

WASHINGTON SUBURBAN SANITARY COMMISSION

BOARD OF ETHICS

OPEN SESSION MINUTES

Wednesday, August 14, 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 Pruden called the meeting to order at 1:03 p.m. with the following members present:

George Pruden II, Chair
Steven Hausman, Member
Jeffrey Hysen, Member (virtual)
Chandria Slaughter, Alternate Member

Also present:

Angelique Dorsey White, Ethics Officer
Lisa Arnquist, Legal Counsel to the Board
Tamika Taylor, Office of Inspector General Associate General Counsel
Latonya Allen, Administrative Assistant.

Open Session

Approval of Open Session Minutes – July 10, 2024

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

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

Matters of Discussion

Ethics Program Monthly Report

Ms. Dorsey White provided an update on the activities in the Ethics Office for July 2024. She reported that she provided ethics training to 21 new employees.

She also shared that the Ethics Office provided guidance on 20 matters. The category that received the most inquiries was Outside Employment/Interests. Of note regarding acceptance of gifts, there has been an increase in questions regarding the propriety of contractors/vendors sponsoring employees to travel to sites where items WSSC Water purchases are manufactured. Although WSSC Water is already procuring these goods, the Code prohibits acceptance of such gifts from vendors barring an exception.

Delinquent Financial Disclosure Filer(s)

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

Closed Session Approval

At 1:09 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 July 10, 2024 Closed Session Minutes; General Provisions Article § 3-305(b)(13) and WSSC Code of Ethics Ch. 1.70.110 to address three Complaints; General Provisions Article § 3-305(b)(13) and WSSC Code of Ethics Ch.

1.70.060 to address one Advisory Opinion request; General Provisions Article § 3-305(b)(1)(ii) to discuss a personnel matter that affects one or more specific individuals; and General Provisions Article § 3-305(b)(7) to obtain legal advice regarding three Complaints, one Advisory Opinion requests, a personnel matter, and Potential Complaints/Legal Investigations.

Attendees: Chair George Pruden; Member Steven Hausman; Member Jeffrey Hysen (virtual); and Alternate Member Chandria Slaughter. Staff present: Ethics Officer Angelique Dorsey White; Legal Counsel to the Board Lisa Arnquist; Administrative Assistant Latonya Allen; Chief Procurement Officer Caprecia Poole-Williams; Production Director James Langley; Water Quality Division Manager (Production) Jin Shin; Chief Engineer (Engineering and Construction) Eyad Mizian; Planning Division Manager (Engineering and Construction) Thomas Hilton; and Associate General Counsel Kristen Dorsey.

Closed Session

Advisory Opinion A-24-01

The following staff joined the meeting at 1:49 p.m.: Chief Procurement Officer Caprecia Poole-Williams; Production Director James Langley; Water Quality Division Manager (Production) Jin Shin; Chief Engineer (Engineering and Construction) Eyad Mizian; Planning Division Manager (Engineering and Construction) Thomas Hilton; and Associate General Counsel Kristen Dorsey.

The Board discussed this matter.

The following staff left the meeting at 3:06 p.m.: Ms. Poole-Williams, Mr. Langley; Mr. Shin; Mr. Mizian; Mr. Hilton; and Ms. Dorsey.

Approval of Closed Session Minutes – July 10, 2024

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

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

Complaint C-23-01

Ms. Dorsey White provided an update on this case.

Complaint C-24-05

Ms. Dorsey White provided an update on this case.

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

Complaint C-24-07

Ms. Dorsey White provided an update on this case.

Potential Complaints

There were no potential complaints.

Legal Investigations

General Counsel Amanda Conn arrived at 3:33 p.m.

Ms. Conn provided updates on legal matters.


Ms. Conn left the meeting at 3:40 p.m.

Personnel Matter

The Board discussed 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 3:55 p.m.



Angelique Dorsey White, Esq.
Ethics Officer