

**MINUTES OF THE
AD HOC COMMITTEE TO DEVELOP ETHICS ORDINANCE**

WEDNESDAY, JULY 20, 2011

At a meeting of the **Ad Hoc Committee to Develop Ethics Ordinance**, held Wednesday, July 20, 2011, in the Board Room, on the 9th Floor of the Administration Building, Mount Clemens, the following members were present:

Miller-Chair, Gralewski, Mocerri, Smith, Vosburg and Tocco (ex-officio).

Other Commissioners Also Present:

Flynn and Fraschetti.

There being a quorum of the committee present, Chair Miller called the meeting to order at 6:38 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

AGENDA

MOTION

A motion was made by Mocerri, supported by Gralewski, to adopt the agenda, as presented. **The Motion Carried.**

DISCUSSION ON DEVELOPMENT OF ETHICS ORDINANCE

Chair Miller summarized the documents that were included in the agenda packet: the current Macomb County Ethics Policy adopted in 2006 and the Michigan Municipal League's Ethics Handbook for Michigan Municipalities. He said he also reviewed a document provided by former Attorney General Mike Cox and his office that included a sample of ordinances.

Commissioner Gralewski spoke about strengthening the attendance policy and suggested the addition of a roll call at the beginning and end of all regularly scheduled meetings and the deduction of pay for absences.

Chair Miller said he was not sure if that would fall under this ordinance, but that he would accept any amendments offered for debate. He said it was mentioned to him by Independent Counsel that the issue raised by Commissioner Gralewski would be more adequately addressed under Board Rules.

Board Chair Vosburg asked if the current Ethics Policy is going to be the starting point and Chair Miller replied yes and indicated that Article 2 of the Charter stipulates a set of rules that this committee has to abide by and it should also include financial disclosure, punitive versus aspirational, issue of hiring and nepotism.

Commissioner Frascchetti agreed with starting with the policy that is currently in place. He expressed his concern with having an Ethics Board investigating public officials.

Mr. Richner stated that the Charter does provide for an Ethics Board that does have significant powers and the Commission and County is bound to abide by the provisions of the Charter until it is amended. He said the language in the Charter is unique and has very strong ethics language.

Commissioner Flynn suggested looking at best practices and models throughout the state and nation. He felt this is an opportunity for the Board to develop an Ethics Ordinance that regains the trust in public servants, employees of governments and good contracting practices.

Board Chair Vosburg referred to the issue of campaign and political contributions and felt it should be addressed thoroughly.

Chair Miller said the Charter does not include specific reference to campaign finance, soliciting contributions on public ground, or using public resources for campaign purposes, but he would like to see it addressed in the ordinance.

Mr. Richner said the Michigan Campaign Finance Act does prohibit the use of public resources for political purposes. He said the Charter does require that the Ethics Ordinance address all inappropriate political activity and that is for the Board to define. He proposed reviewing best practices from other public bodies.

FUTURE MEETING DATES

Chair Miller said an ordinance must be in place one year from the effective date of the Charter, which would be the end of 2011. He said he intends to have this committee work on the development of the ordinance during the next couple of months and to have it for Board Operations Committee consideration in October or November. He said he will work with members to establish future meeting dates.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION

A motion was made by Gralowski, supported by Vosburg, to adjourn the meeting at 7:11 p.m. **The Motion Carried.**