

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

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

Thursday, June 20, 2024 10:00 a.m.

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

Chris Huggins, CPA, Chair, was present and called the meeting of the South Carolina Board of Accountancy to order on June 20, 2024, at 10:00 a.m., with a quorum present. Other Board members present were: Ken Whitener, CPA, Vice Chair, Jayne Maas, CPA, Chip Summers, CPA, Jan Pierce, CPA, Jada McAbee, CPA, Kelly Epting, CPA, Deltrease Hart-Anderson, Accounting Practitioner, Bob Wood, Public Member, and Charles Brooks, Public Member. LLR staff members participating in the meeting included: Susanna Sharpe, CPA, Board Administrator, Chelsea Buchanan, Program Coordinator, Ely Grote and Carolyn Sutherland, Advice Counsel, Wattie Wharton from the Office of Investigations and Enforcement, Jamie Keller, CPA, Investigator, and Shelby Sutusky from the Office of Disciplinary Counsel.

2. Consent Agenda

Motion

Charles Brooks made a motion to approve the consent agenda and minutes for April 30, 2024, as well as the absence of Lora Prevatte. Bob Wood seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

3. Chair's Remarks (Chris Huggins)

Chair Chris Huggins welcomed the Board members and thanked everyone taking the time to attend. He expressed his gratitude for the opportunity to serve as Board Chair and has thoroughly enjoyed serving in that capacity.

4. Office of Investigation & Enforcement

A. Number of Open Complaints

Wattie Wharton briefed the Board on the OIE report. Fifty-six complaints have been received between January 1, 2024 and June 4, 2024. There are twenty-two active investigations. Four cases are pending further investigation by another agency and six cases have been closed since January 1, 2024.

B. IRC Report

Wattie Wharton presented the May 09, 2024 IRC report. Six cases are

being recommended for dismissal and three cases are being recommended for formal complaint.

Motion

Jan Pierce made a motion to approve the May 2024 IRC report. Jayne Maas seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Wattie Wharton also presented the June 04, 2024 IRC report. Two cases are being recommended for dismissal.

Motion

Ken Whitener made a motion to approve the June 2024 IRC report. Chip Summers seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

C. Requests for Extension of Time to Complete Investigation

An extension of time to complete investigation is being requested for four cases, all of which are pending investigation by another agency.

Motion

Bob Wood made a motion to approve the extensions until the next Board meeting as requested. Jada McAbee seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Cases approved for extension are 2022-17, 2022-39, 2022-40, and 2022-48.

5. Office of Disciplinary Counsel Report

Shelby Sutusky presented the ODC report for information. There are thirty-seven open cases, with three cases pending hearing or agreement. One case has been closed since April 15, 2024.

6. Application Hearings

A. Kevin Gaughan

The application for CPA licensure by reciprocity could not be approved at staff level due to the criminal history reported by the applicant.

Motions

Bob Wood made a motion to go into executive session to receive legal advice in this matter. Jayne Maas seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

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

Bob Wood made a motion to approve the application for CPA licensure. Ken Whitener seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

7. Administrator's Report (Susanna Sharpe)

-the licensee update was provided in the Board package. The biggest change is a significant increase in licensees in 'CPA Retired.'

-April financials were provided in the Board package, showing an increase in revenue due to the recent fee increase.

-Two items related to alternative licensure pathways were provided in the Board package. Those items include slides presented at the recent NASBA regional meeting on the SPP model being developed by the Professional Licensure Task Force and the report from NPAG, the National Pipeline Advisory Group.

8. New Business

A. Approval of Travel Budget and Attendees

The proposed travel budget was presented which includes the Board Administrator attending the FARB Conference in September 2024 and the Board Administrator, Chair, and Vice Chair attending the NASBA annual meeting in October 2024. 2025 NASBA ED and Legal conference attendees are Program Director, Board Administrator, Program Coordinator, Advice Counsel, Office of Disciplinary Counsel, and Board Investigator. 2025 NASBA Regional meeting attendees are Board Administrator, Chair, and Vice Chair.

Motion

Jan Pierce made a motion to approve the travel budget as presented. Bob Wood seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

9. Election of Officers

Motion

Chris Huggins made a motion to nominate Ken Whitener to service as Board Chair, Chip Summers to serve as Vice Chair, and Jan Pierce to serve as Secretary. Bob Wood seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

10. Public Comment

There were no public comments.

11. Adjournment

With no further business to discuss, Charles Brooks made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:00am on June 20, 2024. Deltrease Hart-Anderson seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.