



Jessica Fitzwater
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, July 12, 2023

7:00 P.M.

Present:

Deborah L. Lundahl
Michael G. Bunitsky
Mary Beth Kaslick
Walter Olson
Christopher Perry, Alternate Member

Absent:

Rev. Douglas P. Jones
Stephen Larsen
James A. Stanker

Also, in Attendance

Andrew Ford, Secretary

1. Call to Order. Mr. Ford, as Secretary, called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.
2. Election of Chair and Vice-Chair. Commissioner Bunitsky nominated Commissioner Jones to be Chair. Commissioner Kaslick seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously. Commissioner Bunitsky nominated Lundahl to be Vice-Chair. Commissioner Olson seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously. Vice-Chair Lundahl chaired the meeting from this point forward.
3. Approval of Minutes. Commissioner Bunitsky made a motion to approve the June 14, 2023 minutes, which was seconded by Commissioner Olson and approved unanimously.

4. Acknowledge Receipt of the Public Ethics Report for Period January 1, 2023 – June 30, 2023. The Commissioners acknowledged receipt of the Report.

5. Update on Changes to Law. Mr. Ford provided the Commission with a summary of the changes to the law or Commission's standard operating procedures that have been discussed in past meetings.

- (A) Change County Ethics Law to include virtual meetings as if "in person".
- (B) Change definition of lobbying in County Ethics Law to include *any* attempt to influence any legislative, executive, or administrative action of a County agency.
- (C) Reduce the registration thresholds in County Ethics Law to levels closer to those of similar sized counties.
- (D) Change County Ethics Law to provide advisory approval process for Outside Employment.
- (E) Change Commission's Standard Operating Procedures to provide that the Commission may dismiss a complaint if confidentiality is breached by the complainant.

Mr. Ford will draft proposed language for each of the above for review by the Commission.

6. Vote to Conduct an Administrative Function Meeting. Commissioner Kaslick moved to enter into an administrative function to discuss a pending complaint. Commissioner Perry seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

Required information regarding the administrative function meeting - The Commission entered administrative function at 7:33 p.m. Present were Commissioners Lundahl, Bunitsky, Kaslick, Olson, and Perry. Mr. Ford were also present.

Commissioners discussed the latest response received from the subject of the complaint and next steps with respect to obtaining additional information. Commissioner Bunitsky moved to leave administrative function. Commissioner Kaslick seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously. The Commission resumed the public meeting at 7:57 p.m.

There being no other business before the Commission, Commissioner Bunitsky made a motion to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded by Commissioner Olson and approved unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 7:57 p.m.

/s/
Andrew J. Ford
Secretary