

WASHINGTON SUBURBAN SANITARY COMMISSION

BOARD OF ETHICS

OPEN SESSION MINUTES

Wednesday, May 10, 2023
Laurel, Maryland

The Board of Ethics (“Board”) met in-person 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
Amanda Conn, General Counsel
Russel Beers, Legal Counsel to the Board
Latonya Allen, Administrative Assistant
Tamika Taylor, Office of the Inspector General Counsel.

Open Session

Approval of Open Session Minutes – April 12, 2023

The Board reviewed the draft Open Session Minutes from the April 12, 2023 meeting.

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

Matters of Discussion

Ethics Program Monthly Report

Ms. Dorsey White provided an update on the activities in the Ethics Office for April 2023. She reported that she provided ethics training to 15 new employees as part of the onboarding process.

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

Further, Ms. Dorsey White provided an update on the annual disclosures filing process. She stated that 374 of approximately 1,700 disclosures are still outstanding, reflecting a completion rate of 75 percent.

Lastly, Ms. Dorsey White shared the quarterly Spotlight on Ethics topic. “Outside Employment/Outside Interests” will be presented at the Commission meeting to be held on May 17, 2023.

April 2023 Commission Meeting Wrap-Up

Ms. Dorsey White and Dr. Hausman provided a final update on the annual ethics report. Dr. Hausman gave an overview of his experience at the April 19, 2023 Commission meeting. Ms. Dorsey White stated that, after the Commissioners approved the report, it was sent to the County Councils, County Executives, and State Ethics Commission. Additionally, the State Ethics Commission received the

mandatory annual certification that the Commission is in compliance with the Public Ethics Law. Ms. Dorsey White explained that the certification covers conflict of interest and financial disclosure provisions, lobbying activities, and publication of the report.

Informational Items

Delinquent Financial Disclosure Filer(s)

Ms. Allen reported that there were no delinquent financial disclosure filers.

Closed Session Approval

At 1:20 p.m., on motion of Dr. Hausman and seconded by Mr. Hysen, three members of the Board (Hausman, Hysen, and Pruden) voted to approve April 12, 2023 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. 1.70.070 to address one Waiver Request; and Section 3-305(b)(7) to consult with counsel to obtain legal advice regarding three Complaints, one Waiver Request, and Potential Complaints/Legal Investigations.

Attendees: Chair George Pruden; Member Steven Hausman; Member Jeffrey Hysen; and Alternate Member Chandria Slaughter. Staff present: Ethics Officer Angelique Dorsey White; General Counsel Amanda Conn; Legal Counsel to the Board Russel Beers; Administrative Assistant Latonya Allen; Associate General Counsel Tiffany Greaves; and Associate General Counsel Nancy Lineman.

Closed Session

Approval of Closed Session Minutes – April 12, 2023

The Board reviewed the draft Closed Session Minutes from the April 12, 2023 meeting.

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

Complaint C-23-01

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 extend the deadline for receiving the preliminary report for good cause shown.

Complaint C-23-02

Associate General Counsel Tiffany Greaves arrived at 1:25 p.m.

Ms. Greaves provided an update on this case.

On motion of Mr. Hysen and seconded by Dr. Hausman, three members of the Board (Hysen, Hausman, and Pruden) voted to dismiss the complaint pursuant to Code Chapter 1.70.080(a)(3).

Ms. Greaves left the meeting at 1:30 p.m.

Complaint C-23-03

Associate General Counsel Nancy Lineman arrived at 1:31 p.m.

Ms. Lineman provided an update on this case.

Ms. Lineman left the meeting at 1:40 p.m.

Legal Investigations

Mr. Beers and Ms. Conn provided updates on current litigation matters.

Waiver Request W-23-02

Ms. Dorsey White provided an update on this request.

On motion of Dr. Hausman and seconded by Mr. Hysen, three members of the Board (Hausman, Hysen, and Pruden) voted to approve publication of the opinion.

Potential Complaints

Potential Complaint #5

Ms. Dorsey White provided an overview 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 a complaint on its own motion pursuant to Code of Ethics Ch. 1.70.080(b) for a violation of Ch. 1.70.340(c).

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