

WASHINGTON SUBURBAN SANITARY COMMISSION

BOARD OF ETHICS

OPEN SESSION MINUTES

Thursday, May 9, 2024
Commissioners' Conference Room
Laurel, Maryland

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

Chair 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
Amanda Conn, General Counsel
Heather Ashbury, Interim Legal Counsel to the Board
Lisa Arnquist, Associate General Counsel
Tamika Taylor, Associate General Counsel, Office of Inspector General
Latonya Allen, Administrative Assistant.

Open Session

Chair Pro Tem

Due to Chair Pruden attending via telephone without video capabilities, he requested that another member serve as Chair Pro Tem.

On motion of Mr. Hysen and seconded by Mr. Pruden, three members of the Board (Hysen, Pruden, and Slaughter) voted to elect Steven Hausman as Chair Pro Tem. Dr. Hausman abstained from the vote.

Approval of Open Session Minutes – April 10, 2024

The Board reviewed the draft Open Session Minutes from the April 10, 2024 meeting.

On motion of Mr. Hysen and seconded by Mr. Pruden, three members of the Board (Hysen, Pruden, and Hausman) 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 2024. She reported that she provided ethics training to 28 new employees as part of the onboarding process.

Ms. Dorsey White shared that the Ethics Office provided guidance on 48 matters. The category that received the most inquiries was Disclosure Statements, which was attributed to the annual disclosure campaign that month.

CY 2023 Annual Ethics Program Report - Distribution

Ms. Dorsey White provided an update on the distribution of the annual report. She shared that the county executives and council heads for Montgomery and Prince George's counties received the report and Code of Ethics booklet (Code) on April 18 and 19. Additionally, the State Ethics Commission (SEC) received the

report, a copy of the Code, and the required bi-county certification on April 19, 2024.

Mr. Pruden asked if the SEC reviews the certification forms. Mr. Dorsey White replied that this requirement was put in place a few years ago when the General Assembly amended the Public Ethics Law, so they most likely review the certifications. Also, Mr. Pruden asked if the SEC has a website for posting the certifications and report. Ms. Dorsey White responded that the Public Ethics Law requires the reports to be posted on WSSC Water's public website.

Delinquent Financial Disclosure Filer(s)

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

Closed Session Approval

At 1:16 p.m., on motion of Mr. Hysen and seconded by Mr. Pruden, three members of the Board (Hysen, Pruden, and Hausman) 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 April 10, 2024 Closed Session Minutes; General Provisions Article § 3-305(b)(13) and WSSC Code of Ethics Ch. 1.70.110 to address four Complaints; 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 four Complaints, one Waiver Request, and Potential Complaints/Legal Investigations.

Attendees: Chair Pro Tem Steven Hausman; Member George Pruden; Member Jeffrey Hysen; and Alternate Member Chandria Slaughter. Staff present: Ethics Officer Angelique Dorsey White; General Counsel Amanda Conn; Interim

Legal Counsel to the Board Heather Ashbury; Associate General Counsel Lisa Arnquist; and Administrative Assistant Latonya Allen.

Closed Session

Approval of Closed Session Minutes – April 10, 2024

The Board reviewed the draft Closed Session Minutes from the April 10, 2024 meeting.

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

Legal Investigations

Ms. Conn provided updates on current legal investigations.

Ms. Conn left the meeting at 1:36 p.m.

Complaint C-23-01

Ms. Dorsey White provided an update on this case.

Complaint C-24-01

Ms. Dorsey White provided an update on this case.

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

Complaint C-24-02

Ms. Dorsey White provided an update on this case.

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

Complaint C-24-03

Ms. Dorsey White provided an update on this case.

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

Waiver Request W-24-02

Ms. Dorsey White provided an update on this waiver request.

On motion of Mr. Hysen and seconded by Mr. Pruden, three members of the Board (Hysen, Pruden, and Hausman) voted to extend the time for issuance of the opinion until after the June meeting pursuant to Code of Ethics Ch. 1.65.060(c)(1).

Potential Complaints

PC2024-12


Ms. Dorsey White provided an overview of this matter.

PC2024-13

Ms. Dorsey White provided an overview of this matter.

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 3:25 p.m.



Angelique Dorsey White, Esq.
Ethics Officer