

# DEKALB COUNTY BOARD OF ETHICS

## AGENDA

August 28, 2007

- I. Call to Order
- II. Adoption of Agenda
- III. Review and Approval of Minutes
- IV. Old Business
  - A. Letter to CEO Vernon Jones and Presiding Officer of the Board of Commissioners regarding Board vacancies
  - B. Advisory Opinion Number 9
  - C. Advisory Opinion Number 10
- V. New Business
- ~~VI. Announcements~~
- VII. Adjournment

**MINUTES**  
**DeKalb County Board of Ethics**  
**August 28, 2007**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Teri Lee Thompson, *Chair*  
Bryan Smith, *Vice Chair*  
Stanley Baum  
Honorable Patricia Killingsworth  
Veronica Higgs Cope, *Secretary*  
Stephen W. Irving, *Counsel for the Board*

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Charles E. Johnson

**CALL TO ORDER AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Teri Lee Thompson, Chair of the Board of Ethics, called the meeting to order at approximately 7:14 p.m. The agenda and the minutes from the meeting of May 9, 2007, were adopted as amended to include proper identification of Charles E. Johnson.

**OLD BUSINESS**

Chair Teri Thompson indicated that she has drafted a letter to Chief Executive Officer Vernon Jones regarding the necessity for public access to information about the Board of Ethics and meeting times and locations, and the need for a full slate of Board of Ethics members in order to conduct the business of the Board of Ethics. She indicated that she would send the letter to the Board members for review before she sends it to CEO Jones. Stanley Baum requested that Thompson also request help with the website for the DeKalb County Board of Ethics.

Baum advised that several positions of Board members had expired including positions held by Bryan Smith and Veronica Higgs Cope. In addition, the position previously held by Jules Lassiter has remained open for reappointment since his resignation. Baum indicated that he will not seek reappointment when his term expires on December 31, 2007.

Teri Thompson inquired as to whether Advisory Opinions 9 and 10 had been signed. Veronica Higgs Cope advised Thompson that the Opinions had been signed at the meeting on May 9, 2007, and that she maintains the signed copies of the Opinions in her file.

**NEW BUSINESS**

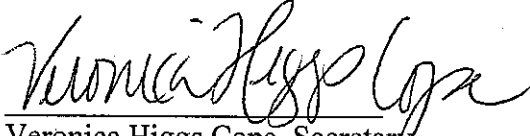
Charles E. Johnson, Chief Operating Officer of Williams-Russell and Johnson, Inc., and member of the DeKalb Peachtree Airport Advisory Board, appeared for discussion of his request for an advisory opinion dated April 13, 2007, as to whether it would be a violation of the DeKalb County Code of Ethics for his company to submit a

proposal for a contract to become a consulting firm and managerial firm for the DeKalb-Peachtree Airport Authority. Prior to the meeting of the Board of Ethics, the Airport Authority had already awarded the contract to another entity. However, Johnson sought an opinion on the issue due to the high likelihood that he might face the same issue again since the Airport Authority chooses consulting firms every few years. Johnson indicated that the DeKalb Peachtree Airport Advisory Board does not vote on the selection of a consultant for the Airport Authority.

The Ethics Board first concluded that the members of the DeKalb Peachtree Airport Advisory Board were under the jurisdiction of the DeKalb County Ethics Board. After discussion, the Honorable Patricia Killingsworth moved that in light of the fact that the DeKalb Peachtree Airport Advisory Board has no authority to bind the DeKalb Peachtree Airport Authority Board of Commissioners on any matters before them, so long as Mr. Johnson notifies the Board of Commissioners of his intention to submit a bid on behalf of his company to become a consulting firm for the DeKalb Peachtree Airport and recuses himself from discussion of or voting on any issue related to his firm's proposal, Mr. Johnson would not be in violation of the DeKalb County Code of Ethics. The motion carried by a vote of 5-0. Steve Irving agreed to draft an advisory opinion for vote by the Board at the next regularly scheduled meeting on November 14, 2007, at 6:45 p.m.

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Veronica Higgs Cope, Secretary  
DeKalb County Board of Ethics