

WASHINGTON SUBURBAN SANITARY COMMISSION

BOARD OF ETHICS

OPEN SESSION MINUTES

Wednesday, June 9, 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 1:05 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
Russel Beers, Deputy General Counsel and Counsel to the Board
Latonya Allen, Administrative Assistant.

Open Session

Approval of Open Session Minutes – May 12, 2021

The Board reviewed the draft Open Session Minutes for May 12, 2021.

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

Matters of Discussion

Ethics Program Monthly Report

Ms. Dorsey White provided an update on the activities in the Ethics Office for May 2021. She reported that she provided ethics training to eight new employees as part of the onboarding process. Dr. Hausman asked if the ethics training will continue to be conducted virtually when employees return to the office. Ms. Dorsey White stated that she was not aware of any plans to modify the current training method.

Ms. Dorsey White shared that the Ethics Office provided guidance on 29 matters, of which the leading categories were Disclosure Statements and General Inquiry/Administration.

Proposed Regulation: Financial Disclosure Submission Due Date

Extension

Ms. Dorsey White provided an overview of a proposed amendment to Code of Ethics Chapter 1.70.340 to allow fees to be imposed for late filing of financial disclosure statements.

The proposed amendment enacts Md. Code Ann., Pub. Util. § 19-107(b), which allows the Board to assess late fees for a respondent found to have filed late or failed to file the required financial disclosure statements. Additionally, the proposed amendment establishes a formal process for filers to request an extension of the deadline to file their disclosure statement. Mr. Beers raised a question regarding the regulatory format and stated that he will speak with General Counsel

Amanda Stakem Conn to ensure the proposed regulation is in the proper regulatory format.

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, subject to any regulatory formatting changes. 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 1:14 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 May 12, 2021 Closed Session Minutes; General Provisions Article § 3-305(b)(13) and WSSC Code of Ethics Ch. 1.70.110 to address three Complaints; and General Provisions Article § 3-305(b)(7) to obtain legal advice regarding three 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; and Administrative Assistant Latonya Allen.

Closed Session

Approval of Closed Session Minutes – May 12, 2021

The Board reviewed the draft Closed Session Minutes from the May 12, 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 May Closed Session Minutes.

Complaint C-20-07

Chair Pruden 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 September 8, 2021 at 1:00 p.m. and September 9, 2021 at 10:30 a.m.

Complaint C-20-08

Mr. Beers 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 August 11, 2021 at 2:00 p.m.

Complaint C-21-02

Mr. Beers provided an update on this matter.

On motion of Dr. Hausman and seconded by Mr. Hysen, three members of the Board (Hausman, Hysen, and Pruden) voted, for good cause shown, to extend the time for counsel to submit the preliminary report to August 2, 2021 for discussion at the August 11, 2021 meeting.

Potential Complaint #5

Ms. Dorsey White provided an update on this matter.

On motion of Mr. Hysen and seconded by Dr. Hausman, three members of the Board (Hysen, Hausman, and Pruden) voted to decline to file a complaint in this matter.

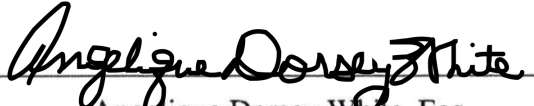
Mr. Beers and Ms. Allen were excused from the meeting at 2:27 p.m. Ms. Dorsey White was requested to remain in the closed session to take minutes.

Potential Complaint #6

Chair Pruden presented this matter to Board.

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 3:05 p.m.


Angelique Dorsey White, Esq.
Ethics Officer