

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

**BOARD OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTANCY**

**MINUTES OF MEETING**

**June 5, 2025**

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 June 5, 2025.

**Call to Order/Roll Call**

The meeting was called to order by Beth Stuart, at 9:00 a.m. Those present, constituting a quorum of the Board were:

Mark Diehl, CPA  
Rachel Hanks, CPA  
Beth Stuart, CPA  
Donovan Neal, CPA  
James Doughty, CPA

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

Cori Hondolero, Executive Administrator  
Roger Rouse, Investigator III (agenda item #7)  
Jennifer Summers, Senior Investigator (agenda item #7)  
Erika Prieksat, Chief Investigator (agenda item #7)  
Sharon Blosser, Paralegal II (agenda item #7)

Visitors present included:

Crista Burson, Alaska Society of CPAs (AKCPA)  
Daniel Rosano

**Agenda Item 1 – Review Agenda**

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

**RESOLVED to approve the agenda as written.**

### **Agenda Item 2 – Review Meeting Minutes**

The Board reviewed the minutes of the last meeting.

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

**RESOLVED to approve the minutes of the April 25, 2025 meeting as written.**

### **Agenda Item 3 – Ethics Report**

It was determined that there was nothing to report.

### **Agenda Item 4 – Public Comment**

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

### **Agenda Item 5 - Alaska Society of Certified Public Accountants (ASCPA)**

Ms. Burson was present and provided a listing of current Society activities:

1. Alaska Society of CPAs Board of Directors met Wednesday, April 23rd.
2. 2025 Annual Meeting was Wednesday, May 28th – Friday, May 30th at Windsong Lodge in Seward. Mark Diehl presented on behalf of the State Board of Public Accountancy during the business meeting on Friday, May 30th.
3. AICPA Spring Council was May 13th – 15th, 2025 in Washington, D.C. CPAs representing Alaska met with our Senators Dan Sullivan, Senator Lisa Murkowski's staff and Representative Nick Begich and covered issues impacting the profession:
  - Disaster Relief – would give the IRS the authority to grant tax relief when a governor declares either a disaster or state of emergency. Currently the IRS may only do this upon a federal disaster declaration.
  - Pass-Through Entity Tax (PTET) – At a minimum congress should retain the ability for pass-through entities to fully deduct the entity's state and local income taxes on the business at the federal level.
  - Tax Policy
  - STEM
  - 529 Savings Plan
4. Bi-weekly Tax Round Table Meetings virtual – next meeting is Tuesday, June 10th at noon.

5. CPE Season – Bob Jennings is in teaching in-person in Anchorage, June 23rd, Mid-Year Tax Update. Ongoing live webcast classes and in-person classes in Juneau, Anchorage and Fairbanks July 7th – 11th, and in August, December & January. November 6th partnering with Hawaii Society of CPAs and K2 to offer the fourth annual 1-day virtual technology conference.

6. Advocacy –

- Proposed Regulation Changes – The AKCPA Legislative Committee reviewed and provided feedback to our Board of Directors. A comment letter was sent May 5th, 2025.

- Alaska Bills

HB 121 – Accounting; Practice Privilege

AKCPA Board of Directors sent letter of support on March 10th and continued to assist with coordinating expert invited and public testimony. On April 30th alerted members to HB 121 status and provided resources for members to contact the Senate State Affairs Committee with support (see attached). Almost 30 emails of support received.

- 2025 Proposed Uniform Accountancy Act Changes Exposure Draft – The AKCPA provided feedback in late December on the previous exposure draft. The last exposure draft was issued on March 4th with comments due by May 3rd. The AKCPA Board of Directors responded with a comment letter on April 25th, 2025.

Ms. Burson indicated that she would send a copy of the UAA comment letter to Ms. Hondolero to distribute to the Board.

#### **Agenda Item 6 – Application Review**

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

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

The Board entered executive session at 9:12 a.m.

The Board went back on the record at 10:17 a.m.

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

**RESOLVED to approve the FAR score reinstatement request from Veenashree Vembu; consider exam passed.**

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

**RESOLVED to approve Agethna Bacalla, Isabel Humphries, Daniel Rosano and Stacey Trola for licensure by exam.**

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

**RESOLVED to table the reinstatement applications of Elena Begojevic and Mladen Begojevic; additional information required regarding the number of CPE hours earned on the same date.**

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

**RESOLVED to approve the reinstatements of Richard El Ayle and Leysan Gilfanova.**

#### **Agenda Item 7 – Investigative Report**

Chief Investigator Prieksat, Investigator Rouse, Senior Investigator Summers and paralegal Sharon Blosser joined the meeting.

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

**RESOLVED to accept the consent agreement (CA) for case #2024-000675.**

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

**RESOLVED to accept the Imposition of Civil Fine (ICF) for case #2024-001229.**

\*Ms. Stuart was the reviewing Board member and abstained from voting.

The Board discussed the self-disclosure question regarding practicing and/or holding out as a CPA while lapsed.

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

**RESOLVED to have staff conduct a high-level internet search on all licensees who apply to renew late or apply for reinstatement and forward any potential issues to investigations for review.**

#### **Agenda Item 8 – Statutes/Regulations**

##### **HB121**

Ms. Stuart provided an update; the legislation passed House/Senate and will be forwarded to the Governor.

### Regulations

Stefanie Davis, Regulations Specialist, joined the meeting. Ms. Davis will assist the Board in finishing up the project.

The current project public comment period closed on May 9, 2025. The Board reviewed all comments received. The Board noted one section, 12 AAC 04.189 that required a date change – from 2026 to 2028. This is consistent with prior Board discussion and intent.

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

**RESOLVED to adopt the regulations project (Department of Law file #2024200495) as public noticed with one change to section 12 AAC 04.189; changing the year from 2026 to 2028.**

The project adoption will be sent to the department of law, then to the Lt. Governor. Once the project has been signed by the Lt. Governor it becomes effective 30 days later.

The Board discussed updating the CPE tracking form in the future to have separate columns for “begin” and “end” date, to account for multi day CPE. The Board also noted that a licensee can self-certify that they completed a self-study course over multiple days.

### Agenda Item 9 – Administrative Business

#### Administrative Order 358 (AO358)

The Board discussed the order and noted that in-person participation at NASBA meetings will not happen until the order is lifted.

The Board requested clarification from the Division regarding in-person attendance at Board meetings if there is no cost to the State and if Board members are allowed to participate in State Society luncheons if there is no cost to the State. Ms. Hondolero will email Division management and include the Chair in the communication.

#### Confirm Upcoming Meeting Dates/Locations

- August 22, 2025
- November 14, 2025

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

**RESOLVED to adjourn the meeting.**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:53 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

*C. Hondolero*

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Cori Hondolero  
Executive Administrator

Approved:

*Beth Stuart*

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Beth Stuart, Chair  
Alaska Board of Public Accountancy

Date: 8/22/25