

**DeKalb County Board of Ethics**

Thursday, May 17, 2018

3:00 p.m.

Central DeKalb Senior Center, Second Floor Meeting Room

1346 McConnell Drive

Decatur, Georgia 30033

**Minutes**

**Members Present:**

Robert Tatum

Dan DeWoskin

Brian Deutsch

Patrick Desamours

Edward Queen

Adriana de la Torriente

**Board Affiliates Present:**

Stacey Kalberman, Ethics Officer

LaTonya Nix Wiley, Deputy Ethics Officer

Gene Chapman, Board Counsel

Suzanne Amato, Administrative Assistant

**Attendees:**

Joe Arrington

Tia Mitchell

Felton Williams

Jay Vinicki

Kelly Cato

Shaheem Williams

Terry Phillips

I. **Call to order**

Dan DeWoskin called the meeting to order at 3:05 p.m. and welcomed the attendees.

II. **Adoption of Agenda**

The members reviewed the agenda. Edward Queen made a motion to adopt the agenda and Adriana de la Torriente seconded the motion. The motion passed with a vote of 6-0.

### III. Review and Approve Meeting Minutes from April 19, 2018

The members reviewed the minutes from the meeting held on April 19, 2018. Patrick Desamours made a motion to approve the minutes and Robert Tatum seconded the motion. The motion passed with a vote of 6-0.

### IV. Unfinished Business

#### A. Final Hearing – Rhea Johnson v. Stan Watson

Dan DeWoskin called for the final hearing of the case. LaTonya Wiley presented the case to the Board. No one was present for Mr. Watson. Ms. Wiley explained the steps she took to provide notice of the hearing to Mr. Watson.

Ms. Wiley presented testimony of the case to the Board through Jay Vinicki, Office of Management and Budget; Felton Williams, Purchasing Department; and Kelly Cato, current staff member for Commissioner Gannon and former staff member for former Commissioner Stan Watson.

Ms. Wiley presented evidence that Mr. Watson violated the Ethics Code as follows:

1. Section 22A(c)(7) in activities leading up to and on March 6, 2014 candidate qualification for re-election to District 7;
2. Section 22A(c)(7) in activities leading up to and on April 20, 2014 for the “Easter Eggstravaganza;”
3. Section 22A(c)(2) in activities leading up to and on April 20, 2014 for the “Easter Eggstravaganza;”
4. Section 22A(c)(7) in activities leading up to and on August 16, 2014 for the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Health and Wellness Fair;
5. Section 22A(c)(2) in activities leading up to and on August 16, 2014 for the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Health and Wellness Fair;
6. Section 22A(c)(7) in activities leading up to and on October 18, 2014 for the 4<sup>th</sup> International Food Festival;
7. Section 22A(c)(2) in activities leading up to and on October 18, 2014 for the 4<sup>th</sup> International Food Festival;
8. Section 22A(c)(7) in activities leading up to and on June 19, 2015 for the Annual Father’s Day Golf Tournament at Sugar Creek Golf Course;
9. Section 22A(c)(2) in activities leading up to and on June 19, 2015 for the Annual Father’s Day Golf Tournament at Sugar Creek Golf Course.

After hearing testimony and considering documentary evidence, the Board closed the evidence, deliberated, and took the following actions:

Edward Queen made a motion to find Stan Watson violated Section 22A(c)(7) of the Ethics Code by engaging in an activity prohibited by law by using County resources in order to benefit his

political campaign in violation of O.C.G.A. § 21-5-30.2. Adriana de la Torriente seconded the motion and the motion passed with a vote of 6-0.

Brian Deutsch made a motion to find Stan Watson violated Section 22A(c)(2) of the Ethics Code by directly requesting and soliciting donations for County events from contractors who were doing business with the County. Robert Tatum seconded the motion and the motion passed with a vote of 6-0.

Patrick Desamours made a motion to assess a \$1,000 administrative sanction for each of the nine violations of the Ethics Code which the Ethics Office proved. The total of the nine administrative sanctions is \$9,000. Edward Queen seconded the motion and the motion passed with a vote of 6-0.

Edward Queen made a motion to issue a public reprimand to Mr. Watson for violating the Ethics Code. Robert Tatum seconded the motion and the motion passed with a vote of 6-0.

V. Administrative

- A. Stacey Kalberman reminded members that the Supreme Court hearing for the Sharon Barnes-Sutton matter is 10:00 a.m., Monday, May 21 at the Cobb County Superior Courthouse.
- B. Public comments. Dan DeWoskin announced that there would be no time for public comments at this meeting.

VI. Adjournment

Brian Deutsch made a motion to adjourn and Edward Queen seconded the motion. The motion passed with a vote of 6-0 and the meeting adjourned at 5:55 p.m.

Approved:

  
Chair

6/21/18  
Date

