



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, August 9, 2023

7:00 P.M.

Present:

Deborah L. Lundahl, Vice-Chair
Mary Beth Kaslick
Walter Olson
Stephen Larsen

Absent:

Rev. Douglas P. Jones, Chair
James A. Stanker
Michael G. Bunitsky
Christopher Perry, Alternate Member

Also in Attendance

Andrew Ford, Secretary
Byron Black, County Attorney

1. Call to Order. Vice-Chair Lundahl called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.
2. Approval of Minutes. Commissioner Kaslick made a motion to approve the May minutes, which was seconded by Commissioner Olson and approved unanimously.
3. Update on Changes to Law. Mr. Ford discussed the letter from the County Executive requesting any ideas or suggestions for the Frederick County legislative package for the 2024 General Assembly Session. Any ideas should be provided by Thursday, September 14, 2023.
4. Vote to Conduct an Administrative Function Meeting. Commissioner Larsen moved to enter into an administrative function in order to discuss a new complaint, a pending complaint and review of 2022 financial disclosure statements. Commissioner Kaslick seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

Required information regarding the administrative function meeting - The Commission entered administrative function at 7:02 p.m. Present were Commissioners Lundahl, Kaslick, Olson and Larsen. Messrs. Ford and Black were also present.

Mr. Black discussed with the Commission the allegation in the new complaint that the County Attorney's Office would have a conflict of interest in providing advice to the Commission. Without concluding that any such conflict of interest existed, the Commission decided to engage outside counsel, considered several names and selected Timothy Maloney. The Commission instructed Mr. Black to reach out to Mr. Maloney and engage his services on behalf of the Commission. Mr. Black then left the administrative function meeting.

Mr. Ford discussed the pending complaint with the Commissioners, who authorized Mr. Ford to solicit an offer of settlement from the subject of the complaint or, in the alternative, work with counsel to set a date for a hearing.

Mr. Ford reviewed the process for finalizing the review of the 2022 Financial Disclosure Statement. The Commission agreed to review the remaining statements and any potential exceptions at the September meeting.

Commissioner Olson moved to leave administrative function. Commissioner Kaslick seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously. The Commission resumed the public meeting at 8:02 p.m.

There being no other business before the Commission, Commissioner Larsen made a motion to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded by Commissioner Bunitsky and approved unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:02 p.m.

/s/

Andrew J. Ford
Secretary