

WASHINGTON SUBURBAN SANITARY COMMISSION

BOARD OF ETHICS

OPEN SESSION MINUTES

Wednesday, March 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 1:15 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, Deputy General Counsel and Counsel to the Board
Latonya Allen, Administrative Assistant.

Open Session

Approval of Open Session Minutes – February 10, 2021

The Board reviewed the draft Open Session Minutes for February 10, 2021. 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

Ms. Dorsey White provided an update on the activities in the Ethics Office for February 2021. She reported that she provided ethics training to 14 new employees as part of the onboarding process.

Also, Ms. Dorsey White shared that the Ethics Office provided guidance on 15 matters, of which the leading categories were General Inquiry/Administration and Disclosure Statements.

Annual Ethics Report

Ms. Dorsey White presented a draft Annual Ethics Report for Calendar Year 2020. She stated that the final report is due to the Commissioners on or before March 31, 2021. The final report will be presented by Chair Pruden at the April 21, 2021 Commission meeting. After approval, the reports will be sent to the state ethics commission and county executives for Prince George's county and Montgomery county. The Board did not request any edits. Chair Pruden asked members to conduct a final review of the report and if they discovered any grammatical or formatting edits, that they would provide them to Ms. Dorsey White within two days after the meeting.

Additionally, Chair Pruden asked for a list of the WSSC Boards who file a disclosure form. Ms. Allen agreed to forward the list to Chair Pruden after the meeting.

On motion of Mr. Hysen and seconded by Dr. Hausman, three members of the Board (Hysen, Hausman, and Pruden) voted to approve the Annual Ethics Report for Calendar Year 2020, subject to the signature of the Chair.

Informational Items

Delinquent Financial Disclosure Filer(s)

Ms. Allen stated that there was one delinquent financial disclosure filer to report.

Closed Session Approval

At 1:27 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 February 10, 2021 Closed Session Minutes; General Provisions Article § 3-305(b)(13) and WSSC Code of Ethics Ch. 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.

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; and Associate General Counsel Heather Ashbury.

Closed Session

Approval of Closed Session Minutes – February 10, 2021

The Board reviewed the draft Closed Session Minutes from the February 10, 2021 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 Closed Session Minutes.

Complaint C-20-08

Associate General Counsel Heather Ashbury joined the meeting at 1:35 p.m.

Ms. Ashbury 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 schedule a hearing for June 9, 2021.

Compliant C-21-03

Ms. Ashbury and Ms. Dorsey White provided an update on this complaint.

Ms. Ashbury left the meeting at 2:07 p.m.

Complaint C-20-07

Ms. Dorsey White provided an update on this complaint.

On motion of Mr. Hysen and seconded by Dr. Hausman, three members of the Board (Hysen, Hausman, and Pruden) voted to reschedule the hearing to May 12, 2021.

Complaint C-20-10

Ms. Dorsey White provided an update on this complaint.

On motion of Mr. Hysen and seconded by Dr. Hausman, three members of the Board (Hysen, Hausman, and Pruden) voted to dismiss this complaint pursuant to Code Ch. 1.70.080(d)(2).

Potential Complaint #4

Ms. Allen provided an overview of 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) for a violation of Ch. 1.70.340(c).

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 2:33 p.m.



Angelique Dorsey White, Esq.
Ethics Officer