

WASHINGTON SUBURBAN SANITARY COMMISSION

BOARD OF ETHICS

OPEN SESSION MINUTES

Wednesday, August 11, 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 1:23 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

Approval of Open Session Minutes – July 14, 2021

The Board reviewed the draft Open Session Minutes from the July 14, 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 July Open Session Minutes.

Matters of Discussion

Ethics Program Monthly Report

Ms. Dorsey White provided an update on the activities in the Ethics Office for July 2021. She reported that she provided ethics training to 14 new employees as part of the onboarding process.

Ms. Dorsey White also shared that the Ethics Office provided guidance on 16 matters, of which the leading categories were Disclosure Statements, Soliciting or Acceptance of Gifts, and Outside Employment/Interests. Dr. Hausman asked if the inquiries received resulted in action needed or if they were mainly for advice or guidance. Ms. Dorsey White stated that it was a combination of both. Dr. Hausman commented that it shows that people are becoming more comfortable using the services of the Ethics Office.

Ms. Dorsey White provided an update on the status of three amendments to the Code of Ethics regulations related to late filing fees, filing extensions, and the confidentiality provisions of the Code. She stated that these regulations will be presented for approval at the August 18, 2021 Commission meeting. The regulations will go into effect in either September or October, depending on the effective date established by the Commissioners once approved.

Informational Items

Delinquent Financial Disclosure Filer(s)

Ms. Allen stated that there were no overdue financial disclosure filers to report.

Closed Session Approval

At 1:49 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 July 14, 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; Associate General Counsel Heather Ashbury; Respondent's Counsel Timothy Maloney; and Respondent in Complaint C-20-08.

Closed Session

Approval of Closed Session Minutes – July 14, 2021

The Board reviewed the draft Closed Session Minutes from the July 14, 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 July Closed Session Minutes.

Complaint C-20-07

Ms. Dorsey White provided an update on this investigation. She stated that due to an increase in COVID-19 cases, WSSC facilities are currently unavailable for non-essential in-person meetings.

On motion of Dr. Hausman and seconded by Mr. Hysen, three members of the Board (Hausman, Hysen, and Pruden) voted to reschedule the hearing to either November or December, depending on access to WSSC facilities and the availability of the attorneys involved.

Complaint C-21-03

Ms. Dorsey White 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 hold a virtual hearing for this case on October 6, 2021 at 2:00 p.m.

Complaint C-20-08

Associate General Counsel Heather Ashbury, Respondent's Counsel Timothy Maloney, and Respondent joined the meeting at 2:05 p.m.

Ms. Ashbury and Mr. Maloney provided an overview of a proposed joint settlement agreement in this case.

On motion of Mr. Hysen and seconded by Dr. Hausman, three members of the Board (Hysen, Hausman, and Pruden) voted to approve the joint settlement agreement in this case.

Ms. Ashbury, Mr. Maloney, and Respondent left the meeting at 2:11 p.m.

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 2:12 p.m.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Angelique Dorsey White". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Angelique Dorsey White, Esq.
Ethics Officer