

State of Alaska
Department of Commerce, Community and
Economic Development
Division of Corporations, Business and Professional Licensing

BOARD OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTANCY

MINUTES OF MEETING

February 2-3, 2023

By authority of AS 08.01.070(2), and in compliance with the provisions of AS 44.62, Article 6, a scheduled meeting of the Board of Public Accountancy was held February 2-3, 2023.

Thursday, February 2, 2023

Call to Order/Roll Call

The meeting was called to order by Don Vieira, at 9:02 a.m. Those present, constituting a quorum of the Board were:

Don Vieira, CPA
Steven Jordan, CPA
Rachel Hanks, CPA
Lance Johnson, Public Member
Beth Stuart, CPA
Karen Smith, Public Member

Present from the Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development, Division of Corporations, Business and Professional Licensing, were:

Cori Hondolero, Executive Administrator
Dawn Bundick, Investigator III (agenda item #6)
Katrina Eldred, Investigator II (agenda item #6)
Jennifer Summers, Senior Investigator (agenda item #6)
Marilyn Zimmerman, Paralegal II (agenda item #6)
Julienne Kim, Paralegal II (agenda item #6)

Visitors present included:

Crista Burson, representing the Alaska Society of CPAs (AKCPA)
Stephanie Riddiford

Agenda Item 1 – Review Agenda

Ms. Hanks indicated that she wanted to add review of investigative matrix to the agenda.

Upon a motion duly made by Ms. Stuart, seconded by Mr. Jordan, and approved unanimously by the members present, it was:

RESOLVED to approve the agenda as amended.

Agenda Item 2 – Ethics Report

It was determined that there was nothing to report.

Agenda Item 3 – Review Meeting Minutes

The Board reviewed the minutes of the last meeting and teleconferences.

Upon a motion duly made by Ms. Stuart, seconded by Mr. Jordan, and approved unanimously by the members present, it was:

RESOLVED to approve the minutes of the November 7-8, 2022, November 30, 2022, and December 8, 2022 meetings as written.

Agenda Item 4 - Alaska Society of Certified Public Accountants (ASCPA)

Ms. Burson provided a summary of current Alaska Society activities:

1. Alaska Society of CPAs Board of Directors met on January 25th.
2. Leadership Academy 2023 – 8 rising CPAs in the 2023 class. First all-day session is February 10th. 2-day session is June 12th-13th all in person in Anchorage.
3. AICPA 8-point plan – draft plan to address root causes of pipeline issues quickly. Biggest discussion item in the 1st point – Integrated Education & Experience Program. Offer students without the means or a plan to earn 150 through a program combining online study integrated with early work experience. Option to earn up to 30 academically rigorous credit hours while working. Looking for a fall 2023 pilot program.
4. Prometric scheduling – discussion at last AKCPA Board meeting regarding ongoing CPA exam Prometric scheduling limitations in Alaska. More candidates scheduling out of State due to limitations.
5. The AKCPA awarded 3, \$3000 Paul Hagelbarger Memorial scholarships to accounting students at UAA.
6. Technology initiatives – new database and website mitigations almost complete. Live during the first quarter of 2023.
7. AKCPA Board of Directors nominations open this week.

8. 2023 Annual Meeting is Wednesday, May 17th – Friday, May 19th at the Alyeska Resort in Girdwood.
9. AICPA Spring Council is May 23rd-25th, 2023 in Washington, D.C.
10. Next Board meeting is Wednesday, February 22nd at noon.

The Board asked Ms. Hondolero to request information from NASBA regarding how far in advance candidates need to schedule and if there are any issues being reported to them or Prometric. The Board feels data on the number of available seats and the number of seats that go unused would be helpful.

Agenda Item 5 – Public Comment

There was no one present that made a request to address the Board.

Agenda Item 7 – CPA Exam

The Board reviewed the exam surveys and performance data in the meeting packet and requested that Ms. Hondolero obtain updated Prometric passes for Board members. Ms. Smith indicated that she would be willing to do a visit at the Anchorage location.

Agenda Item 6 – Investigative Report

Investigator Bundick, Investigator Eldred and Senior Investigator Summers joined the meeting. Division paralegals Marilyn Zimmerman and Julienne Kim were also in attendance. Investigator Bundick provided a summary of the investigative report in the packet:

- 37 open cases
- 12 closed cases

Upon a motion duly made by Ms. Hanks, seconded by Mr. Jordan, and approved unanimously, it was:

RESOLVED to enter into executive session for the purpose of discussing investigative matters.

The Board entered executive session at 9:55 a.m.
The Board went back on the record at 10:19 a.m.

The Board thanked the investigators and paralegals for the reports/agreements that were presented.

Upon a motion duly made by Ms. Hanks, seconded by Mr. Johnson, and approved unanimously, it was:

RESOLVED to accept the Imposition of Civil (ICF) for case #2022-000066.

Upon a motion duly made by Ms. Hanks, seconded by Mr. Johnson, and approved unanimously, it was:

RESOLVED to accept the Imposition of Civil (ICF) for case #2022-000062.

Upon a motion duly made by Ms. Hanks, seconded by Mr. Jordan, and approved unanimously, it was:

RESOLVED to accept the Imposition of Civil (ICF) for case #2022-000060.

Upon a motion duly made by Ms. Hanks, seconded by Mr. Johnson, and approved unanimously, it was:

RESOLVED to accept the Imposition of Civil (ICF) for case #2022-000824.

Upon a motion duly made by Ms. Hanks, seconded by Mr. Johnson, and approved unanimously, it was:

RESOLVED to accept the voluntary surrender for case #2022-000531.

Upon a motion duly made by Ms. Hanks, seconded by Mr. Johnson, and approved unanimously, it was:

RESOLVED to accept the consent agreement for case #2022-000527.

Upon a motion duly made by Ms. Hanks, seconded by Mr. Johnson, and approved unanimously, it was:

RESOLVED to accept the consent agreement for case #2022-000530.

Upon a motion duly made by Ms. Hanks, seconded by Mr. Johnson, and approved unanimously, it was:

RESOLVED to accept the consent agreement for case #2022-001099.

Meetings

The Board set the following priority lists for the upcoming meetings.

Western Regional meeting: 1) Hanks 2) Hondolero 3) Vieira (alternate)

Annual Meeting: 1) Stuart (request 3rd party direct/reimbursed travel) 2) Hondolero 3) Vieira (alternate)

Committees

Mr. Johnson – Continuing Professional Education (CPE) Committee – Has not had a meeting recently.

Ms. Hanks – Education Committee – Has not had a meeting recently.

Agenda Item 9 – Correspondence

The Board reviewed the correspondence in the meeting packet and noted that the NASBA focus questions contained some jurisdiction responses regarding principal place of business.

Agenda Item 10 – Board Business

ED Report

Board vacancy – One CPA seat still vacant.

SSN Exemption – The Division's updated form and a memo were included in the meeting packet. The Board noted that the form should have an instruction sheet or be amended to match what is outlined in the memo. Mr. Johnson and Ms. Stuart will submit suggested edits to Ms. Hondolero for how to make the exemption form clearer. The Board noted that the memo says an exemption 'may' be granted. Can an individual program not allow exemption or establish additional criteria? It was noted that there may be financial impacts if the number of foreign and out of state applicants drops, but there may be a reduction of costs for investigations.

The Board would like the applicant to provide verification that they are legally able to work in the State of Alaska. Ms. Hondolero will draft an email to Division management and Mr. Vieira will review it.

CE letter – the Board reviewed the draft letter in the meeting packet.

Upon a motion duly made by Ms. Hanks, seconded by Mr. Jordan, and approved unanimously, it was:

RESOLVED to enter into executive session for the purpose of reviewing the draft letter to licensees.

The Board entered executive session at 11:48 a.m.
The Board went back on the record at 12:38 p.m.

Mr. Jordan stated that he would edit the letter and get it back to the Board for their review.

The meeting was recessed at 12:44 p.m., until Friday, February 3, 2023.

Friday, February 3, 2023

Call to Order/Roll Call

The meeting was called to order by Don Vieira, at 9:01 a.m. Those present, constituting a quorum of the Board were:

Don Vieira, CPA
Steven Jordan, CPA
Lance Johnson, Public Member
Beth Stuart, CPA
Karen Smith, Public Member
Rachel Hanks, CPA

Present from the Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development, Division of Corporations, Business and Professional Licensing, were:

Cori Hondolero, Executive Administrator

Visitors present included:

Crista Burson, representing the Alaska Society of CPAs (AKCPA)
James Cox, representing AICPA (agenda item #12)
Marta Zaniewski, representing AICPA (agenda item #12)
Stephanie Riddiford (agenda item #13)

Agenda Item 11 – Review Agenda

No changes were noted.

Agenda Item 12 – Statute/Regulation Projects

James Cox and Marta Zaniewski (AICPA) joined the meeting.

Mr. Cox had sent an updated draft for Board review; Ms. Hondolero had emailed it out to all members.

Ms. Zaniewski gave an overview of the AICPA 8-point plan and noted that there would be a proposal to change to the 18-month exam rule to 24 months going to the UAA committee soon.

Mr. Vieira asked about an updated timeline for the next draft of the regulations. Mr. Cox indicated that his goal is to have an updated draft to the Board by February 17th. The Board indicated that they would hold a teleconference after receiving the updated regulations before the end of the month.

Ms. Zaniewski stated that AICPA was asked to not be involved in working on State Board rules; NASBA wants to take the lead on providing this assistance to Boards. She indicated that she would follow up with NASBA to make sure that the project got handed off.

The Board wanted to review the authority for firm mobility. The Board wants to be sure there is authority to prosecute; can the firms be held accountable if they do not hold an Alaska license. It was noted that AS 08.04.421 was repealed. The Board also briefly discussed CPE reciprocity and determined that it would be pulled from the draft regulations.

The Board set a tentative February 23rd (1-2:30 pm) date for the next teleconference.

Ms. Stuart stated that she would look at possible changes to the regulations regarding principal place of business that could provide additional clarity.

Agenda Item 13 – Application Review

Upon a motion duly made by Ms. Hanks, seconded by Mr. Jordan, and approved unanimously, it was:

RESOLVED to enter into executive session for the purpose of reviewing application matters.

The Board entered executive session at 10:55 a.m.

The Board went back on the record at 12:56 p.m.

Upon a motion duly made by Ms. Smith seconded by Mr. Johnson, and approved unanimously by the members present, it was:

RESOLVED to approve the application for licensure by exam of Stephanie Riddiford, pending confirmation of completion of the full two years of required experience.

Upon a motion duly made by Ms. Smith seconded by Ms. Stuart, and approved unanimously by the members present, it was:

RESOLVED to deny the request for Exam Score extension from Shagun Biyani (12 AAC 04.200(i)).

Upon a motion duly made by Ms. Hanks seconded by Mr. Johnson, and approved unanimously by the members present, it was:

RESOLVED to approve Victoria Cargill's request for extension of AUD and BEC score credit to 5/10/23.

Upon a motion duly made by Ms. Hanks seconded by Ms. Smith, and approved unanimously by the members present, it was:

RESOLVED to deny the request for Exam Score extension from Kristen Culver (12 AAC 04.200(i)).

Upon a motion duly made by Ms. Hanks seconded by Ms. Stuart, and approved unanimously by the members present, it was:

RESOLVED to table the reinstatement application of Munther Alarayedh.

Ms. Hondolero will reach out to AICPA to confirm that all CE was completed as reported. The Board noted that many hours were completed on the same date and wanted to confirm how this is possible.

Upon a motion duly made by Ms. Hanks seconded by Mr. Johnson, and approved unanimously by the members present, it was:

RESOLVED to table the application for licensure by exam of Onadjefe Alli; applicant needs at least 3 more semester credits of "accounting" coursework.

Upon a motion duly made by Ms. Smith seconded by Ms. Hanks, and approved unanimously by the members present, it was:

RESOLVED to approve Misha Nader Al-Ghanem, Kanika Arora, Aishwarya Chandrasekhar, Sonia Collier, Zoe Gregory, Sasha Haggemuller, Michael Holland, Amina Khoungui, Swasti Kumari, Theodore Leonard, Varshitha Nadipineni, Keenan Price, Aaron Radford, Sami Tawil, Jorge Verdu Mora, Wolf-Heinrich Werling and Kia Yang for licensure by exam.

Upon a motion duly made by Ms. Hanks seconded by Mr. Johnson, and approved unanimously by the members present, it was:

RESOLVED to approve Jenny Myhand and Elizabeth Tatum for licensure by reciprocity.

Upon a motion duly made by Ms. Hanks seconded by Mr. Johnson, and approved unanimously by the members present, it was:

RESOLVED to approve the firm license of PG Associates LLC.

Upon a motion duly made by Ms. Hanks seconded by Mr. Johnson, and approved unanimously by the members present, it was:

RESOLVED to approve the CE waiver request of Gregor Gruenthaler; waive the 20 hour per year requirement for 2022. 60 hours due in 2023, including 4 hours of ethics.

Upon a motion duly made by Ms. Hanks seconded by Mr. Johnson, and approved unanimously by the members present, it was:

RESOLVED to approve the CE waiver request of Stephen Vogler; waive the 20 hour per year requirement for 2022. 60 hours due in 2023, including 4 hours of ethics.

Upon a motion duly made by Ms. Hanks seconded by Mr. Johnson, and approved unanimously by the members present, it was:

RESOLVED to deny the CE waiver request of Sarah Villalon Rixie. Consent agreement (no falsification) will be required; 88 hours are required for the 2020/2021 license period. Waive the 20 hour per year requirement for 2022; 80 hours will be due for 2023.

Agenda Item 14 – Administrative Business

Confirm Upcoming Meeting Dates/Locations

- May 11-12, 2023 - Anchorage
- August 24-25, 2023
- November 16-17, 2023

Task Lists

Cori Hondolero

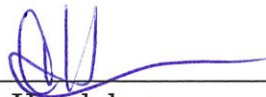
- Draft email for Chair review re: SSN exemption.

Beth Stuart

- Review definition of principal place of business.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 1:35 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:



Cori Hondolero
Executive Administrator

Approved:



Don Vieira, Chair
Alaska Board of Public Accountancy

Date: 5/11/23