

Tennessee Ethics Commission
March 4, 2013
Minutes

The Tennessee Ethics Commission met on Monday, March 4, 2013 at 9:00 a.m. at the Bureau of Ethics and Campaign Finance office. Members present were: Jim Stranch, Greg Hardeman, George Jaynes, Keith Norman, and Tammy White. Chairman Stranch called the meeting to order.

The first item on the agenda was the election of a new chairman. Mr. Jaynes nominated Mr. Stranch and Mr. Hardeman seconded. Nominations ceased and the motion passed 5-0.

November 13, 2012 minutes

Mr. Norman made the motion to approve the November 13, 2012 minutes and Mr. Hardeman seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

Requests for Reconsideration

James Roach (Alderman, Rutherford, Gibson County) – 2012-066

Mr. Roach submitted a request for reconsideration of the \$100 civil penalty assessed on November 13, 2012. Mr. Jaynes made the motion to grant reconsideration and Mr. Hardeman seconded. Mr. Jaynes amended that motion to include assessing a \$30 civil penalty. Mr. Hardeman seconded and the motion passed 5-0.

Civil Penalty Assessments – Employers of Lobbyists

Frank C. May – 2013-008

Mr. Hardeman moved to waive a civil penalty for late filing of the expenditure report because it was the filer's first offense. Mr. Jaynes seconded and the motion passed 4-0. Ms. White abstained.

Bells Landing Partners – 2013-009

Mr. Jaynes made the motion to assess a \$750 penalty for late filing of the expenditure report. Ms. White seconded and the motion passed 5-0.

Civil Penalty Assessments – Lobbyists

Brad Lampley – 2012-075

Mr. Lampley, along with Gif Thornton, Mr. Lampley's law partner, appeared before the Commission to explain the discrepancies of late registrations found in the 2011 audit of lobbyists. Mr. Norman made the motion to waive civil penalties in the cases of registrations that were four, five and seventeen days late. Mr. Hardeman seconded and the motion passed 5-0. After additional discussion and explanation, Mr. Hardeman made the motion to waive civil penalties in the case of the registration that was filed one hundred three (103) days late. Ms. White seconded and the motion passed 4-1, with Mr. Norman voting no.

Thomas Lee – 2012-076

Mr. Lee appeared before the Commission to explain the discrepancies found in his 2011 audit. The discrepancies were a four day late filing and a five day late filing. After discussion, Mr. Hardeman made the motion to waive any civil penalty and Mr. Jaynes seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

Josh Thomas, 2012-077

Mr. Thomas did not appear before the Commission. After discussion, Mr. Hardeman made the motion to assess a \$650 civil penalty for a twenty-six (26) day late registration. Mr. Jaynes seconded and the motion passed 5-0.

Civil Penalty Assessments – Candidates

Donny Moreland, Marion County – 2013-001

Mr. Jaynes made the motion to waive a civil penalty for filing a SOI eight days late. Mr. Hardeman seconded and the motion passed 5-0.

Gaines Cooper Paine, Commissioner, Rhea County – 2013-003

Mr. Norman made the motion to assess a civil penalty of ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) for failure to file a SOI. Mr. Jaynes seconded and the motion passed 5-0.

Danny Crosby, Robertson County – 2013-005

Mr. Crosby submitted a statement explaining why he was late filing a SOI. Mr. Jaynes made the motion to waive a civil penalty and Ms. White seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

Roger D. Welch, Lincoln County – 2013-006

Mr. Welch submitted a statement explaining why he was late filing a SOI. Ms. White made the motion to assess a fifty dollar (\$50) civil penalty. Mr. Jaynes seconded and the motion passed 5-0.

Yusuf Hakeem, City Council-Chattanooga – 2013-007

Mr. Norman made the motion to waive a civil penalty for late filing and Mr. Jaynes seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

Other Business

Drew Rawlins, Executive Director of the Bureau of Ethics and Campaign Finance, informed the Commission that a random selection of lobbyists for the 2012 audits had taken place.

Mr. Rawlins also informed the Commission of a bill before the general assembly that would require Commission meetings to be video streamed on our website.

This concluded the business of the regularly scheduled meeting and the meeting adjourned.