

**DeKalb County Board of Ethics**

Thursday, March 16, 2017

3:00 p.m.

Conference Room A, Clark Harrison Building

330 W. Ponce de Leon Avenue

Decatur, Georgia 30030

**Minutes**

**Members Present:**

Robert Tatum  
Dan DeWoskin  
Scott Bonder  
Brian Deutsch

**Members Absent:**

Shermanetta Carter  
Edward Queen

**Board Affiliates Present:**

Stacey Kalberman, Ethics Officer  
Gene Chapman, Board Counsel  
Suzanne Amato, Administrative Assistant

**Attendees:**

Mark Niesse  
Stephen Binney

I. **Call to order**

Dan DeWoskin called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m.

II. **Welcome and Introductions**

Dan DeWoskin welcomed attendees.

III. **Adoption of the Agenda**

The members reviewed the agenda. Robert Tatum made a motion to adopt the agenda and Scott Bonder seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with a vote of 4-0.

IV. **Review and Approve Meeting Minutes from January 19, 2017**

The members reviewed the minutes from the meeting held on January 19, 2017. Scott Bonder made a motion to approve the minutes and Robert Tatum seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with a vote of 4-0.

V. Unfinished Business

A. Reports

1. Stacey Kalberman reported that Rhea Johnson contacted her two days prior to the meeting and informed her that he could not attend the meeting. Ms. Kalberman passed along Mr. Johnson's request for the Board to delay consideration of his complaint against Burrell Ellis until the next meeting when he could be present. The Board declined the request and discussed whether to proceed with the investigation of the complaint. After considering the history of the criminal proceedings against Mr. Burrell and the cost and resources necessary to investigate and have hearings before the Board, Robert Tatum made a motion to dismiss the complaint and Dan DeWoskin seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with a vote of 4-0.

7. Stacey Kalberman reported that she has suspended the investigation of the complaint against Mr. Watson in consideration of his attorney's declaration that he intended to join the suit of Ms. Barnes-Sutton if the Board proceeded with its investigation.

Ms. Kalberman reported that she has investigated many complaints which come to her office through the county ethics hotline. If any complaints require further proceedings, she will bring a complaint in the name of the Ethics Officer to the Board for its consideration.

4, 5, 6, and 7. Scott Bonder made a motion to bring these complaints off the table and Robert Tatum seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with a vote of 4-0. The Board directed Ms. Kalberman to continue her investigation in these matters and bring them to the Board for disposition.

VI. New Business

1. Ethics Bill and Update from Counsel on Sutton matter. Ms. Kalberman reported that Representative Scott Holcomb's proposed bill stalled in the House committee, but Senator Elena Parent declared that a substantially similar bill will come out of committee in the Senate. Dan DeWoskin related that Scott Bonder and he went to the Capitol to answer questions from the DeKalb County delegation.

2. The Board took public comments at this point in the meeting since Stephen Binney needed to leave the meeting. Mr. Binney made brief remarks to the Board.

3. Interviews of Attorney Candidates. Dan DeWoskin made motion for the Board to go into Executive Session. Robert Tatum seconded the motion. The motion passed with a vote of 4-0. The Board announced that Executive Session was for the purpose of discussing or deliberating upon the hiring and employment of a public employee. The Board went into Executive Session at 4:00 p.m.

Robert Tatum made a motion for the Board to come out of Executive Session and Scott Bonder seconded the motion. The motion passed with a vote of 4-0. The Board resumed the public meeting at 5:08 p.m.

VII. Administrative

1. Public comment. Dan DeWoskin issued his statement to the Board and the press.
2. The Board discussed the need to have a procedure in place for the situation in which a complaint is submitted against the Ethics Officer or a member of the Board. Scott Bonder made a motion to establish a policy which provides that if a complaint is received which names a member of the Board or anyone employed by the Ethics Office, the complaint shall be forwarded to the Chair or the next highest ranking officer. That officer shall then refer the complaint to the Office of the Solicitor for DeKalb County for its determination of the appropriate course of action. Dan DeWoskin seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with a vote of 4-0.

VIII. Adjournment

Scott Bonder made a motion to adjourn and Robert Tatum seconded the motion. The motion passed with a vote of 4-0 and the meeting adjourned at 5:15 p.m.

Approved:



Chair

Date

4/20/17