



DeKalb County Board of Ethics
Regular Meeting
Thursday February 15, 2024
6:00 p.m.
Maloof Auditorium

Minutes

Board Members Present:

Tammy Greer - Board Chair
James Scott Mathews - Secretary
Rosa Darden Waymon
George Ference
Thomas Clements
Chiquita Wright

No Alternate Members Present

Board Staff Present:

Elisa Murphy, Ethics Officer
Kristin Rodgers, Ethics Administrator
Hakim Hilliard, General Counsel
Maiysha Rashad, Assistant to General Counsel

County Technology Personnel Present:

DCTV

Agenda

I. Call to Order

Ethics Board Chair Tammy Greer called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

II. Adoption of Agenda

Motion: Board Member Thomas Clements moved to adopt the February 15, 2024 Board of Ethics meeting agenda; Board Member Rosa Waymon seconded the motion. Vice Chair Robert Dallas was absent from the meeting. Board Member George Ference was absent from the vote. The motion passed by a 5-0 vote.

III. Administrative Items

A. Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of January 18, 2024

Motion: Board Member James Mathews moved to approve the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of January 18, 2024; Board Member Chiquita Wright seconded the motion. Vice Chair Robert Dallas was absent from the meeting. Board Member George

Ference was absent from the vote. The motion passed by a 5-0 vote.

B. Discussion and Vote for Rule Change for Ethic Rule 4.5 (see Attachment)

Ethics Officer Elisa Murphy presented the proposed changes to Ethics Rule 4.5. Chair Greer opened the floor for discussion.

Motion: Board Member Thomas Clements moved to approve revision #2 of the rule change to Ethics Rule 4.5; Board Member Chiquita Wright seconded the motion. Vice Chair Robert Dallas was absent from the meeting. The motion passed by a 6-0 vote.

C. Discussion and Vote for Rule Change for Ethics Rule 7.5 (see Attachment)

Ethics Officer Elisa Murphy presented the proposed changes to Ethics Rule 7.5. Chair Greer opened the floor for discussion.

Motion: Board Member George Ference moved to approve revision #4 of the rule change to Ethics Rule 7.5; Board Member James Mathews seconded the motion. Vice Chair Robert Dallas was absent from the meeting. The motion passed by a 6-0 vote.

D. Ethics Officer's Review

Ethics Officer Elisa Murphy presented an overview of the Ethics Officer's annual report a monthly report summary.

IV. Preliminary Case

A. 2023-11: Musa Ghanayem et al. v. Commissioner Robert Patrick

Ethics Officer Murphy stated that there were defects in all 13 complaints filed, and recommended dismissal for failure to cure the statutory defect in the complaints.

Motion: Board Member Thomas Clements moved to dismiss all 13 complaints; Board Member Chiquita Wright seconded the motion. Vice Chair Robert Dallas was absent from the meeting. The motion passed by a 6-0 vote.

V. Public Comments

VI. Comments from the Board of Ethics

VII. Executive Session to Discuss Pending Litigation and Personnel Issues

A. Motion to Convene an Executive Session

Motion: Board Member Thomas Clements moved to convene an Executive Session; Board Member James Mathews seconded the motion. Vice Chair Robert Dallas was absent from the meeting. The motion passed by a 6-0 vote.

B. Motion to Adjourn an Executive Session

Motion: Board Member Chiquita Wright moved to adjourn an Executive Session; Board Member James Mathews seconded the motion. Vice Chair Robert Dallas was absent from the meeting. The motion passed by a 6-0 vote.

C. Motion to Approve the Executive Session Affidavit

Motion: Board Member Thomas Clements moved to approve the Executive Session Affidavit; Board Member Rosa Waymon seconded the motion. Vice Chair Robert


Dallas was absent from the meeting. The motion passed by a 6-0 vote.

VIII. Announcement of Next Regular Meeting Date of Thursday, March 21, 2024

IX. Adjournment

Motion: Board Member Thomas Clements moved to adjourn the February 15, 2024 Board of Ethics Regular Meeting at 8:01 p.m.; Board Member James Mathews seconded the motion. Vice Chair Robert Dallas was absent from the meeting. The motion passed by a 6-0 vote.

Approved:


Tammy R. Green (Mar 26, 2024 12:43 EDT)

Chair

Mar 26, 2024

Date

ATTACHMENT:

4.5 Review for Jurisdiction. The ethics officer shall determine within five business days of receipt of a complaint whether an ethics complaint alleges a violation of the DeKalb County's Code of Ethics and whether the complaint meets the jurisdictional requirements of the Code of Ethics. If the ethics officer determines that the ethics complaint does not contain the necessary information under rule 4.2 or 4.3 or that the ethics complaint does not meet the jurisdictional requirements of the Ethics Code, the ethics officer shall advise the Board of Ethics of his or her findings. **The Board of Ethics shall then determine whether it agrees with the findings of the ethics officer. If the Board of Ethics agrees with the findings of the ethics officer, the Board of Ethics shall direct the ethics officer to notify the complainant of the defect and the need to correct it before the complaint will be considered.** The complainant shall have ten business days from the date of notice to correct and refile the complaint directly with the ethics administrator. If the complainant fails to refile and correct the complaint within 10 days, the complaint shall be dismissed by the Board of Ethics within 30 days of receipt of the original complaint unless extended by a majority vote of the Board of Ethics. **Likewise, if the ethics officer determines that the complaint does not allege any act that, if true, would constitute a violation of the Code of Ethics, then the ethics officer shall recommend dismissal of the complaint and notify the complainant and respondent prior to seeking formal board action on the recommendation. Nothing shall preclude the ethics officer from communicating with the complainant prior to the time the matter is submitted to the Board of Ethics.** Emphasis added.

7.5 Right of Review. The decision of the board shall be final. Such decision shall be subject to review by writ of certiorari to the DeKalb County Superior Court. A final decision rendered pursuant to **Rule 5.4, 5.9, or rule 6.2 shall be subject to appeal in the same manner as a final decision of the board.** Emphasis added.







02.15.2024 BOE Minutes

Final Audit Report

2024-03-26

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