

WASHINGTON SUBURBAN SANITARY COMMISSION

BOARD OF ETHICS

OPEN SESSION MINUTES

Wednesday, December 13, 2023
Commissioners' Conference Room
Laurel, Maryland

The Board of Ethics ("Board") met in person to conduct an Open Session pursuant to Maryland Code Annotated, General Provisions Article, Title 3, Open Meetings Act, § 3-305(b)(13).

Chair George Pruden called the meeting to order at 1:28 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
Amanda Stakem Conn, General Counsel
Heather Ashbury, Associate General Counsel
Margaret Ann Nolan, Retained Legal Counsel to the Board
Julianne Montes de Oca, Corporate Secretary
Mary Clahane, Office Manager.

Open Session

Board Recognition

Due to his upcoming retirement at the end of December, the Board recognized Russel Beers for his five years of providing invaluable legal guidance

and advice. As a token of the Board's appreciation, Chair Pruden presented Mr. Beers with a plaque.

Ms. Julianne Montes de Oca and Ms. Amanda Conn left the meeting at 1:48 p.m.

Approval of Open Session Minutes – November 8, 2023

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

Matters of Discussion

2024 Board Meeting Dates - Proposed

In compliance with Code of Ethics Ch.1.65.030, the Board discussed a list of proposed meeting dates for 2024. The list provided that the meetings will generally continue to be held on the second Wednesday of each month, except for March and May. The March meeting will be held on Thursday, March 14, 2024, and the May meeting will be held on Thursday, May 9, 2024.

On motion of Dr. Hausman and seconded by Mr. Hysen, three members of the Board (Hausman, Hysen, and Pruden) voted to approve the proposed list of meeting dates for 2024 as described above.

Ethics Program Monthly Report

Ms. Dorsey White provided an update on the activities in the Ethics Office for November 2023. She reported that she provided ethics training to 43 new employees as part of the onboarding process.

Ms. Dorsey White shared that the Ethics Office provided guidance on 18 matters. The category that received the most inquiries was Outside Employment / Interests.

Lastly, Ms. Dorsey White reported that she participated in WSSC's "Tap Into Business" Small Business Industry Day" on December 7, 2023. She stated that the event was well attended, and her presentation topic was Ethics and Public Contracting. She also shared that the Procurement Office has invited her to speak at its January 2024 staff meeting.

Delinquent Financial Disclosure Filer(s)

Ms. Dorsey White reported that there were no delinquent financial disclosure filers.

Closed Session Approval

At 2:08 p.m., on motion of Dr. Hausman and seconded by Mr. Hysen, three members of the Board (Hausman, Hysen, and Pruden) voted to conduct a Closed Session pursuant to Maryland Code Annotated, General Provisions Article, Title 3, Open Meetings Act, § 3-305(b)(13) to approve November 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; and General Provisions Article § 3-305(b)(7) to consult with counsel to obtain

legal advice regarding one Complaint, Project Cornerstone Referrals, 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; Heather Ashbury, Office Manager, Mary Clahane; and Retained Legal Counsel to the Board Margaret Ann Nolan.

Due to Ms. Dorsey White, Mr. Beers, and Ms. Ashbury being recused from Complaint C-23-01, they were not present at the beginning of the Closed Session and left the meeting at 2:08 p.m.

Closed Session

Complaint C-23-01

Ms. Nolan provided an update on this case.

Ms. Nolan left the meeting at 2:58 p.m.

Approval of Closed Session Minutes – November 8, 2023

Ms. Dorsey White, Mr. Beers, and Ms. Ashbury joined the closed session at 3:04 p.m.

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

Project Cornerstone Report Referrals

Ms. Dorsey White provided an update on this matter.

Ms. Ashbury left the meeting at 3:14 p.m.

Potential Complaints

Potential Complaint #13


Ms. Dorsey White provided an update on this matter.

Legal Investigations

Mr. Beers provided updates on current legal investigations.

Adjournment

On motion of Ms. Slaughter and seconded by Dr. Hausman, three members of the Board (Slaughter, Hausman, and Pruden) voted to adjourn the meeting at 4:26 p.m.



Angelique Dorsey White, Esq.
Ethics Officer