

DeKalb County Board of Ethics
Thursday, January 19, 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
Shermanetta Carter
Scott Bonder
Brian Deutsch
Greg Russell
Edward Queen

Board Affiliates Present:

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

Attendees:

Terry Phillips
Mark Niese
Stephen Binney
Melinda Marbes
Rhea Johnson
John Green
Shaheen Williams

I. **Call to order**

Greg Russell called the meeting to order at 3:09 p.m.

II. **Welcome and Introductions**

Greg Russell welcomed attendees.

III. **Adoption of the Agenda**

The members reviewed the agenda. Scott Bonder made a motion to adopt the agenda and Edward Queen seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with a vote of 6-0.

IV. Review and Approve Meeting Minutes from November 22, 2016

The members reviewed the minutes from the meeting held on November 22, 2016. Dan DeWoskin made a motion to approve the minutes and Scott Bonder seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with a vote of 6-0.

V. Unfinished Business

A. Reports

1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, and 8. The status of the matters which are tabled have not changed and the investigation into the complaint against Stan Watson is continuing. Ms. Kalberman is waiting to learn the District Attorney's decision about whether to retry Burrell Ellis. This decision will impact how Ms. Kalberman will proceed in the matters involving Mr. Walton, Ms. Hall, and Mr. Vaughn. Ms. Kalberman also reported that the Superior Court will hear arguments on February 21 on the pending motions in the Sutton litigation. Additionally, Ms. Kalberman discussed the proposed changes to the Code of Ethics and options to consider with regard to the alternative outcomes of the Sutton litigation. The Board asked that if the hearing set for February 21 is delayed, Ms. Kalberman is to set down an item on the agenda to direct Ms. Kalberman to direct Mr. Summerville to seek an expedited hearing date.

VI. New Business

1. Ethics Bill and Update from Counsel on Sutton matter. Ms. Kalberman presented the Board with her suggested changes to Code of Ethics. Edward Queen suggested replacing the term "appoint" with "nominate." Ms. Kalberman also discussed bifurcating the proposed changes with consideration of the issues involved in the Sutton litigation. Scott Bonder made a motion to direct the Ethics Officer to present the requested changes to the Code of Ethics to the DeKalb County delegation and Dan DeWoskin seconded the motion. The motion passed with a vote of 6-0.

2. Election of Chair and Vice Chair. Scott Bonder nominated Greg Russell for chair. Mr. Russell declined the nomination. Robert Tatum nominated Scott Bonder. Mr. Bonder declined the nomination. Greg Russell nominated Dan DeWoskin for chair. Robert Tatum seconded the nomination. The Board voted 5-0-1 to elect Mr. DeWoskin chair. Mr. DeWoskin abstained.

Shermanetta Carter joined the meeting at 3:33 p.m.

Dan DeWoskin nominated Greg Russell for Vice Chair. Scott Bonder seconded the nomination. The Board voted 6-0-1 to elect Mr. Russell as Vice Chair. Mr. Russell abstained.

Brian Deutsch nominated Scott Bonder for Secretary. Robert Tatum seconded the nomination. The Board voted 6-0-1 to elect Mr. Bonder as Secretary. Mr. Bonder abstained.

3. Interviews of Attorney Candidates. Dan DeWoskin made motion for the Board to go into Executive Session. Edward Queen seconded the motion. The motion passed with a vote of 7-0. 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 3:38 p.m.

Dan DeWoskin made a motion for the Board to come out of Executive Session and Robert Tatum seconded the motion. The motion passed with a vote of 7-0. The Board resumed the public meeting at 5:08 p.m.

Ms. Kalberman presented the Board with the Board's proposed budget for 2017 and the CEO's recommended budget. The CEO's recommended budget made a small change which deleted the first three months of the annual salary of the second attorney's position.

VII. Administrative

1. Public comment. Rhea Johnson and Stephen Binney made remarks to the Board.

VIII. Adjournment

Edward Queen made a motion to adjourn and Dan DeWoskin seconded the motion. The motion passed with a vote of 7-0 and the meeting adjourned at 5:17 p.m.

Approved:

Chair

 - DAN DEWOSKIN

Date

