



STATE OF MAINE
COMMISSION ON GOVERNMENTAL ETHICS
AND ELECTION PRACTICES
135 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE
04333-0135

Agenda

Meeting of June 18, 2003

9:00 a.m., Commission Offices, 242 State Street, Augusta, Maine

ROUTINE BUSINESS

1. Ratification of minutes of April 9, 2003 meeting

OLD BUSINESS

2. John Henderson

No action by the Commission appears necessary on this item. At the April 9, 2003 meeting, the Commission staff expressed its concern that Mr. Henderson (an MCEA candidate) may have spent more than he was authorized. Based on further discussions with the candidate, the staff has determined that his campaign had a surplus of MCEA funds, which now have been returned to the Commission.

NEW BUSINESS

3. Think About It

Casinos *No!* (a PAC opposed to the casino gambling referendum) submitted a complaint about the method of financing used by Think About It (the pro-casino PAC). Think About It has not received cash contributions or made expenditures. Instead, when the PAC receives goods or services, invoices are paid by Marnell Corrao, a Las Vegas casino development company, or attorney Thomas Tureen. These payments have been reported as in-kind contributions and constitute the only reported financial activity by Think About It. (A sample page from a campaign finance report is attached.) In addition, the Commission staff has requested that Think About It disclose whether Thomas Tureen has been reimbursed for any of the costs he has paid.

Penalty Determinations

4. Evangeline Hollander/Youth Alternatives, Inc.

Monthly Lobbyist Report

Due 4/15/03; filed 4/17/03 – 2 days late

Statutory Penalty: \$100

Recommendation: Find lobbyist in violation but waive penalty (due to sudden family illness)

5. Jeffrey C. Rowe/Maine Campground Owners Association

Monthly Lobbyist Report

Due 5/15/03; filed 5/28/03 – 13 days late

Statutory Penalty: \$100

Recommendation: Assess penalty of \$50 (reduction for first late filing)

Request for Statutory Interpretation

6. Rep. Janet L. McLaughlin

Rep. Janet L. McLaughlin has surplus funds from her 2002 campaign (financed through private contributions) and wishes to use \$1,000 for tuition in the 2003-04 Maine Development Foundation's Leadership Maine Program. Under 21-A M.R.S.A. §1017(8), candidates with a surplus over \$50 may dispose of the funds only through nine specified categories of expenditures. Rep. McLaughlin states that the tuition expense would be permitted under the statute as an "expense incurred in the proper performance of the office to which the candidate is elected"

Referrals to Attorney General's Office

7. Michael A. Lewis

Candidate for State Representative, District 10

Failure to pay \$235.80 penalty

Chronology:

- 42-Day Post-General Report was due 12/17/02
- Candidate received reminder call regarding failure to file on 12/18/02 (candidate said he forgot report, but would fax it that day)
- Commission mailed failure to file letter on 12/19/02
- Commission mailed final notice of possible referral to AG as non-filer on 1/13/03
- Candidate filed report on 1/16/03
- Commission mailed notice of \$235.80 preliminary penalty determination for late filing on 1/16/03
- Candidate received penalty notice on 1/18/03 but did not respond
- Commission mailed final notice of possible referral to AG for non-payment of penalty on 3/6/03
- Candidate has not responded

8. Cody Gillis, Sr.

Candidate for State Representative, District 50

MCEA candidate: spent \$5,439 in public funds

Failure to pay \$620.10 penalty

Chronology:

- 42-Day Post-General Report was due 12/17/02

- Candidate's wife received reminder call on 12/18/02 and stated "he's putting it together"
- Commission mailed failure to file letter on 12/19/02 (returned by post office unclaimed)
- Candidate filed report on 12/30/02
- Commission mailed notice of \$620.10 preliminary penalty determination for late filing on 1/13/03
- Candidate received penalty notice on 1/14/03, but did not respond
- Commission mailed final notice of possible referral to AG for non-payment of penalty on 3/6/03
- Candidate has not responded

9. Update on Possible Move of Commission Offices

10. Other

Miscellaneous as needed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

If necessary.

ADJOURNMENT