearing date.

IN THE MATTER OF FULTON COUNTY TAXPAYERS ASSOCIATION

CASE NO. 2006-0013

This matter was continued until the next hearing date.

IN THE MATTER OF WILLIAM STEPHENS

CASE NO. 2006-0016

The Commission found that there were no reasonable grounds to believe that the Ethics in Government Act had been violated, and the matter was dismissed.

Moved by: Mr. Jordan

Seconded by: Mr. Watson

Carried Unanimously

Mr. Gatewood was absent during this voting.

CONSENT ORDERS

IN THE MATTER OF DERRICK POPE

CASE NO. 2004-0092

The Commission adopted a Consent Order finding violations and assessing civil penalties in the amount of Five Hundred dollars (\$500.00) and late filing fees in amount of Seventy Five dollars (\$75.00).

Moved by: Mr. Bowers

Seconded by: Mr. Pollard

Carried Unanimously

Mr. Gatewood was absent during this voting.

OTHER BUSINESS

ADVISORY OPINION OF CONTRIBUTIONS TO NON-PROFITS BY CANDIDATES

The Commission adopted the advisory opinion as presented.

Moved by: Mr. Bowers

Seconded by: Mr. Pollard

Carried Unanimously

Mr. Gatewood was absent during this voting.

ADVISORY OPINION OF LOBBYIST REGISTRATION

The Commission adopted the advisory opinion as presented.

Moved by: Mr. Jordan

Seconded by: Mr. Bowers

Carried Unanimously

Mr. Gatewood was absent during this voting.

LEGISLATIVE PACKET

Following points were discussed:

- Relocating to 14th floor of West Tower
- Acknowledgement of the compliments that were given to Mr. Jordan by Rep. Joe Wilkinson on the wonderful job that Mr. Thompson is doing in carrying the agency further on the road to success.

Mr. Bowers further added on behalf of the Commission that Mr. Rick Thompson has done a good job in the improvement of the administrative process and preparation of the commission meetings.

COMMENTS FROM THE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE

The Attorney General's offices welcomed the new commissioners and briefed them on the role of the Attorney General's office. The Attorney General's office is available to provide opinion and day to day advice to the Commission. Also, they are rescheduling four cases that were set down for an Administrative hearing with Office of State Administrative Hearings.

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

Brian Hess was named a member of COGEL Technology Committee. Implementation of the Commission's e-mail notification system that will notify the interested parties of the commission meetings, press releases, hearing notices, and training schedules was successful.

FUTURE MEETING DATE

The Commission set **May 24, 2007**, **July 26, 2007** and **September 20, 2007** as the next meeting dates following the April 5, 2007 meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No members of the public made comments.

The Motion was made to adjourn the meeting.

Motion made by Mr. Jordan

Seconded by Mr. Watson

The meeting adjourned at approximately 3:05 p.m.



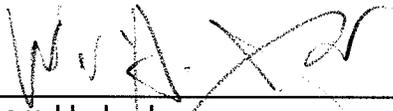
Rick Thompson
Executive Secretary

Official Minutes Statement

The foregoing Minutes for the April 5, 2007 meeting for the State Ethics Commission were approved and adopted by the Commission at the Commission's meeting on July 26, 2007.

STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

By:



William H. Jordan
Chairman