

WASHINGTON SUBURBAN SANITARY COMMISSION

BOARD OF ETHICS

OPEN SESSION MINUTES

Wednesday, April 12, 2023
Laurel, Maryland

The Board of Ethics (“Board”) met in-person 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 1:10 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, Legal Counsel to the Board
Latonya Allen, Administrative Assistant.

Open Session

Approval of Open Session Minutes – March 8, 2023

The Board reviewed the draft Open Session Minutes from the March 8, 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 March Open Session Minutes.

Approval of Open Session Minutes – March 30, 2023

The Board reviewed the draft Open Session Minutes from the March 30, 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 March Open Session Minutes.

Matters of Discussion

Ethics Program Monthly Report

Ms. Dorsey White provided an update on the activities in the Ethics Office for March 2023. She reported that she provided ethics training to 21 new employees as part of the onboarding process.

Ms. Dorsey White shared that the Ethics Office provided guidance on 24 matters, of which the leading categories were Disclosure Statements and Lobbying Activity.

CY 2022 Ethics Program Annual Report

Ms. Dorsey White provided a final version of the annual ethics report. She stated that the report will be presented at the April 19, 2023 Commission meeting. After approval it will be sent to the County Councils, County Executives, and State Ethics Commission. She added that she is required to submit a signed certification that the report was distributed and published by April 30, 2023.

Ms. Dorsey White reminded the Board that Dr. Hausman will attend the Commission meeting in place of Chair Pruden to present the annual report. She stated that she would provide a script for his presentation.

Selection of Board Chair

Ms. Dorsey White informed the Board that they need to vote on reappointing George Pruden as Chair. The resolution will be considered at the April 19, 2023 Commission meeting.

On motion of Dr. Hausman and seconded by Mr. Hysen, three members of the Board (Hausman, Hysen, and Slaughter) voted to reappoint George Pruden as Chair. Mr. Pruden abstained from voting as he was the nominee.

Annual Disclosure Launch

Ms. Dorsey White provided details on the implementation of this year's financial disclosure system. She stated that the contract with the current vendor was set to expire on March 31, 2023. Due to issues with renewing the contract, the launch was delayed until April 5, 2023. The deadline for completion is April 30, 2023. She shared that approximately 400 employees have submitted their disclosure.

Ms. Dorsey White stated that she added the questions requested by the Board about employees having a financial interest in a business that is either regulated by WSSC, has a contract with WSSC, and/or is a subcontractor to a WSSC prime. She also added a question about the outside employment pre-approval form.

Informational Items

Delinquent Financial Disclosure Filer(s)

Ms. Allen reported that there were two delinquent financial disclosure filers.

Closed Session Approval

At 1:30 p.m., on motion of Dr. Hausman and seconded by Mr. Hysen, three members of the Board (Hausman, Hysen, and Pruden) voted to approve March 8, 2023 Closed Session Minutes; General Provisions Article § 3-305(b)(13) and WSSC Code of Ethics Ch. 1.70.110 to address one Complaint; General Provisions Article § 3-305(b)(13) and WSSC Code of Ethics Ch. 1.70.070 to address one Waiver Request; Section 3-305(b)(1)(ii) to discuss a personnel matter that affects one or more specific individuals; and Section 3-305(b)(7) to consult with counsel to obtain legal advice regarding one Complaint, one Waiver Request, a personnel matter, 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; and Administrative Assistant Latonya Allen.

Approval of Closed Session Minutes – March 8, 2023

The Board reviewed the draft Closed Session Minutes from the March 8, 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 March Closed Session Minutes.

Approval of Closed Session Minutes – March 30, 2023

The Board reviewed the draft Closed Session Minutes from the March 30, 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 March Closed Session Minutes.

Complaint C-23-02

Ms. Dorsey White provided an update on this case.

Waiver Request W-23-02

Ms. Dorsey White provided an update on this request.

On motion of Dr. Hausman and seconded by Mr. Hysen, three members of the Board (Hausman, Hysen, and Pruden) voted to grant the requested waiver.

Personnel Matter

The Board discussed this matter.

Potential Complaints / Legal Investigations

Potential Complaint #4

Ms. Dorsey White provided an overview of this matter.

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).

Legal Updates

Mr. Beers provided updates on current legal matters.

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 2:43 p.m.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Angelique Dorsey White". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a solid horizontal line.

Angelique Dorsey White, Esq.

Ethics Officer