



FREDERICK COUNTY GOVERNMENT

FREDERICK COUNTY ETHICS COMMISSION

Office of the County Attorney

Douglas P. Jones, Chair

Minutes of the Public Meeting of the Frederick County Ethics Commission Wednesday, February 21, 2024

7:00 P.M.

Present:

Rev. Douglas P. Jones, Chair
Deborah L. Lundahl, Vice-Chair
Mary Beth Kaslick
Walter Olson
Michael G. Bunitsky
James Stanker
Christopher Perry, Alternate Member

Absent:

Rev. Stephen Larsen

Also in Attendance

Andrew Ford, Secretary
Caroline Milam

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1. Call to Order; Roll Call; and Establishment of a Quorum. Chairperson Jones called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. Attendance noted and quorum established.
 2. Presentation on Financial Disclosure System for Calendar Year 2023. Staff from the Interagency Information Technology Division made a presentation of the new system for financial disclosure statements.
 3. Approval of Minutes. Commissioner Kaslick made a motion to approve the January 10, 2024 minutes, which was seconded by Commissioner Olson and approved unanimously.
 4. Review of 2016 Standard Operating Procedures. Mr. Ford walked through the 2016 Standard Operating Procedures and responded to comments and questions from commissioners. Mr. Ford will turn a revised draft of the procedures for review at the March meeting.

5. Discussion regarding issuing informal Advisory Opinion re: Prestige of Office and Gifts. The Chair discussed concern regarding political endorsements by County officials and possible concerns over violation of the provision of the Ethics Law regarding use of prestige of office. Mr. Ford discussed a past practice of the Commission regarding the issuance of informal advisory opinions reminding officials of certain requirement of the law. Mr. Ford was asked to draft an information advisory regarding use of the prestige of office and gifts.

6. Chair's Comments. The Chair thanked Commissioners Larsen and Bunitsky for their work reviewing the Standard Operating Procedures.

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 8:51 p.m.

_____/s/
Andrew J. Ford
Secretary