

Frederick County Ethics Commission
Minutes for the Public Meeting of Monday, December 13, 2004

Present: Ronald W. Peppe, Chairman
 G. Anthony Crook, Commission Member
 Phillip P. Killam, Commission Member
 Andrew T. Jones, Alternate Commission Member
 Linda B. Thall, Assistant County Attorney

The Frederick County Ethics Commission met at approximately 7:00 p.m. on December 13, 2004, at the Office of the County Attorney on the 3rd floor of Winchester Hall, 12 East Church Street, Frederick, Maryland 21701.

MOTION: Mr. Crook made a motion to open the public meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Killam and was unanimously approved.

Unfinished Business

Approval of the minutes – The Commission considered the minutes from its November 30, 2004, meeting.

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

Correspondence regarding Advisory Opinion – The Assistant County Attorney read the contents of a letter from the employee who received Advisory Opinion No. 04-10. The employee will resign as an officer of the Board of Directors of the non-profit corporation, will not participate in fundraising, and will see that the employee's title is not used on fundraising materials.

New Business

Request for an Advisory Opinion – The Commission considered a request from the employee whose outside employment was discussed in Advisory Opinion 04-02. The employee has now been asked to teach at the Johns Hopkins University, Center for Technology in Education's (JHU/CTE) Early Intervention Leadership Academy.

MOTION: Mr. Crook moved to have Mr. Peppe sign a letter to the employee stating that the Commission did not believe that there would be a conflict of interest in accepting the offer to teach at the Academy, provided that no County money is used to fund the Academy, JHU/CTE, or her teaching salary. Mr. Killam seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

Unfinished Business

Pending investigation – The Assistant County Attorney advised the Commission on the provisions regarding confidentiality in the Commission's Standard Operating Procedures. The Commission then discussed new material provided by the subject of the complaint.

MOTION: Mr. Crook moved to view the videotape for fifteen minutes and then decide whether to view the remainder of the tape. Mr. Killam seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

The Commission then viewed the portions of the videotape where the subject of the complaint and another County representative were interviewed. Other portions of the tape were also reviewed.

MOTION: Mr. Crook moved to end the public meeting and to meet in executive session to discuss the Commission's opinion on the complaint. Mr. Killam seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

The public meeting ended at approximately 7:40 p.m. The Commission then met in executive session.

Adjournment

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

The Ethics Commission adjourned its meeting at 8:45 p.m.

/s/

Linda B. Thall, Assistant County Attorney