

WASHINGTON SUBURBAN SANITARY COMMISSION

BOARD OF ETHICS

OPEN SESSION MINUTES

Wednesday, May 12, 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 1:00 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 – April 15, 2021**

The Board reviewed the draft Open Session Minutes for April 15, 2021.

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 2021. She reported that she provided ethics training to eight new employees as part of the onboarding process. Dr. Hausman asked if the training is still being conducted virtually. Ms. Dorsey White replied in the affirmative.

Ms. Dorsey White shared that the Ethics Office provided guidance on 45 matters, of which the leading categories were Disclosure Statements and Soliciting or Accepting Gifts. She also provided an update on the annual disclosure requests. To date, 1,639 disclosures have been submitted and 17 are outstanding. Ms. Dorsey White stated that 779 disclosures have been reviewed by managers and 860 disclosures are pending review. She reported that the deadline for reviews is May 31, 2021. Dr. Hausman mentioned that the review process seems to be more efficient than in previous years. Ms. Dorsey White shared that the efficiency is most likely due to the Division Managers overseeing their respective departments' compliance.

**Proposed Change to Code of Ethics Article V. – Financial Disclosure  
(Late Fee)**

Ms. Dorsey White provided an overview of the proposed language to amend Code of Ethics Chapter 1.70.340 as follows:

(d) If a Complaint is filed against a person for not timely filing a statement under this Chapter, and the Board finds a violation, it may impose a fee of \$5.00 for each late day, not to exceed a total of \$500.

The new regulation will authorize the Board to impose late fees for delinquent financial disclosure filers. Mr. Hysen stated that this is a major advancement and asked who would track the late fees. Ms. Dorsey White shared that tracking would be part of the current financial disclosure process that is managed by the Ethics Office.

On motion of Dr. Hausman and seconded by Mr. Hysen, three members of the Board (Hausman, Hysen, and Pruden) voted to amend Code of Ethics Chapter 1.70.340 as captured above. The proposed language will be sent to the Commissioners for approval.

**Proposed Change to Code of Ethics Chapter 1.70.110 - Confidentiality**

Ms. Dorsey White provided an overview of the proposed language to amend Code of Ethics Chapter 1.70.110 as follows:

- (4) The Board or its designee may discuss a complaint with WSSC management to the extent necessary to resolve an investigation or implement a settlement.

The amendment will enable the Board to discuss case information with managers in an effort to settle complaints as allowed by Code of Ethics Chapter 1.70.080(f).

On motion of Mr. Hysen and seconded by Dr. Hausman, three members of the Board (Hysen, Hausman, and Pruden) voted to amend the confidentiality clause of Chapter 1.70.110 as captured above. The proposed language will be sent to the Commissioners for approval.

**Informational Items**

**Delinquent Financial Disclosure Filer(s)**

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

**Closed Session Approval**

At 1:16 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 April 15, 2021 Closed Session Minutes; General Provisions Article § 3-305(b)(13) and WSSC Code of Ethics Ch. 1.70.110 to address two Complaints; and General Provisions Article § 3-305(b)(7) to obtain legal advice regarding two 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 Designated Investigative Counsel Steven Wrobel.

**Closed Session**

**Approval of Closed Session Minutes – April 15, 2021**

The Board reviewed the draft Closed Session Minutes from the April 15, 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 April Closed Session Minutes.

**Complaint C-21-02**

Ms. Dorsey White provided an update on this complaint.

**Potential Complaint #5**

Ms. Dorsey White provided an overview of this matter.

**Complaint C-21-01**

Mr. Steven Wrobel arrived at 1:43 p.m.

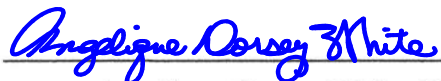
Mr. Wrobel presented an overview of the preliminary investigation report.

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

Mr. Wrobel left the meeting at 2:17 p.m.

**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 2:18 p.m.

  
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Angelique Dorsey White, Esq.  
Ethics Officer