

WASHINGTON SUBURBAN SANITARY COMMISSION

BOARD OF ETHICS

OPEN SESSION MINUTES

Wednesday, January 10, 2024
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 1:04 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
Heather Ashbury, Interim Legal Counsel to the Board
Tamika Taylor, Office of Inspector General Counsel
Latonya Allen, Administrative Assistant.

Open Session

Approval of Open Session Minutes – December 13, 2023

The Board reviewed the draft Open Session Minutes from the December 13, 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 December Open Session Minutes.

Matters of Discussion

Ethics Program Monthly Report

Ms. Dorsey White provided an update on the activities in the Ethics Office for December 2023. She reported that she provided ethics training to 10 new employees as part of the onboarding process. She added that Human Resources only holds one New Employee Orientation session in December due to observation of multiple holidays.

Ms. Dorsey White shared that the Ethics Office provided guidance on 22 matters. The categories that received the most inquiries were Misuse of Office and Soliciting or Acceptance of Gifts. She also gave an overview of the gifts to employees that were returned or disposed of in December.

Delinquent Financial Disclosure Filer(s)

Ms. Allen reported that there were no delinquent financial disclosure filers.

Closed Session Approval

At 1:13 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 December 13, 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; and General Provisions Article § 3-305(b)(7) to obtain legal advice regarding one Complaint, one Waiver Request, 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; Interim Legal Counsel to the Board Heather Ashbury; Administrative Assistant Latonya Allen; and Retained Legal Counsel to the Board Margaret Ann Nolan.

Closed Session

Approval of Closed Session Minutes – December 13, 2023

The Board reviewed the draft Closed Session Minutes from the December 13, 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 December Closed Session Minutes.

Waiver Request W-24-01

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 approve the Waiver subject to review by and signature of the Board Chair Pruden.

Project Cornerstone Report Referrals

Ms. Dorsey White provided an update on these matters.

Potential Complaints

Potential Complaint #13

Ms. Dorsey White provided an update on this matter.

Legal Investigations

Mr. Ashbury provided updates on current legal investigations.

Complaint C-23-01

Due to Ms. Dorsey White and Ms. Ashbury being recused from Complaint C-23-01, they left the meeting at 2:15 p.m.


Ms. Nolan joined the meeting at 2:16 p.m.

Ms. Nolan provided an update on this case.

Ms. Nolan left the meeting at 2:42 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 2:54 p.m.



Angelique Dorsey White, Esq.
Ethics Officer