

WASHINGTON SUBURBAN SANITARY COMMISSION

BOARD OF ETHICS

OPEN SESSION MINUTES

Wednesday, February 10, 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 1:02 p.m. with the following members present:

George Pruden II, Chair
Steven Hausman, Member
Jeffrey Hysen, Member
Chandria Slaughter, Alternate Member.

Also present:

Amanda Conn, General Counsel
Angelique Dorsey White, Ethics Officer
Russel Beers, Deputy General Counsel and Counsel to the Board
Latonya Allen, Administrative Assistant
Tamika Taylor, Counsel to the Office of Inspector General
Larry Carr, Office of Inspector General Investigator.

Open Session

Approval of Open Session Minutes – January 13, 2021

The Board reviewed the draft Open Session Minutes for January 13, 2021. On motion of Mr. Hysen and seconded by Dr. Hausman, three members of the Board (Hysen, Hausman, and Pruden) voted to approve the January Open Session Minutes.

Matters of Discussion

Ethics Program Monthly Report

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

Also, Ms. Dorsey White shared that the Ethics Office provided guidance on eight matters, of which the leading categories were General Inquiry/Administration and Disclosure Statements.

**Update: MC/PG 102-21 – Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission
– Board of Ethics – Financial Disclosure Statements – Late Fees**

General Counsel Amanda Conn provided an update on the status of MC/PG 102-21, the late annual disclosure filing fee bill, in the Maryland General Assembly. She stated that it received favorable support from the Montgomery County and Prince George's County delegations. The bill is in the process of being transmitted to the House Environment & Transportation committee for a hearing.

Additionally, Ms. Conn reported that Del. Al Carr of Montgomery County identified a difference between the State's financial disclosure statement and the WSSC statement. He noted that the WSSC financial disclosure statement does not require that filers report uncompensated director and fiduciary positions with entities. This information is requested on the State's form. The Board discussed the recommendation and indicated that this information is also required to be reported on the federal disclosure statements. The Board also discussed the origins of this difference, but neither of the long-term Board members, Mr. Pruden or Dr.

Hausman, could recall this question arising. Mr. Pruden remarked that perhaps the State financial disclosure form changed at some point in time and the WSSC form did not follow suit.

The Board reached consensus to amend the WSSC statement to request this information with the upcoming CY 2020 annual disclosure filing request in April 2021.

Informational Items

Delinquent Financial Disclosure Filer(s)

Administrative Assistant Latonya Allen stated that there were five delinquent financial disclosure filers to report.

Closed Session Approval

At 1:19 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 January 13, 2021 Closed Session Minutes; General Provisions Article § 3-305(b)(13) and WSSC Code of Ethics Ch. 1.70.110 to address four Complaints; General Provisions Article § 3-305(b)(13) and WSSC Code of Ethics Ch. 1.70.060(a) to address one Advisory Opinion; and General Provisions Article § 3-305(b)(7) to obtain legal advice regarding four Complaints, one Advisory Opinion, and Potential Complaints.

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; Retained Counsel Steven Wrobel; and Associate General Counsel Heather Ashbury.

Closed Session

Approval of Closed Session Minutes – January 13, 2020

The Board reviewed the draft Closed Session Minutes from the January 13, 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 January Closed Session Minutes.

Compliant C-21-01

Ms. Dorsey White provided an update on this complaint.

Complaint C-21-02

Ms. Dorsey White provided an update on this complaint.

Advisory Opinion A-20-02

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

Complaint C-20-07

Retained Counsel Steven Wrobel joined the meeting at 1:30 p.m.

Mr. Wrobel 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 to reschedule the hearing to April 15, 2021.

Mr. Wrobel left the meeting at 1:47 p.m.

Complaint C-20-08

Associate General Counsel Heather Ashbury joined the meeting at 1:47 p.m.

Ms. Ashbury provided an update on this complaint.

Ms. Ashbury left the meeting at 2:37 p.m.

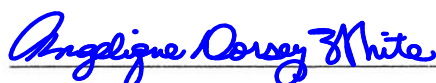
Potential Complaint #3

The Board discussed this potential complaint.

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), alleging that Code of Ethics Ch. 1.70.200(f) had been violated.

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 3:01 p.m.



Angelique Dorsey White, Esq.
Ethics Officer