

Frederick County Ethics Commission
Minutes for the Public Meeting of Thursday, July 20, 2006

Present: G. Anthony Crook, Chairman
Andrew T. Jones, Commission Member
Karl W. Bickel, Commission Member
Ronald W. Peppe, Alternate Commission Member
Linda B. Thall, Senior Assistant County Attorney

The Frederick County Ethics Commission met at 7:00 p.m. on July 20, 2006, at the Office of the County Attorney on the 3rd floor of Winchester Hall, 12 East Church Street, Frederick, Maryland 21701.

MOTION: Mr. Jones made a motion to open the meeting. Mr. Bickel seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

The meeting began with the introduction of Mr. Bickel, who was recently appointed to the Commission by the Board of County Commissioners.

Unfinished Business

Approval of the minutes – The Commission considered the minutes from its June 29, 2006, meeting.

MOTION: Mr. Peppe made a motion to approve the minutes as drafted. Mr. Crook seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

Review of financial disclosure statements from BOCC candidates – The Commission reviewed the additional financial disclosure statements provided by candidates for election or reelection to the Board of County Commissioners that had not been received by the time of the Commission's June meeting. The Commission also discussed the *Seipp v. Baltimore City Board of Elections* decision by the Maryland Court of Appeals as it pertains to local Ethics Ordinance provisions requiring financial disclosure statements from candidates for public office.

Advisory Opinion 06-02 – The Senior Assistant County Attorney updated the Commission members on the distribution of this Advisory Opinion to candidates for election or reelection to a position on the Board of County Commissioners, to members of Boards and Commissions appointed by the Board of County Commissioners, and to County Division Directors. The Advisory Opinion (or a summary, if necessary) will also be placed in the next County employee newsletter.

New Business

Annual Financial disclosure statements – The Commission members reviewed and discussed the annual financial disclosure statements received to date from members of the Board of County Commissioners, members of County Boards and Commissions, and County employees. The members discussed possible changes to the financial disclosure statements for next year, such as asking for home addresses and asking Board and Commission members to provide employment information. The Commission members asked the Senior Assistant County Attorney to follow up with three persons who filed financial disclosure statements to obtain more information from them.

MOTION: Mr. Jones moved to direct the Senior Assistant County Attorney to obtain additional information about the value of the gift that was noted on a financial disclosure statement from an individual employed in the Finance Division and the nature of the business entity that gave the gift. Mr. Bickel seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

MOTION: Mr. Jones moved to direct the Senior Assistant County Attorney to obtain additional information about the primary and secondary employment of an individual who is employed by the Frederick County Developmental Center. The Commission needs to know whether the secondary employer receives money from the County, whether the secondary employer is a private or public entity, the nature of the employee's County position, and whether the employee's County job duties and responsibilities are related to the work of the secondary employer. Mr. Bickel seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

Adjournment

MOTION: Mr. Jones moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Bickel seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

The Ethics Commission adjourned its meeting at 9:15 p.m.

/s/
Linda B. Thall, Senior Assistant County Attorney