

MINUTES
South Carolina Contractor's Licensing Board
Board Meeting
February 20, 2025, 10:00 a.m.

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10:00 a.m.

WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER:

Legrand Richardson, Board Chairman, called the regularly scheduled meeting of the South Carolina Contractor's Licensing Board to order at 10:02 a.m.

Mr. Richardson announced that public notice of this meeting was properly posted at the Synergy Business Park, Kingstree Building, and on the Agency's website, and provided to all requesting persons, organizations, and news media per Section 30-4-80 of the South Carolina Freedom of Information Act.

Staff members in attendance: Meronica Fulton, Board Executive; Molly Price, Program Director; Jonathan Eversfield, Administrative Coordinator; Carolyn Sutherland, Advice Counsel; Maurice Smith, Office of Investigations and Enforcement; Katherine Barroll, Assistant Disciplinary Counsel.

The Court Reporter was Katherine Boone with Creel Court Reporting, Inc.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion:

Mr. Appleton made a motion to approve the February 20, 2025 agenda. Mr. Lehman seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

INTRODUCTION OF BOARD MEMBERS

Mr. Richardson introduced himself and the following board members: Kimberly Lineberger, Daniel Lehman, Scott Appleton, Terry Marcum, and Edward Gibbs. Mr. Richardson also introduced and welcomed the newest appointed board member, Courtney Walsh.

APPROVAL OF EXCUSED ABSENCES

Motion:

Mr. Appleton made a motion to approve the absence of Mr. John Williams from the board meeting due to an illness. Ms. Lineberger seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

Motion:

Mr. Lehman made a motion to approve the October 17, 2024, Board Meeting minutes. Mr. Appleton seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

BOARD CHAIRMAN REMARKS – Legrand Richardson Jr.

Mr. Richardson welcomed everyone to the board meeting.

STAFF REPORTS

Board Executive's Report – Meronica Fulton

Ms. Fulton welcomed and introduced the newest appointed board member, Courtney Walsh, and provided his professional background. She directed the Board members to the cash report and licensure statistics. Since the last Board meeting on October 17, 2024, 1,639 exams have been taken for licensure, with an overall pass rate of 57.41%. There are currently 10,725 licensed general contractors and 7,749 licensed mechanical contractors. There are currently 519 burglar alarm company licenses, 25 burglar alarm branch licenses, 390 fire alarm company licenses, 242 fire sprinkler company licenses, and 26 fire sprinkler branch company licenses.

Ms. Fulton informed board members that the Statement of Economic Interest has to be filed by March 30, 2025. Mr. Eversfield has sent an e-mail with additional information related to the Statement of Economic Interest to board members and advised the board members to speak to him after the board meeting if they did not receive it. Ms. Fulton reviewed recent changes to the travel reimbursement document process within the Agency.

The next board meeting is scheduled for April 17, 2025.

Office of Investigation and Enforcement (OIE) Report – Maurice Smith

Mr. Smith reported that OIE received 1019 total complaints related to contractors since January 1, 2024. There are 66 active investigations, 808 closed cases, and 145 pending other actions.

Mr. Smith reported that since January 1, 2024, OIE received 24 total complaints for burglar alarm, and fire alarm. There are 2 active investigations, 14 closed cases, and 8 pending other actions.

Investigative Review Conference Report (IRC) – Maurice Smith

Mr. Smith reported that the IRC met on November 14, 2024 and January 09, 2025. The IRC recommended 28 cases for dismissal, 22 cases for formal complaints, 4 cases for formal complaints with citations, and 1 case for a letter of caution for contractors.

For burglar, fire alarm, the IRC recommended 1 case for a letter of caution.

Motion:

Mr. Appleton made a motion to approve the November 14, 2024 and January 09, 2025 IRC reports, as presented. Mr. Gibbs seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Office of Disciplinary Counsel (ODC) – Katherine Barroll, for Chris Elliott

Ms. Barroll presented the ODC report for informational purposes only. She stated that there are currently 169 open cases in ODC. Of those cases, 77 cases are pending hearings and agreements and 4 are pending closure. She stated that 7 cases have been closed since the last report on January 08, 2025, and 1 case has been closed since January 1, 2025.

APPLICATION HEARINGS

Blake Contracting, LLC (CLG.114257)/Michael Scott Rivers (CQG.18368) & Blake Contracting, LLC (CLM)/Michael Scott Rivers (CQM.18368) – Request to add Primary Qualifying Party and Initial Application

The Mechanical Contractor's Primary Qualifying Party revision application and General Contractor's Primary Qualifying Party revision application to transfer his General Contractor's license to Blake Contracting, LLC, with Mr. Rivers listed as the primary qualifying party could not be approved at staff level due to unresolved judgments/bankruptcy on a previous General Contractor's license that Mr. Rivers was listed as the owner. Mr. Rivers and Mr. Blake Skarpalezos were present and were not represented by counsel. A quorum of the board was present. All persons testifying were sworn in by the court reporter. Application hearings are recorded by a certified court reporter in the event a verbatim transcript is necessary.

Mr. Gibbs recused himself from this application hearing. The recusal form was signed and copy was provided to the court reporter.

Motion:

Ms. Lineberger made a motion to approve both the mechanical contractor primary qualifying party and the initial application with no conditions. Mr. Walsh seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Mr. Gibbs rejoined the meeting.

DISCIPLINARY HEARING – Memorandum of Agreement Hearing

Case No(s): 2022-236

Katherine Barroll, Office of Disciplinary Counsel, represented the State. The respondent was present at the hearing. All persons testifying were sworn in by the court reporter. In accordance with Board confidentiality statutes, the hearing was closed.

Motion:

Ms. Lineberger made a motion to go into Executive Session for legal advice. Mr. Appleton seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Motion:

Mr. Appleton made a motion to come out of Executive Session. Mr. Lehman seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

It was noted for the record no votes were taken during executive session.

Motion:

Ms. Lineberger made a motion to accept the December 20, 2024 Memorandum of Agreement, as written, and a \$2,500 public reprimand per violation to be paid within 90 days, along with a stipulation that a surety bond will be required for each license renewal going forward in lieu of financial statements. Mr. Gibbs seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

Travel Approval for NASCLA Mid-Year Meeting

Ms. Fulton informed the Board that she has been invited to the 2025 NASCLA Mid-Year Conference, which will held from March 4-6, 2025 in Salt Lake City, Utah. Ms. Fulton is

requesting travel approval to attend the Mid-Year Conference as a representative for the South Carolina Contractor's Licensing Board.

Motion:

Ms. Lineberger made a motion to approve Ms. Fulton's travel request to attend the 2025 NASCLA Mid-Year Meeting for March 4-6, 2025. Mr. Appleton seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Mrs. Fulton opened the floor for nominations for Chairman of the Board.

Motion:

Mr. Appleton made a motion to nominate Legrand Richardson as Chairman of the Board. Mr. Lehman seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Mr. Richardson opened the floor for nomination for Vice Chairman of the Board.

Motion:

Ms. Lineberger made a motion to nominate Scott Appleton as Vice Chairman of the Board. Mr. Lehman seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion:

Ms. Lineberger made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Appleton seconded the motion, which carried unanimously. The meeting concluded at 11:23 a.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for April 17, 2025, at 10:00 a.m.