

WASHINGTON SUBURBAN SANITARY COMMISSION

BOARD OF ETHICS

OPEN SESSION MINUTES

Wednesday, March 9, 2022
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 George Pruden called the meeting to order at 1:05 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, Counsel to the Board
Latonya Allen, Administrative Assistant
Tamika Tyler, OIG Associate General Counsel

Open Session

Approval of Open Session Minutes – February 9, 2022

The Board reviewed the draft Open Session Minutes from the February 9, 2022 meeting.

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

Matters of Discussion

Ethics Program Monthly Report

Ethics Officer Angelique Dorsey White provided an update on the activities in the Ethics Office for February, 2022. She reported that she provided ethics training to 12 new employees as part of the onboarding process.

Ms. Dorsey White also shared that the Ethics Office provided guidance on 17 matters, of which the leading categories were Disclosure Statements and Restrictions on Participation.

She stated that the Commissioners have asked for a monthly update on various ethics topics to inform employees, Commissioners, and the public about the ethics program. For February Ms. Dorsey White presented the topic “Interacting With Elected Representatives.” For March, she will present the topic “Lobbyists and WSSC Water.” Chair Pruden stated that Commissioner Bell is the driving force behind this initiative and that a monthly presence at the Commission meetings elevates the ethics program.

Annual Ethics Report

Ms. Dorsey White provided a draft of the Annual Ethics Report for calendar year 2021. She stated that the biggest accomplishments were two changes to the Code of Ethics: 1) Late filing fee for overdue financial disclosures; 2) Pre-approval for outside employment. There were 1,686 financial disclosures and conflicts of

interests filed; 144 new employees onboarded; and 223 unique guidance inquiries. The final report is due to the Commissioners by March 31, 2022 and to the counties by April 30, 2022. Chair Pruden asked the Board to review the report and send corrections to him by March 23, 2022.

On motion of Mr. Hysen and seconded by Dr. Hausman, three members of the Board (Hysen, Hausman, and Pruden) voted to accept the annual ethics report upon review and signature of Chair Pruden and to present the report at the April Commission meeting.

Informational Items

Delinquent Financial Disclosure Filer(s)

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

Closed Session Approval

At 1:31 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 reconvene in closed session to approve February 9, 2022 and February 11, 2022 Closed Session Minutes; General Provisions Article § 3-305(b)(13) and WSSC Code of Ethics Ch. 1.70.110 to address three Complaints; General Provisions Article § 3-305(b)(13) and WSSC Code of Ethics Ch. 1.70.060 to address two Advisory Opinion requests; General Provisions Article § 3-305(b)(13) and WSSC Code of Ethics Ch. 1.70.070 to address one Waiver Request; and General Provisions Article § 3-305(b)(7) to obtain legal advice regarding three Complaints, two

Advisory Opinions, one Waiver Request 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; Administrative Assistant Latonya Allen; Designated Counsel to the Board Margaret Ann Nolan; Designated Investigative Counsel Steven Wrobel; and Counsel to the Board Russel Beers.

Closed Session

Approval of Closed Session Minutes – February 9 and 11, 2022

The Board reviewed the draft Closed Session Minutes from the February 9 and February 11, 2022 meetings.

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

Potential Complaint #3

Designated Counsel to the Board Margaret Ann Nolan and Designated Investigative Counsel Steven Wrobel arrived at 1:26 p.m.

Ms. Dorsey White provided a summary of this matter.

On motion of Dr. Hausman and seconded by Mr. Hysen, three members of the Board (Hausman, Hysen, and Pruden) voted to file two complaints on its own motion pursuant to Code of Ethics Ch.1.70.080(b) for a violation of Ch. 1.70.200(a).

Ms. Nolan and Mr. Wrobel left the meeting at 1:58 p.m.

Counsel to the Board Russel Beers joined the meeting at 2:00 p.m.

Potential Complaint #4

Ms. Dorsey White provided an overview of this matter.

Complaint C-20-07

Ms. Dorsey White 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 on two dates in April to conclude the hearing on this case.

C-22-02

Ms. Dorsey provided an update on this complaint.

C-22-03

Ms. Dorsey White provided and update on this complaint.

A-22-01

Ms. Dorsey White provided an update on this advisory opinion.

On motion of Dr. Hausman and seconded by Mr. Hysen, three members of the Board (Hausman, Hysen, and Pruden) voted to extend the deadline for receiving the advisory opinion for good cause shown.

A-22-02

Ms. Dorsey White provided an update on this advisory opinion.

On motion of Dr. Hausman and seconded by Mr. Hysen, three members of the Board (Hausman, Hysen, and Pruden) voted to extend the deadline for receiving the advisory opinion for good cause shown.

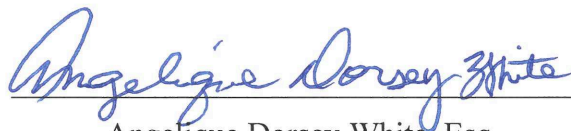
W-22-01

Ms. Dorsey White provided an update on this waiver request.

On motion of Mr. Hysen and seconded by Dr. Hausman, three members of the Board (Hysen, Hausman, and Pruden) voted to provisionally deny the waiver request pending additional information.

Adjournment

On motion of Mr. Hysen and seconded by Dr. Hausman, three members of the Board (Hysen, Hausman, Hysen, and Pruden) voted to adjourn the meeting at 3:47 p.m.


Angelique Dorsey White, Esq.
Ethics Officer