

Frederick County Ethics Commission
Minutes for the Public Meeting of Wednesday, August 22, 2007

Present: G. Anthony Crook, Chairman
Karl W. Bickel, Commission Member
Ronald W. Peppe, Alternate Commission Member
Linda B. Thall, Senior Assistant County Attorney

Absent: Andrew T. Jones, Commission Member

The Frederick County Ethics Commission met at 7:00 p.m. on August 22, 2007, at the Office of the County Attorney on the 3rd floor of Winchester Hall, 12 East Church Street, Frederick, Maryland 21701.

MOTION: Mr. Bickel made a motion to open the meeting. Mr. Peppe seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

Unfinished Business

Approval of the minutes – The Commission considered the minutes from its July 17, 2007, meeting.

MOTION: Mr. Bickel made a motion to approve the minutes as drafted. Mr. Peppe seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

Discussion of future meeting regarding the Public Ethics Law – The Commission considered its prior request that a meeting be scheduled with staff from the County Manager's Office to discuss implementation issues arising out of the Public Ethics Law. The Commission prefers to schedule this discussion after the new members of the Ethics Commission are appointed and have been provided with information about the Law.

Amendment of the Ethics Ordinance – The Senior Assistant County Attorney advised the Commission that the Board of County Commissioners adopted an amendment to the conflict of interest provision in Section 1-7.1-4(F)(5). The amendment was adopted on August 21, 2007; the effective date of the change is September 21, 2007. The amendment limits the applicability of this subsection to elected County officials. County officials and employees will be notified of this change to the Ethics Ordinance.

Financial disclosure forms – The Senior Assistant County Attorney advised the Commission that almost all of the required financial disclosure forms have been received. The forms will be reviewed after the new members of the Ethics Commission are appointed.

Public Ethics Law – The Commission was advised by the Senior Assistant County Attorney that the Board of County Commissioners met on August 7, 2007, to discuss the legislative

requests that the Board will make to the County Delegation for the upcoming session of the General Assembly. The Commission's recommended change to the Public Ethics Law was one of the items discussed. The Board decided not to include the recommendation in its legislative request packet. Delegate Weldon has advised the Board that contact with the Ethics Commission will be made to obtain additional information to support the Commission's recommendation. The Commission agreed that no action on its part is required at this time.

New Business

Recommendations on Commission vacancies – The Commission discussed the applications received for the vacant regular member position and the vacant alternate member position on the Commission.

MOTION: Mr. Peppe made a motion to recommend Paula Carolyn Bell for the regular member vacancy and to recommend Thomas R. Schuerger for the alternate member vacancy. Mr. Bickel seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

Selection of a new chairman – Mr. Crook noted that the Commission will need to select a new chairman, as his term on the Commission has expired.

MOTION: Mr. Crook moved to nominate Mr. Jones as the new Commission chairman. Mr. Bickel seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

Adjournment

MOTION: Mr. Bickel moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Peppe seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

The Ethics Commission adjourned its meeting at 7:25 p.m.

/s/

Linda B. Thall, Senior Assistant County Attorney