

WASHINGTON SUBURBAN SANITARY COMMISSION

BOARD OF ETHICS

OPEN SESSION MINUTES

Wednesday, December 9, 2020
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 1:07 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
Tamika Taylor, Counsel to the Office of Inspector General
Larry Carr, Office of Inspector General Investigator.

Open Session

Approval of Open Session Minutes – November 12, 2020

The Board reviewed the draft Open Session Minutes for November 12, 2020. On motion of Dr. Hausman and seconded by Mr. Hysen, three members of the Board (Hausman, Hysen, and Pruden) voted to approve the November Open Session Minutes.

Matters of Discussion

Ethics Program Monthly Report

Ms. Dorsey White provided an update on the activities in the Ethics Office for November 2020. She provided ethics training to eight new employees as part of the onboarding process. She also reported that there were approximately 70 employees who remain delinquent in taking the Annual Mandatory Ethics training. She stated that she will continue to work with managers to have the remaining staff complete the training by the end of the year.

The Board asked if any guidance had been sent regarding acceptance of holiday gifts. Ms. Dorsey White responded that gifts are generally delivered to employees at their WSSC Water work location and most staff are working from home. With the circumstances reducing the need for a reminder this year, she will focus on counseling individual employees on an as-needed basis.

Finally, Ms. Dorsey White shared that the Ethics Office provided guidance on 13 matters, of which the leading categories were General Inquiry/Administration and Training.

Board of Ethics Meeting Dates for Calendar Year 2021

The Board discussed the meeting schedule for Calendar Year 2021. They determined that the meetings should be scheduled on the second Wednesday of each month for the duration of the in-person meeting restrictions. There is one exception to the aforementioned schedule due to a scheduling conflict: the April meeting will be held on Thursday, April 15, 2021. The Board agreed that when the in-person

meeting restrictions are lifted, the meeting will reconvene on the second Thursday of each month.

On motion of Dr. Hausman and seconded by Mr. Hysen, three members of the Board (Hausman, Hysen, and Pruden) voted to hold the Calendar Year 2021 meetings on the second Wednesday of each month, except for the April meeting which will be held on Thursday, April 15, 2021.

Informational Items

Delinquent Financial Disclosure Filer(s)

Ms. Allen reported that there was one delinquent financial disclosure filer.

Closed Session Approval

At 1:23 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 November 12, 2020 Closed Session Minutes; General Provisions Article § 3-305(b)(13) and WSSC Code of Ethics Ch. 1.70.110 to address four Complaints; and General Provisions Article § 3-305(b)(7) to obtain legal advice regarding four Complaints, one Advisory Opinion and Potential Complaints.

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 Retained Counsel Steven Wrobel.

Closed Session

Approval of Closed Session Minutes – November 12, 2020

The Board reviewed the draft Closed Session Minutes from the November 12, 2020 meeting.

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

Complaint C-20-04

Retained Counsel Steven Wrobel joined the meeting at 1:41 p.m.

Mr. Wrobel presented a proposed settlement agreement for Respondent #1.

On motion of Dr. Hausman and seconded by Mr. Hysen, three members of the Board (Hausman, Hysen, and Pruden) voted to approve the settlement and post to the website a summary of the agreement under the sections “Conflict of Interest: Misuse of Prestige of Office, Harassment and Improper Influence” and “Participation in Procurement.”

Complaint C-20-07

Mr. Wrobel provided an update on this complaint.

On motion of Dr. Hausman and seconded by Mr. Hysen, three members of the Board (Hausman, Hysen, and Pruden) voted to schedule a hearing for both Respondents on February 10, 2021 pursuant to Chapter 1.70.080(g) of the Code of Ethics.

Mr. Wrobel left the meeting at 2:46 p.m.

Complaint C-20-09

Ms. Dorsey White provided an update on this complaint.

Complaint C-20-10

Ms. Dorsey White provided an update on this complaint.

Advisory Opinion A-20-02

Ms. Dorsey White provided an update on this Advisory Opinion request.

Potential Complaint #11

Ms. Dorsey White provided an overview of this matter.

Potential Complaint #9

Ms. Dorsey White provided an overview of this matter.

Adjournment

On motion of Mr. Hysen and seconded by Dr. Hausman, three members of the Board (Hysen, Hausman, and Pruden) voted to adjourn the meeting at 3:57 p.m.



Angelique Dorsey White, Esq.
Ethics Officer