

WASHINGTON SUBURBAN SANITARY COMMISSION

BOARD OF ETHICS

OPEN SESSION MINUTES

Wednesday, June 8, 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 1:03 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 Taylor, OIG Associate General Counsel
Larry Carr, OIG Criminal Investigator.

Open Session

Approval of Open Session Minutes – May 11, 2022

The Board reviewed the draft Open Session Minutes from the May 11, 2022 meeting.

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

Matters of Discussion

Ethics Program Monthly Report

Ms. Dorsey White provided an update on the activities in the Ethics Office for May 2022. She reported that she provided ethics training to 25 new employees as part of the onboarding process. Dr. Hausman asked if the onboarding of 25 employees is higher than normal. Ms. Dorsey White replied that there were 3 sessions which account for the higher number.

Ms. Dorsey White also shared that the Ethics Office provided guidance on 23 matters, of which the leading categories were Disclosure Statements and Outside Employment / Interests.

Ms. Dorsey White stated that the Ethics Spotlight topic she will present at the June 15, 2022 Commission meeting will be “Politics & H₂O People”, focusing specifically on policies related to political activity and campaign paraphernalia. Dr. Hausman stated that it would be useful to repeat this topic in the fall during the elections. Ms. Slaughter added that it would also be beneficial to explicitly state that employees should not use WSSC email for any election activities.

Financial Disclosure Update

Ms. Dorsey White provided an update on the status of the annual financial disclosure process. She explained that the vendor was unable to resolve the issue with the original financial disclosure form so a new form was created and

relaunched on June 1, 2022. Staff have been informed that the due date for completion is June 30, 2022. Except for questions about how to complete the forms, Ms. Dorsey White shared that there have not been any technical issues reported. Chair Pruden asked how many financial disclosures had been filed to date. Ms. Dorsey White replied that approximately 500 were in progress.

Informational Items

Delinquent Financial Disclosure Filer(s)

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

Closed Session Approval

At 1:22 p.m., on motion of Dr. Hausman and seconded by Mr. Hysen, three members of the Board (Hausman, Hysen, and Pruden) voted to enter into closed session to approve May 11, 2022 Closed Session Minutes; General Provisions Article § 3-305(b)(13) and WSSC Code of Ethics § 1.70.110 to address four Complaints; and General Provisions Article § 3-305(b)(7) to obtain legal advice regarding four 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; Counsel to the Board Russel Beers¹; Administrative

¹ Counsel to the Board Russel Beers joined the Closed Session after complaints C-22-04 and C-22-05 were discussed due to being recused from these matters.

Assistant Latonya Allen; Designated Counsel to the Board Margaret Ann Nolan; and Designated Investigative Counsel Steven Wrobel.

Approval of Closed Session Minutes – May 11, 2022

The Board reviewed the draft Closed Session Minutes from the May 11, 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 May Closed Session Minutes.

Complaint C-22-04

Designated Counsel to the Board Margaret Ann Nolan and Designated Investigative Counsel Steven Wrobel arrived at 1:22 p.m.

Mr. Wrobel provided an update on his investigation of this case.

On motion of Dr. Hausman and seconded by Mr. Hysen, three members of the Board (Hausman, Hysen, and Pruden) voted, for good cause shown, to extend the presentation date of the preliminary report to the August 10, 2022 meeting pursuant to WSSC Code of Ethics § 1.65.070(b)(5)(ii).

Complaint C-22-05

Mr. Wrobel provided an update on his investigation of this case.

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

presentation date of the preliminary report to the August 10, 2022 meeting pursuant to WSSC Code of Ethics § 1.65.070(b)(5)(ii).

Ms. Nolan and Mr. Wrobel left the meeting at 2:05 p.m.

Counsel to the Board Russel Beers joined the meeting at 2:07 p.m.

Complaint C-22-02

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 dismiss the complaint as moot pursuant to Code Chapter 1.70.080(e).

Complaint C-20-07

Mr. Beers provided an update on this case.

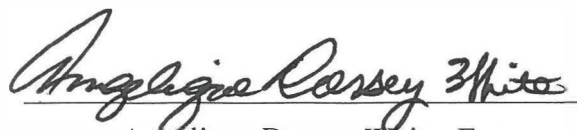
On motion of Dr. Hausman and seconded by Mr. Hysen, three members of the Board (Hausman, Hysen, and Pruden) voted to issue a written decision and final order finding the Respondent to have committed ethics violations, subject to the Chair's signature.

Potential Complaints / Confidential Legal Investigations

There were no potential complaints to discuss.

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 2:30 p.m.



Angelique Dorsey White, Esq.
Ethics Officer