

WASHINGTON SUBURBAN SANITARY COMMISSION

BOARD OF ETHICS

OPEN SESSION MINUTES

Wednesday, October 9, 2024
Commissioners' Conference Room
Laurel, Maryland

The Board of Ethics ("Board") met in person and 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 1:05 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
Lisa Arnquist, Legal Counsel to the Board
Tamika Taylor, Office of Inspector General Associate General Counsel (virtual)
Latonya Allen, Administrative Assistant.

Open Session

Approval of Open Session Minutes – September 11, 2024

The Board reviewed the draft Open Session Minutes from the September 11, 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 September Open Session Minutes as edited for non-substantive typographical issues.

Matters of Discussion

Ethics Program Monthly Report

Ms. Dorsey White provided an update on the activities in the Ethics Office for September 2024. She reported that she provided ethics training to 22 new employees. She also shared that the Ethics Office provided guidance on 14 matters. The category that received the most inquiries was Disclosure Statements.

Ms. Dorsey White stated that she will present an Ethics Spotlight at the October 16, 2024, Commission Meeting. She chose the topic “Ethical Culture in Practice” to remind employees not to mix politics with their work at WSSC. She shared that she wants to convey that everyone is entitled to free speech, but it is inappropriate to use their WSSC position to influence others in their personal capacity.

Delinquent Financial Disclosure Filer(s)

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

Closed Session Approval

Chair Pruden stated that he had reviewed and approved the closing statement.

At 1:14 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 September 11, 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 personnel matters that affect one or more specific individuals; and General Provisions Article § 3-305(b)(7) to obtain legal advice regarding three Complaints, one Advisory Opinion request, Personnel Matters, 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 Lisa Arnquist; Administrative Assistant Latonya Allen; Associate General Counsel Nancy Lineman; and Retained Investigative Counsel Steven Wrobel.

Closed Session

Approval of Closed Session Minutes – September 11, 2024

The Board reviewed the draft Closed Session Minutes from the September 11, 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 September Closed Session Minutes as edited for non-substantive typographical issues.

Complaint C-24-04

Ms. Dorsey White provided an update on this case.

Complaint C-24-06

Associate General Counsel Nancy Lineman arrived at 1:39 p.m.

Ms. Lineman provided an update on this investigation.

Ms. Lineman left the meeting at 2:17 p.m.

On motion of Dr. Hausman and seconded by Mr. Hysen, three members of the Board (Hausman, Hysen, and Pruden) voted to amend the charges of this complaint, pursuant to WSSC Code Ch. 1.65.070(a)(2), to add an allegation that Code Ch. 1.70.210 had been violated.

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 WSSC Code Ch. 1.70.080(b) for violations of Code Ch.1.70.200(a) and (c), and Ch. 1.70.210.

On motion of Dr. Hausman and seconded by Mr. Hysen, three members of the Board (Hausman, Hysen, and Pruden) voted to extend the time to receive the preliminary report to the November meeting for good cause shown, pursuant to WSSC Code Ch. 1.65.070 (b)(5)(ii).

Complaint C-24-07

Retained Investigative Counsel Steven Wrobel arrived at 2:24 p.m.

Mr. Wrobel presented the preliminary report in this matter.

Mr. Wrobel left the meeting at 3:04 p.m.

On motion of Mr. Hysen and seconded by Dr. Hausman, three members of the Board (Hysen, Hausman, and Pruden) voted to dismiss this case pursuant to Code Ch. 1.70.080(e).

Advisory Opinion A-24-01

Ms. Dorsey White provided an update on this matter.

On motion of Mr. Hysen and seconded by Dr. Hausman, three members of the Board (Hysen, Hausman, and Pruden) voted to approve the advisory opinion for publication.

Personnel Matter

The Board considered personnel matters.

On motion of Dr. Hausman and seconded by Mr. Hysen, three members of the Board (Hausman, Hysen, and Pruden) voted to approve the transmission of recommended goals for the Ethics Officer to the Commissioners.

Potential Complaints

PC2024-18


Ms. Dorsey White provided an overview of this matter.

Legal Investigations

Ms. Arnquist provided updates on current legal investigations.

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 3:45 p.m.



Angelique Dorsey White, Esq.
Ethics Officer