

**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 9, 2024**

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 9, 2024.

**Friday, February 9, 2024**

**Call to Order/Roll Call**

The meeting was called to order by Don Vieira, at 9:07 a.m. Those present, constituting a quorum of the Board were:

Don Vieira, CPA  
Mark Diehl, CPA  
Rachel Hanks, CPA  
Lance Johnson, Public Member  
Steven Jordan, CPA

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

Cori Hondolero, Executive Administrator  
Jennifer Summers, Senior Investigator (agenda item #6)  
Marilyn Zimmerman, Paralegal 2 (agenda item #6)  
Alison Osborne, Regulations Specialist II (agenda item #11)

Visitors present included:

Crista Burson – Alaska Society of CPAs (AKCPA)  
John Rodgers – Alaska Society of CPAs (AKCPA)  
Rebecca Martin, CPA  
Jacquelyn Briskey, CPA  
Reva Loving  
Karen Brewer-Tarver, CPA  
Max Garner, Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) (agenda item #6)

**Agenda Item 1 – Review Agenda**

The Board reviewed the agenda and made no changes.

### **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.

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

**RESOLVED to approve the minutes of the November 8-9, 2023 meeting as written.**

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

Mr. Rodgers provided the following update on State Society activities:

1. Bi-weekly Tax Round Table Meetings virtual – next meeting is Tuesday, February 20<sup>th</sup> at noon.
2. AKCPA 2024-2025 Board of Directors Nominations opened this week.
3. Advocacy –
  - AKCPA Legislative Committee currently led by Karen Brewer-Tarver met multiple times to review the proposed regulations changes and provide feedback to the AKCPA Board of Directors.
  - Beneficial Ownership Information (BOI) Reporting Requirements, Exceptions & Resources  
BOI reporting requirements became effective January 1, 2024 for companies, including most CPA firms. There are 23 exceptions to the reporting requirements, but many of those that qualify for the exceptions are already regulated by the government in some form.  
Here is a Journal of Accountancy article that outlines the requirements and various risk considerations around the BOI engagement. To date, no state bar has stated that BOI reporting engagements constitute the unauthorized practice of law (UPL).
  - Alaska Bills Tracked  
HB 142 - State Sales & Use Tax (Includes Sales Tax on Professional Services)  
SB 157 - Establish Sunrise Review Board

STEM Legislation – Continues to request support from Alaska Senators/Representative for the H.R. 3541, *Accounting STEM Pursuit Act of 2023*, and S. 1705, *STEM Education in Accounting Act*.

4. CPA Exam Credit Extension (CRI Credit Relief Initiative) – The AKCPA continues to receive inquiries regarding the CPA Exam Credit Relief Initiative program that the AICPA and NASBA support to reinstate lapsed exam credits for exam sections passed during 2020 – 2023.
5. NASBA Professional Licensure Task Force Concept Exposure – Equivalent Licensure Model – NASBA Chair Stephanie Saunders announced formation of this group to consider new concepts for CPA licensure that may be included in the UAA to update the current licensure model.

Exposure Concept: Should the new NASBA Professional Licensure Task Force continue to focus its discussions on an equivalent path to licensure that defines a structured professional program that would qualify an individual for licensure as a CPA?

This proposed structured experiential learning program would provide for education, documented experience, and other elements that would provide an equivalent path to licensure without the need of having a fifth year to complete a 150-hours education program that would appear on an accredited transcript.

Question: Do you believe that the Professional Licensure Task Force should continue to focus its discussions on an equivalent path to licensure that defines a structured professional program that would qualify an individual for licensure as a CPA?

State Boards and other interested parties to consider these proposed changes and send any comments or recommendations to the UAA Committee by March 31, 2024. The AKCPA Board of Directors will be submitting a letter supporting this concept.

6. Scholarships – Four \$3,000 scholarships were awarded from the Paul Hagelbarger Memorial Scholarship Fund. All four recipients are accounting majors at the University of Alaska Fairbanks and intend to pursue careers in public accounting in Alaska.
7. AICPA Regional Council meetings resume in-person attendance this year. The AKCPA attends on March 21<sup>st</sup> in Los Angeles, California. AICPA Spring Meeting of Council & Annual Members meeting is May 21<sup>st</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> in Orlando, Florida.
8. 2024 Annual Meeting is Wednesday, May 29<sup>th</sup> – Friday, May 31<sup>st</sup> at the Land's End Resort in Homer.
9. Next Board Meeting is Wednesday, February 28<sup>th</sup> at noon.

It was noted that there is an exposure concept out regarding an equivalent path; structured program. The 150 semester hours is a problem for younger people. Ms. Hanks noted that the 150 semester hours was put in place to provide a depth of knowledge; above the

minimum standard. Ms. Burson noted that AICPA would be sending a support letter for this concept.

#### **Agenda Item 5 – Public Comment**

Rebecca Martin – Prior AKCPA Board liaison, started her practice in 2003 and opened her practice with a business license doing tax services; did not need a firm permit. With firm mobility and reciprocity to offer cross border practice, the new firm requirements add extra regulation and expense. Operating a business with a DBA still offers some transparency. Questions whether anything is achieved with sole proprietors needing a firm permit and knows that the statute is the problem. Felt there was a lack of notice for compliance of new requirements.

Reva Loving – CPA candidate (passed BEC and AUD). Indicated there were many impacts from covid on exam candidates. Lots of candidates were living alone, isolation issues, well being impacted and mental health harmed. If candidates do pass all four sections of the exam, would like more flexibility.

Mr. Viera noted that the Board does review requests from exam candidates on a case-by-case basis once all four sections have been passed.

#### **Agenda Item 7 – CPA Exam**

The Board reviewed the exam survey and performance data in the meeting packet. Ms. Burson noted that she had received one call regarding the Fairbanks site not listing open testing dates.

Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) Garner joined the meeting to discuss a pending matter with the Board.

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

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

The Board entered executive session at 10:01 a.m.

The Board went back on the record at 11:09 a.m.

**Upon a motion duly made by Mr. Jordan seconded by Mr. Johnson, and approved by a majority of the Board, it was:**

**RESOLVED to clear the CPE audit for case #2022-001098.**

\*Mr. Vieira abstained from voting on this matter

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

**RESOLVED to appoint Ms. Hanks as Chair and Ms. Stuart as Secretary/Treasurer of the Board.**

### **Agenda Item 8 – NASBA Updates**

#### Meetings

ED Conference – March 2024 – Ms. Hondolero will attend

Western Regional – June 2024 – Request that Mr. Diehl and Ms. Hondolero attend. Ms. Hanks will be an alternate.

Annual Meeting – October 2024 – The Board will determine who will attend at a future meeting.

#### Committees

Mr. Johnson – Continuing Professional Education (CPE) Committee – no meetings, but updated standards released.

Ms. Hanks – Communications Committee – committee will meet via Zoom on a monthly basis and will meet in person at the end of April.

### **Agenda Item 6 – Investigative Report**

Senior Investigator Summers joined the meeting and provided a summary of the investigative report in the packet.

The current report covered the period October 26, 2023 to January 26, 2024.

- 29 open cases
- 4 closed cases

Ms. Hanks asked about the really old cases. Ms. Summers indicated that there is no public safety issue; the 2019 (oldest case) is awaiting closure.

The Board thanked the investigator for the report that was presented.

The Board reviewed the matrix and Ms. Hanks noted that she could update it as needed. There was discussion about falsification of CPE and if updates were needed. Mr. Jordan stated that he would like other members comments to be visible when reviewing a case. The goal is to apply guidelines equitably. Ms. Hanks noted that members can request an

expert/specialist review the case if necessary. Ms. Hanks asked if it was possible to have both a public matrix and a version with additional notes for Board members? Ms. Hondolero indicated that she would ask Senior investigator Summers.

### **Agenda Item 9 – Correspondence**

The Board reviewed the correspondence in the meeting packet and noted that none of the items required response.

### **Agenda Item 10 – Board Business**

#### **ED Report**

Board vacancies – One seat vacant (public member) and one CPA seat will be open after 3/1/24.

Division staffing – Ms. Hondolero is assisting with other programs; time worked on other programs is charged accordingly.

Renewal – online renewal closed 12/31/23; anyone wanting to renew now, must submit the paper form. If a license has been lapsed more than a year, reinstatement is required.

Firm permits – the updated application has been posted online; it was updated to include sole proprietors and out of State firms doing attest.

Revenue/Expenditure Report – FY24 Q1 and Q2 reports were included in the meeting packet for review.

### **Agenda Item 12 – Application Review**

The Board started application review.

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

**RESOLVED to enter into executive session for the purpose of reviewing applications.**

The Board entered executive session at 1:03 p.m.

The Board went back on the record at 1:33 p.m.

Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) Garner returned to the meeting to discuss a pending matter with the Board.

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

**RESOLVED to enter into executive session for the purpose of speaking with the ALJ.**

The Board entered executive session at 1:41 p.m.  
The Board went back on the record at 1:58 p.m.

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

**RESOLVED to approve the consent agreement as presented for case #2023-000476.**

#### **Agenda Item 11 – Statute/Regulation Projects**

Ms. Osborne was present to review the public comments that were received with the Board.

The Board had been emailed copies of all the public comments that were received.

It was noted that some of the comments received made minor reference changes that could be incorporated into the draft before adoption. Ms. Osborne was tracking the updates on her draft and indicated that she would email Ms. Hondolero an updated copy once it was ready.

#### **Agenda Item 12 – Application Review**

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

**RESOLVED to enter into executive session for the purpose of reviewing applications.**

The Board entered executive session at 2:51 p.m.  
The Board went back on the record at 3:50 p.m.

The Board took the following action on the applications that had been reviewed.

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

**RESOLVED to approve Shagun Biyani and Rand Shawahna’s request for exam score reinstatement; all sections should reflect as passed.**

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

**RESOLVED to approve Jessie Anderson, Bentley Anhoury, Archaana Bhavani, Oday Edkaidek, Sadie Maubet, Maria Olson, Kayla Persson, Gabriel Rodriguez and Karen Styles 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 Maria Mauer and Anthony Murch 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 reinstatement of Kenneth Olmstead.**

**Upon a motion duly made by Ms. Hanks seconded by Mr. Johnson, and approved by a quorum of the Board, it was:**

**RESOLVED to approve the reinstatement of Kerri Rehak.**

\*Mr. Diehl abstained from voting on this application.

**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 licenses of Accounting and IT Consulting LLC, Consulting Professionals of Alaska, KCoe Isom LLP, Rebecca L. Martin CPA, Rosen CPA LLC, Leslie J. Schmitz CPA and Factor Accounting Consulting LLC.**

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

**RESOLVED to refer the following licensees for non-compliance with the requirement to have at least 20 CPE per year (2022/2023). \$2000 suspended, but all other standard consent agreement terms apply.**

- Gulnor Atobek
- Parviz Babazade
- Sheila Batista Alves
- Vadym Bilyk
- Alejandra Blanco Briceno
- Faten El Masri
- Joyce Herr
- Itsuko Hori
- Torrey Jacobson
- Emeka Ononye



- Soren Orley
- Sol Shin

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

**RESOLVED to refer the Clayton Bourne for non-compliance with CPE requirements; 13 hours short (2022/2023). Standard consent agreement applies.**

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

**RESOLVED to refer the Maria Bourne for non-compliance with CPE requirements; 3 hours short (2022/2023). Standard consent agreement applies.**

#### **Agenda Item 11 – Statute/Regulation Projects**

Ms. Osborne completed the updates, and a copy was emailed to members.

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

**RESOLVED to adopt the regulations with clarifying amendments made to 12 AAC 04.151(4), 12 AAC 04.245, 12 AAC 04.251 and 12 AAC 04.300(3)(h); the Board reviewed all public comments received and considered costs to the public.**

The Board thanked Ms. Osborne for all her work on the project.

#### **Agenda Item 14 – Administrative Business**

##### **Confirm Upcoming Meeting Dates/Locations**


- April 25-26, 2024 – in-person Anchorage
- August 15-16, 2024

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

**RESOLVED to adjourn the meeting.**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:07 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:



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Cori Hondolero  
Executive Administrator

Approved:



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Rachel Hanks, Chair  
Alaska Board of Public Accountancy

Date: 4/25/2024