

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

BOARD OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTANCY

**MINUTES OF MEETING
November 14, 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 November 14, 2025.

Call to Order/Roll Call

The meeting was called to order by Beth Stuart, at 8:31 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
Spencer Madden, Public Member

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 #10)
Jennifer Summers, Senior Investigator (agenda item #10)
Kim Lilly, Paralegal (agenda item #10)
Sharon Blosser, Paralegal (agenda item #10)
Sylvan Robb, Division Director (agenda items #11 & #12)
Nancy Harris, Executive Administrator REC (agenda item #12)

Visitors present included:

Crista Burson, Alaska Society of CPAs (AKCPA)
John Rodgers, Alaska Society of CPAs (AKCPA)
Sarah Breedlove
Nicholas Gebhart
Benjamin Vazquez

Agenda Item 1 – Introductions

The Board did brief introductions to welcome new member Spencer Madden.

Agenda Item 2 – Review Agenda

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

RESOLVED to approve the agenda as written.

Agenda Item 3 – Review Meeting Minutes

The Board reviewed the minutes of the last meeting.

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

RESOLVED to approve the minutes of the August 22, 2025 meeting as written.

Agenda Item 4 – Ethics Report

It was determined that there was nothing to report.

Agenda Item 5 – Public Comment

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

Agenda Item 8 – Pre-Read Items (CPA Exam & Correspondence)

A copy of a recent exam survey and recent exam data was included in the meeting packet.

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

Agenda Item 9 – NASBA Updates

Current Exposure Draft & White Paper

CPE exposure draft out – comments due by December 16, 2025

Private Equity (PE) white paper – comments due by January 31, 2026

Meetings

ED conference – Austin, TX – March 24-26, 2026

Western Regional Meeting – Park City, UT – June 23-25, 2026

Annual Meeting – Litchfield Park, AZ – October 25-28, 2026

Committees

Ms. Hanks & Mr. Diehl – Communications Committee – The committee is working on a project to effectively communicate and make sure the emails are relevant to the audience. The goal is to make communication clear, potentially using bullet points for the important takeaways or to highlight items that require action.

**Agenda Item 6 - Alaska Society of Certified
Public Accountants (ASCPA)**

John Rodgers provided a list of current Society activities:

1. Bi-weekly Tax Round Table Meetings virtual – next meeting is Tuesday, November 25th at noon.

2. AICPA Fall Council and Leadership Conference was October 20th – 23rd, 2025 in Denver, CO. In addition to the opportunities to connect with colleagues from across the country, these meetings provide information and support for issues impacting the profession.

The updates regarding Federal and State advocacy issues were a focus of many sessions and discussions. Hearing how professional licensing has been attacked in some States was alarming and reiterated the need to work together as a profession as well as a community of licensed professionals.

The strategic planning considerations of planning for our profession in 2040 (AICPA Finance & Accounting 2040: Rise to the Future Together) are an extension of prior strategic plans and looks to again think outside the current focus for our profession and think beyond. We participated in an interactive work session to consider the core purpose and core competencies of the profession. The AKCPA will host a 2-hour CPE session in early 2026.

Crista Burson was installed as the 2025 – 2026 President of CPA/SEA (CPA Societies Executives Association).

3. CPE Season – Federal Tax Update with Greg White & George Koutelieris, December 11th in Fairbanks and December 12th in Anchorage and webcast. Several OBBBA classes scheduled over the next month.

4. Scholarships – Applications are being accepted through November 20th for Paul Hagelbarger Memorial Scholarship Fund. The primary objective of the Fund is to provide financial support to promote accounting education for the practice of public accounting in the State of Alaska. The awarding of scholarships is based on the scholastic achievement, the student's intent to pursue a career in public accounting in Alaska and financial need. The scholarships are open to all junior, senior, and graduate students who major in accounting and attend a four-year institution in the State of Alaska. Although the size of the scholarships can vary, the minimum award has been set at \$2,000. Applications available on the AKCPA website or contact Crista Burson for more information. Last year the AKCPA awarded 4, \$3,000 scholarships.

5. AO 360 - The AKCPA submitted written comments via the Regulatory Reform Written Comment Form.
6. AKCPA & SBOPA Luncheon – today, Friday, November 14th at noon in the Spruce & Willow Room. This is a change in original meeting room location.
7. 2026 Annual Meeting is Wednesday, May 27th – Friday, May 29th at the Wedgewood Resort / Taiga Center in Fairbanks.
8. Congratulations to Beth Stuart for being recognized by Forbes as one of the top 200 CPAs in America!
<https://www.forbes.com/lists/top-cpas/>
#Forbes 2025 America's Top CPAs List - Top Accountants in the United States: Explore the best practicing certified public accountants in firms across America to solve compliance issues and find better business solutions.

Agenda Item 7 – Application Review

Upon a motion duly made by Mr. Doughty, 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 9:05 a.m.
The Board went back on the record at 10:11 a.m.

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

RESOLVED to approve Sarah Breedlove’s request for BEC score reinstatement; consider all sections as passed.

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

RESOLVED to approve Soumya Padmanabhan request for FAR & BEC score reinstatement; consider all sections as passed.

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

RESOLVED to deny the score reinstatement request from Alisha Remedios; 12 AAC 04.200(i).

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

RESOLVED to approve George Barker, Rylee Ewing and Nicholas Gebhart for licensure by exam.

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

RESOLVED to approve the reinstatement applications for Jodi Andres, Elirose Bagcat, Bruce Cain, Shelly Kells, Nyalambi Mulwanda, Svetlana Reid and Julie Sievert.

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

RESOLVED to table the reinstatement applications for Elena Begojevic and Mladen Begojevic; applicants have not met the requirements of 12 AAC 04.310 and 12 AAC 04.330. None of the CPE submitted has been accepted; the licensees will need to submit 120 hours of new CPE for Board consideration.

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

RESOLVED to approve the firm permit for Stan Mishin CPA LLC.

Agenda Item 10 – Investigative Report

Investigator Rouse, Senior Investigator Summers, Kim Lilly and Sharon Blosser joined the meeting.

Investigator Rouse provided a summary of the investigative report in the packet.

The current report covered the period August 7, 2025 to October 30, 2025.

- 30 open cases
- 12 closed cases

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

RESOLVED to accept the Consent Agreements (CAs) for cases #2024-000501, 2024-000506, 2024-000549 and 2024-000673.

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

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

RESOLVED to accept the Consent Agreement (CA) for case #2024-000764.

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

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

RESOLVED to accept the Imposition of Civil Fine (ICFs) for cases #2024-000073 and 2024-000074.

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

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

RESOLVED to accept the Imposition of Civil Fine (ICF) for case #2024-000451.

*Mr. Diehl was the reviewing Board member and abstained from voting.

Agenda Item 11 – Board Business

ED Report

Board vacancy – one seat vacant (1 public member).

AO360 – additional information in the packet under item #12.

Revenue/Expenditure Report & Fees

Director Robb joined the meeting to outline the final FY25 revenue/expenditure report that was included in the meeting packet.

Agenda Item 12 – Statutes/Regulations

Regulations

The request for a regulations waiver for the updates related to HB121 was denied. The Board was advised to roll those changes in with proposed changes related to AO360.

Director Robb gave the Board a brief overview of AO360. The admin order applies to all entities in state government; all 85 Divisions have the same charge. The Division held 8 public engagement sessions and did not receive a lot of feedback. The reduction in

requirement goals are 15% by the end of 2026 and an additional 10% more by the end of 2027.

It was noted that there are documents that are adopted by reference, which increased the number of requirements substantially for the CPA program. The Board asked what pushback there would be if the goal(s) cannot be met. Director Robb indicated that all Boards should put in their best effort to meet the goals and write out a justification for keeping reference documents in place.

The Board established a small working group to review the changes to comply with AO360 - Ms. Stuart, Mr. Doughty, Ms. Burson (AKCPA).

Ms. Stuart had already started drafting the updates required for HB121; a copy was included in the packet. Board members were requested to review and provide any feedback to Ms. Hondolero by Thanksgiving.

Agenda Item 13 – Administrative Business

Confirm Upcoming Meeting Dates/Locations

- February 6, 2026 – starting @ 9 am
- April 23-24, 2026

Task Lists

All Board members

- Review draft regulations included in the packet and send any comments and/or suggested edits to Ms. Hondolero by Thanksgiving.

Cori Hondolero

- Send calendar invites for upcoming Board meetings.
- Set up AO360 work session for December.

Beth Stuart

- Continue work on draft regulation changes (HB121 & AO360).

James Doughty

- Participate in A0360 work session.

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

RESOLVED to adjourn the meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:35 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

C. Hondolero

Cori Hondolero
Executive Administrator

Approved:

Beth Stuart

Beth Stuart, Chair
Alaska Board of Public Accountancy

Date: 2/6