

WASHINGTON SUBURBAN SANITARY COMMISSION

BOARD OF ETHICS

OPEN SESSION MINUTES

Wednesday, July 12, 2023
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 1:02 p.m. with the following members present:

George Pruden II, Chair (audio only)
Steven Hausman, Member
Jeffrey Hysen, Member
Chandria Slaughter, Alternate Member.

Also present:

Angelique Dorsey White, Ethics Officer
Russel Beers, Legal Counsel to the Board
Latonya Allen, Administrative Assistant.

Open Session

Approval of Open Session Minutes – June 14, 2023

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

Matters of Discussion

Ethics Program Monthly Report

Ms. Dorsey White provided an update on the activities in the Ethics Office for June 2023. She reported that she provided ethics training to 40 student interns and 24 new employees as part of the onboarding process.

Ms. Dorsey White shared that the Ethics Office provided guidance on 14 matters. There was an equal number of inquiries for four of the five categories.

Dr. Hausman asked what kinds of inquiries were received for Soliciting and Acceptance of Gifts. Ms. Dorsey White stated that subordinates have asked about taking their managers to lunch and managers have asked about giving gift cards to their staff as part of year-end activities. Ms. Dorsey White added that although some of these activities are not specifically prohibited by the Code, she dissuades this type of gift giving due to the appearance issues they present.

Informational Items

Delinquent Financial Disclosure Filer(s)

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

Closed Session Approval

At 1:11 p.m., on motion of Dr. Hausman and seconded by Mr. Hysen, three members of the Board (Hausman, Hysen, and Pruden) voted to conduct a Closed Session to approve June 14, 2023 Closed Session Minutes; General Provisions Article § 3-305(b)(13) and WSSC Code of Ethics Ch. 1.70.110 to address two

Complaints; and Section 3-305(b)(7) to consult with counsel to obtain legal advice regarding two Complaints 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; Legal Counsel to the Board Russel Beers; Administrative Assistant Latonya Allen; and Retained Investigative Counsel Elissa Levan.

Closed Session

Approval of Closed Session Minutes – June 14, 2023

The Board reviewed the draft Closed Session Minutes from the June 14, 2023 meeting.

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

Complaint C-23-03

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 dismiss the complaint pursuant to Code Chapter 1.70.080(d)(2).

Potential Complaint #6

Ms. Dorsey White provided an overview of this matter.

On motion of Mr. Hysen and seconded by Dr. Hausman, three members of the Board (Hysen, Hausman, and Pruden) voted to refer the matter to the appropriate departments for resolution.

Potential Complaint #7

Ms. Dorsey White provided an overview of this matter.

Complaint C-23-01

Retained Investigative Counsel Elissa Levan arrived at 1:27 p.m.

Ms. Levan provided an update on this case.

Ms. Levan left the meeting at 1:34 p.m.

On motion of Mr. Hysen and seconded by Dr. Hausman, three members of the Board (Hysen, Hausman, and Pruden) voted to schedule a hearing on this complaint pursuant to Chapter 1.70.080(g).

Legal Investigations

Mr. Beers provided updates on current legal matters.

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 1:52 p.m.



Angelique Dorsey White, Esq.

Ethics Officer