

**Ethics Commission Nominating Committee**  
**Minutes for the Public Meeting on April 18, 2020**  
**Held via Zoom**

Present: Mary Ellen Rhoderick, League of Women Voters, Chair

Lucy Hogan, All Saints Church

Doug Jones, Ethics Commission

Roger Smith, DC, Rotary Club

Laurie Ward, Hood College Marketing and  
Communications Vice President

I. The meeting of the Frederick County Ethics Commission Nominating Committee was called to order at 9:10 a.m on April 18, 2020. Because of the ongoing Covid pandemic the meeting was held via Zoom. Mr. Smith moved, and Mr. Jones seconded, a motion to approve the agenda. The motion was approved unanimously. The meeting agenda on the Ethics Commission web page indicated that the meeting was being held via Zoom and that interested members of the public should contact the nominating committee chair by email so that they could be put on the Zoom contact list. There was no response to this notice.

II. New committee members Lucy Hogan, Laurie Ward, and Doug Jones were introduced.

III. The minutes of the previous meeting were reviewed. Mr. Smith moved, and Mr. Jones seconded, a motion to approve the minutes as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

IV. Ms. Rhoderick reviewed the nominating procedure.

V. Vote to go into closed session.

**MOTION:** Mr. Smith moved at 9:30 that the committee go to a closed session to interview candidates for the Ethics Commission. Mr. Jones seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously. The meeting was closed under General Provisions Art.3-305(b)(1) "To discuss the appointment, employment, assignment, promotion,

discipline, demotion, compensation, removal, resignation or performance evaluation of appointees, employees, or officials over whom this public body has jurisdiction.”

One of the applicants was present as an observer for the open part of the meeting, and was the first interviewee during the closed session. He left the meeting after his interview.

## **VI. Vote to return to public session**

**MOTION:** Mr. Jones moved to go back into public session at 11:00. The motion was seconded by Mr. Smith and approved unanimously.

### **Discussion of the candidates**

Candidates One and Two are incumbents. They have been active and effective in their participation in the Commission and would like to continue to serve.

Candidate Three is articulate and well informed re the ethics law and local government. He is a Senior Technical Advisor in the National Nuclear Security Administration. He lives in Emmitsburg, an area not currently represented on the Commission, and publishes the Emmitsburg News-Journal and edits Emmitsburg.net. We discussed potential problems with confidentiality, given these activities but he gave assurances of maintaining a “firewall” between his activities and service on the Commission. This would be his first service in local government.

Candidate Four is a medicinal chemist who is very enthusiastic about the prospect of serving. He emphasized his approach to decision making as completely fact-based and there was some concern that this didn’t leave much room for flexibility in dealing with some issues.

None have participated in party politics as defined by the criteria for Commission members, and none have plans to run for office.

All are willing to complete the financial disclosure form.

The ongoing training/educational work of the Commission was described to the candidates and all expressed interest in and support for that work.

### **Recommendations**

As the nominating committee is charged with providing two nominees for each position, if possible, the committee decided to proceed as follows.

**MOTION:** Mr. Smith moved, and Ms. Hogan seconded a motion to send all four names to the County Executive, with the two incumbents as first and second choices and candidates three and four in that order. The motion was approved unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:20

Respectfully,

Mary Ellen Rhoderick,  
Chair 301-639-4971