

WASHINGTON SUBURBAN SANITARY COMMISSION

BOARD OF ETHICS

OPEN SESSION MINUTES

Wednesday, July 14, 2021
Laurel, Maryland

The Board of Ethics (“Board”) met via videoconference to conduct an Open Session pursuant to Maryland Code Annotated, General Provisions Article § 3-305(b)(13).

Chair Pruden called the meeting to order at 1:10 p.m. with the following members present:

George Pruden II, Chair
Steven Hausman, Member
Jeffrey Hysen, Member
Chandria Slaughter, Alternate Member.

Also present:

Angelique Dorsey White, Ethics Officer
Russel Beers, Deputy General Counsel and Counsel to the Board
Latonya Allen, Administrative Assistant.

Open Session

Additions to Closed Session Agenda

Ms. Dorsey White stated that she received an additional agenda item after the meeting materials had been distributed. She requested approval to add Complaint C-21-02 to the Closed Session agenda.

On motion of Mr. Hysen and seconded by Dr. Hausman, three members of the Board (Hysen, Hausman, and Pruden) voted to add Complaint C-21-02 to the Closed Session agenda.

Approval of Open Session Minutes – June 9, 2021

The Board reviewed the draft Open Session Minutes from the June 9, 2021 meeting.

On motion of Mr. Hysen and seconded by Dr. Hausman, three members of the Board (Hysen, Hausman, and Pruden) voted to approve the June Open Session Minutes.

Matters of Discussion

Ethics Program Monthly Report

Ms. Dorsey White provided an update on the activities in the Ethics Office for June 2021. She reported that she provided ethics training to 17 new employees as part of the onboarding process.

Ms. Dorsey White also shared that the Ethics Office provided guidance on 26 matters, of which the leading categories were Disclosure Statements, Soliciting or Acceptance of Gifts, and Misuse of Office.

Update on Ethics Regulations

Ms. Dorsey White gave an update on the status of three ethics regulations.

Ms. Dorsey White provided a copy of a memorandum that she been prepared for the Commissioners in support of the Board's request for amendments to the Code of Ethics provisions on confidentiality and financial disclosure filings. These amendments will be presented to the Commissioners on July 21, 2021. The Board

requested that the time period contained in Ch. 1.70.340(d)(3) be changed to 30 calendar days.

Ms. Dorsey White also provided an update on the outside employment policy. She stated that it is currently being reviewed by the Executive Leadership Team. Member Jeffrey Hysen asked why employees are required to report outside employment when it would not constitute a clear conflict of interest. Chair Pruden stated that historically, employees were working in jobs that posed conflicts of interest and their managers were unaware. Ms. Dorsey White added that this policy is in alignment with the practices of Montgomery and Prince George's counties and Maryland state agencies. She also stated that it gives employees assurance that they are adhering to the Code of Ethics and that managers have an opportunity to understand when employees have other commitments. Mr. Hysen stated that perhaps a second version of the policy could be reviewed in the future that would only require reporting outside employment when it fits certain criteria.

On motion of Dr. Hausman and seconded by Mr. Hysen, three members of the Board (Hausman, Hysen, and Pruden) voted to amend Code of Ethics Chapter 1.70.340, to reflect that the Ethics Officer can grant an extension up to 30 calendar days to file a financial disclosure statement.

Informational Items

Delinquent Financial Disclosure Filer(s)

Ms. Allen stated that there was one delinquent financial disclosure filer to report.

Closed Session Approval

At 1:35 p.m., on motion of Dr. Hausman and seconded by Mr. Hysen, three members of the Board (Hausman, Hysen, and Pruden) voted to conclude the Open Session and conduct a Closed Session pursuant to Maryland Code Annotated, General Provisions Article § 3-305(b)(13) to approve June 9, 2021 Closed Session Minutes; General Provisions Article § 3-305(b)(13) and WSSC Code of Ethics Ch. 1.70.110 to address three Complaints; and General Provisions Article § 3-305(b)(7) to obtain legal advice regarding three Complaints, and Potential Complaints / Confidential Legal Investigations.

Attendees: Chair George Pruden; Member Steven Hausman; Member Jeffrey Hysen; and Alternate Member Chandria Slaughter. Staff present: Ethics Officer Angelique Dorsey White; Deputy General Counsel and Counsel to the Board Russel Beers; Administrative Assistant Latonya Allen; and Associate General Counsel Heather Ashbury.

Closed Session

Approval of Closed Session Minutes – June 9, 2021

The Board reviewed the draft Closed Session Minutes from the June 9, 2021 meeting.

On motion of Dr. Hausman and seconded by Mr. Hysen, three members of the Board (Hausman, Hysen, and Pruden) voted to approve the June Closed Session Minutes.

Complaint C-21-03

Associate Counsel Heather Ashbury arrived at 1:37 p.m.

Ms. Ashbury provided an update on this case.

On motion of Dr. Hausman and seconded by Mr. Hysen, three members of the Board (Hausman, Hysen, and Pruden) voted to schedule a hearing on this complaint.

Ms. Ashbury left the meeting at 2:17 p.m.

Complaint C-21-02

Mr. Beers provided an update on this matter.

On motion of Mr. Hysen and seconded by Dr. Hausman, three members of the Board (Hysen, Hausman, and Pruden) voted to extend the deadline to receive the preliminary report to the December 2021 meeting for good cause shown.

Complaint C-20-07

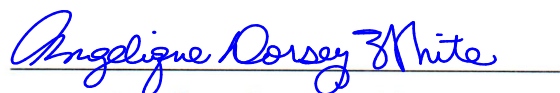
Ms. Dorsey White provided an update on this investigation.

Potential Complaint #5

Ms. Dorsey White provided an update on this matter.

Adjournment

On motion of Dr. Hausman and seconded by Mr. Hysen, three members of the Board (Hausman, Hysen, and Pruden) voted to adjourn the meeting at 3:04 p.m.



Angelique Dorsey White, Esq.
Ethics Officer