

Frederick County Ethics Commission
Minutes for the Public Meeting of Monday, August 9, 2004

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

The Frederick County Ethics Commission met at 7:00 p.m. on August 9, 2004, at the Office of the County Attorney on the 3rd floor of Winchester Hall, 12 East Church Street, Frederick, Maryland 21701.

Unfinished Business

Approval of the minutes – The Commission considered the minutes from its July 26, 2004, meeting.

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

Update on Commission website – The Assistant County Attorney advised the Commission that its website is now on the Internet. Mr. Peppe suggested that it might be helpful in the future to also have an index of the opinions on the Internet.

Consideration of unsigned complaints – At its last meeting, the Commission asked for information about the practices followed by the State Ethics Commission and the Ethics Commissions in selected other counties for handling complaints. The Assistant County Attorney distributed a summary of the practices followed by the State Ethics Commission and the Ethics Commissions in Baltimore County, Carroll County, Howard County and Montgomery County. The Commission then discussed whether it should alter its current policy regarding the acceptance of unsigned complaints. The current policy requires that complaints of violations be made in writing and signed by the complainant with the complainant's address and telephone number.

MOTION: Mr. Crook made a motion to keep the current policy. Mr. Killam seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

New Business

Board of County Commissioners' legislative package – The Commission discussed the materials provided by the Board of County Commissioners on its legislative proposals for the upcoming session of the General Assembly. The fourteenth proposal, concerning Public Ethics – Zoning, was also in last year's package and was supported by the Ethics Commission at that time.

MOTION: Mr. Crook made a motion to send the Board of County Commissioners a general statement of support for the Public Ethics – Zoning proposal. Mr. Killam seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

Mr. Peppe noted that the Ethics Commission will continue to consider other changes to the Ethics Ordinance, but that any such suggestions would not be included in the current group of proposals made by the Board of County Commissioners.

The Ethics Commission adjourned its public meeting at approximately 8:15 p.m. The Commission then met to perform executive functions. As previously announced, the Commission went back into a public meeting at approximately 10:43 p.m. No members of the public were present and the Commission adjourned at approximately 10:45 p.m.

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