

Frederick County Ethics Commission
Minutes for the Public Meeting of Tuesday, May 20, 2014

Present: Gwen Romack, Chair
R. Carl Benna, Commission Member
Brian Duncan, Commission Member
C. Steven Snow, Alternate Commission Member
Linda B. Thall, Senior Assistant County Attorney

Ms. Romack called to order a meeting of the Frederick County Ethics Commission at 7:00 p.m. on May 20, 2014, in the Winchester Room on the 2nd floor of Winchester Hall, 12 East Church Street, Frederick, Maryland 21701.

New start time for Commission meetings – Ms. Romack raised the subject of changing the starting time for future Ethics Commission meetings from 7:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. This change was approved by unanimous consent.

Approval of the April 21, 2014 meeting minutes – A draft of the minutes was emailed to the Commission members before the meeting. The minutes were approved by unanimous consent.

Discussion of Commission vacancies – The two vacant positions on the Ethics Commission were advertised in the Frederick News-Post. The closing date for applications is May 30.

Decision to meet to perform an administrative function – The Commission members agreed unanimously to conduct an administrative function meeting to discuss a pending complaint.

Required information regarding the administrative function meeting – The Commission began its administrative function meeting at approximately 7:05 p.m. on May 20, 2014, in the Winchester Room on the 2nd floor of Winchester Hall, 12 East Church Street, Frederick, Maryland 21701. Present for the meeting were Ms. Romack, Mr. Benna, Mr. Duncan, Mr. Snow and Ms. Thall. The Commission members discussed a complaint alleging violation of the Ethics Ordinance and a draft of an opinion emailed to Commission members prior to the meeting. The Commission approved the opinion, which was signed by Ms. Romack.

The public meeting resumed at approximately 7:10 p.m.

Discussion of policy regarding political activity by Commission members – The Ethics Commission discussed the advisability of adopting a policy to establish guidelines for political activity by members of the Ethics Commission on behalf of candidates for election to County Executive or County Council Member. The Commission agreed that

members should remain publicly neutral in these races, but that the policy should not limit the rights of members to take positions on public issues or to attend meetings to become better informed on such issues.

New dates for Commission meetings – The Commission decided to change its regular monthly meeting date from the second Monday of the month to the second Tuesday of the month. This change was approved by unanimous consent.

Adjournment

The Ethics Commission adjourned its meeting at approximately 7:20 p.m.

/s/
Linda B. Thall, Senior Assistant County Attorney