

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

*S. C. Department of Labor, Licensing, & Regulation
Board of Accountancy*

Tuesday, October 26, 2021 9:00 a.m.
Web/Teleconference

NOTE: These minutes are a record of the motions and official actions taken by the Board and a brief summary of the meeting.

1. Call to Order

Jada McAbee, CPA, Acting Chair, was present and called the meeting of the South Carolina Board of Accountancy to order on October 26, 2021, at 9:08 a.m., with a quorum present. Other Board members present were: Christopher Huggins, CPA, Ken Whitener, CPA, Chip Summers, CPA, Janet Pierce, CPA, Lora Prevatte, CPA, Deltrease Hart-Anderson, Accounting Practitioner, Walda Wildman, CPA, Charles Brooks, Public Member, and Bob Wood, Public Member. LLR staff members participating in the meeting included: Susanna Sharpe, CPA, Administrator, Chelsea Buchanan, Program Coordinator, Mary League, Advice Counsel, Christa Bell, Office of Investigations and Enforcement, and Erin Baldwin from the Office of Disciplinary Counsel.

2. Consideration of Excuses for Absences of Board Members

Jada McAbee made a motion to excuse David Nichols, Accounting Practitioner. Chris Huggins seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

3. Adoption of Agenda

Motion

Walda Wildman made a motion to approve the agenda. Chip Summers seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

4. Approval of Meeting Minutes

Motion

Bob Wood made a motion to approve the minutes from the August 19, 2021 meeting. Ken Whitener seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

5. Introduction of New Board Members

Janet Pierce, CPA, and Deltrease Hart-Anderson, Accounting Practitioner were welcomed to the Board.

6. Acting Chair's Remarks

Jada McAbee thanked the Board members for being in attendance.

7. Office of Investigation & Enforcement

A. Office of Investigation & Enforcement Report

Christa Bell briefed the Board on the OIE report. 34 total complaints have been received since January 1, 2021, with 9 active.

8. Office of Disciplinary Counsel Report

Erin Baldwin presented the report for information. There are currently 5 open cases.

9. Application Hearings

A. Emily Temple

The application for reinstatement as a SC CPA could not be approved at staff level because the applicant indicated on the application that she held herself out as a CPA during a time when her license was lapsed.

Motion

Ken Whitener made a motion to go into executive session to receive legal advice in this matter. Chris Huggins seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Motion

Chris Huggins made a motion to come out of executive session. Ken Whitener seconded the motion, which carried unanimously. No votes were taken during executive session.

Motion

Lora Prevatte made a motion to approve the application for reinstatement as a SC CPA pending payment of a \$250 penalty. Walda Wildman seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

B. Michael Remer

The application for reciprocal licensure as a SC CPA could not be approved at staff level because the applicant checked no to having a criminal history when the required records check indicated charges 27 years ago.

Motion

Walda Wildman made a motion to go into executive session to receive legal advice in this matter. Chris Huggins seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Motion

Ken Whitener made a motion to come out of executive session. Chris Huggins seconded the motion, which carried unanimously. No votes were taken during executive session.

Motion

Chris Huggins made a motion to approve the application for reciprocal licensure as a SC CPA pending payment of a \$500 penalty. Bob Wood seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

10. Disciplinary Hearing-Stipulation of Facts

A. 2020-26-Brenda Tindall

Motion

Chris Huggins made a motion to go into executive session to receive legal advice in this matter. Ken Whitener seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Motion

Walda Wildman made a motion to come out of executive session. Charles Brooks seconded the motion, which carried unanimously. No votes were taken during executive session.

Motion

Bob Wood made a motion to accept the Stipulation of Fact as presented and assess a penalty of \$1,500 for violation of S.C. Code Ann. Sec. 40-2-110(A)(6) (1976, as amended and S.C. Code Ann. Sec. 40-2-110(A)(7) (1976, as amended) to be paid within 90 days. Chris Huggins seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

11. Old Business

A. Nomination of IRC Members

Motion

Walda Wildman made a motion to appoint former Board members Michael Putich and Ellen Adkins to the IRC Committee. Chris Huggins seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

B. Discussion of S812

David Knoble and Chris Jenkins gave updates on the proposed bill and provided further explanation on some questions raised in prior meetings about statute changes regarding advisory opinions and making Board orders, opinions, and interpretations more easily searchable.

C. Report from Rules and Regulations Course Update Committee

Walda Wildman presented the report of the Rules and Regulations Course Update Committee.

Motions

-Walda Wildman made a motion that the Board enter into a written agreement with the Center for the Public Trust to continue using the current Rules and Regulations course until it can be replaced or is not required. Ken Whitener seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

-Walda Wildman made a motion that the current course be retired as soon as possible and replaced with a new course; that the new course be made with adaptive testing; that a committee be established to make recommendations regarding what should be included in the revised course and how the course should be structured and maintained; that the Board

engage the Center for the Public Trust to author the replacement course, including the related online adaptive testing; and that the Administrator will craft a Memorandum of Understanding with CPT regarding what should be in the course and how it should be maintained. Chris Huggins seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

-Walda Wildman made a motion that the Board agrees that “Board-approved” be removed from the language in Section 40-2-250 of the proposed bill S.812 and that action on the preceding motion be held in abeyance until it can be determined whether the proposed bill will become law with the removal of “Board-approved.” Ken Whitener seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

-Walda Wildman made a motion that the language used on license renewal forms that asks licensees to attest that they have read the most recent changes to the Accountancy Practice Act be revised so it requires licensees to attest that they “...have read and understand the most current Accountancy Practice Act and related regulations”. Bob Wood seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

-Walda Wildman made a motion that the Board establish a Budget Committee, whose purpose will be to determine funds actually available to the Board and whether they could be effectively used for such things as improvements in materials on ethics, improving access to Board information, and improve regulation. Bob Wood seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

-Chris Huggins made a motion to appoint himself, Walda Wildman, and Chip Summers to the Budget Committee. Lora Prevatte seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

-Walda Wildman made a motion that the Board Administrator should not be exempt from the requirement to take the Rules and Regulations course. Ken Whitener seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

D. Consider revisions to Board rules and regulations course in regards to mobility/reciprocal licensure and holding out through mobility

Walda Wildman presented additional items from her report from the Rules and Regulations Course Update Committee, which related directly to this agenda item.

Motions

-Walda Wildman made a motion that the language “the applicant is living in South Carolina or” be removed from the relevant slide included in the

Rules and Regulations Course. Bob Wood seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

-Walda Wildman made a motion that a CPA practicing in South Carolina under mobility as defined in Section 40-2-245 is allowed to use or assume the title "Certified Public Accountant" or the abbreviation "CPA" or any other title, designation, words, letters, abbreviation, sign, card, or device tending to indicate that the person is a certified public accountant. Chris Huggins seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

-Walda Wildman made a motion that it is the Board's interpretation that the education requirements for substantial equivalency for the purposes of reciprocal licensure are met if the applicant has earned a baccalaureate degree and has completed 150 hours of education, without regard to the courses making up those hours or taken to earn the degree. Chris Huggins seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

-Walda Wildman made a motion that the Board direct staff to improve the information of the Board website concerning the licensing paths in South Carolina and to establish a committee to help identify necessary updates and develop content. Charles Brooks seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

-Chris Huggins made a motion to appoint Janet Pierce, Bob Wood, and Deltrease Hart-Anderson to the website update committee. Lora Prevatte seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

E. Alfronzo Alexander, Center for Public Trust-Information regarding Board rules and regulations course

Alfonso Alexander from NASBA's Center for the Public Trust joined via telephone to speak about the Rules and Regulations Course and respond to questions and feedback from the Board.

Motion

Walda Wildman made a motion to request that the Center for the Public Trust extend vendor contracts for the current course through February 15, 2022. Ken Whitener seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

F. Authority Delegated to Board Administrator

This item was found to have been resolved and would not require further discussion at this time.

12. New Business

A. SCACPA Update

Chris Jenkins thanked the Board members for their participation in discussion of the prior agenda items. He also spoke about the shrinking

pipeline of individuals pursuing licensure as CPA's and the things SCACPA is doing to try to increase the pipeline. He also spoke in support of allowing more personal development CPE hours.

B. Peer Review

The Board discussed the procedure staff follows when a licensee or firm receives a failed peer review and whether certain information asked on individual application and renewal forms is necessary as it relates to peer review.

Motion

Walda Wildman made a motion that the Board form a committee to review existing applications to ensure they are up to date and effective. Charles Brooks seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

13. Administrator's Report

Board Administrator Susanna Sharpe briefly explained that the licensee update, financials, and newsletter were included in the Board package.

14. Election of Officers

Motion

Chris Huggins nominated Jada McAbee to serve as board chair until June 30, 2022. Walda Wildman seconded the nomination, which carried unanimously.

Motion

Walda Wildman nominated Chris Huggins to serve as board vice-chair until June 30, 2022. Jada McAbee seconded the nomination, which carried unanimously.

Motion

Jada McAbee nominated Ken Whitener to serve as board secretary until June 30, 2022. Walda Wildman seconded the nomination, which carried unanimously.

15. Public Comment

There were no public comments.

14. Adjournment

Motion

With no further business to be discussed at this time, Jada McAbee made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 4:50 p.m. on October 26, 2021. Walda Wildman seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.