



Jan H. Gardner
County Executive

FREDERICK COUNTY GOVERNMENT

FREDERICK COUNTY ETHICS COMMISSION Office of the County Attorney

Stephen K. Hess, Chair

Minutes of the Public Meeting of the Frederick County Ethics Commission

**Wednesday, March 23, 2022
3:30 P.M.**

Present:

Stephen K. Hess (Chair)
Rev. Douglas P. Jones (Vice-Chair)
Anna Johnson-Winegar
Deborah L. Lundahl
Mr. Michael G. Bunitsky
Rev. Stephen Larsen

Absent

James A. Stanker
Ms. Ysela Bravo (Alternate)

Also in Attendance

Andrew J. Ford, Assistant County Attorney
Kimberly Long

The Frederick County Ethics Commission meeting was called to order at 3:31 p.m. on March 23, 2022. The meeting was held virtually via Microsoft Teams.

1. Call to Order / Roll Call.
2. Approval of Agenda.
3. Recommend change to Section 1-7.1-7 of the Ethics Law. (See attached.)
4. Recommend change to Review Financial Disclosure Statement process for 2021 Statements (due in April 2022) due to change in Wage and Salary Grade and Past Experience.

Approval of Agenda. Commissioner Bunitsky made a motion to approve the Agenda. Commissioner Lundahl seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

Ethics Law Changes: The Commission discussed proposed changes to Section 1-7.1-7 of the Ethics Law. Discussion was had as to the nature of work of employees at different grades and need for completion of financial disclosure statements by such employees. Motion was made by Commissioner Bunitsky to recommend change to Section 1-7.1-7 as set forth in the attachment to the meeting's Agenda. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Jones and was approved unanimously.

Review of Financial Disclosure Statement process for 2021 Statements (due in April 2022): The Commission discussed reducing the number of employees subject to completing the financial disclosure statement for calendar year 2021 due to change in compensation plan grades as well as contemplated changes to the Ethic Law. Commissioner Jones asked whether statements could be requested later in the year if, for example, the change to Section 1-7.1-7 did not pass the County Council. Mr. Ford indicated that statements could be required at a later date. Commissioners unanimously consented with directing staff to proceed at this time with only those employees at Grade 16 and above and those members on the updated list of boards and commissioners as set forth in the revision to Section 1-7.1-7, attached to the Agenda.

/s/
Andrew J. Ford
Assistant County Attorney