

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

**BOARD OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTANCY**

**MINUTES OF MEETING**

**October 16-17, 2017**

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 October 16-17, 2017.

**Monday, October 16, 2017**

**Call to Order/Roll Call**

The meeting was called to order by Don Rulien, at 10:15 a.m. Those present, constituting a quorum of the Board were:

Donovan Rulien II, CPA – Anchorage  
Jeffrey Johnson, CPA – Fairbanks  
Karen Brewer-Tarver, CPA – Juneau  
Wayne Hogue, Public member – Kotzebue  
Marja Beltrami, CPA – Anchorage

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

Cori Hondolero, Executive Administrator  
Sara Chambers, Deputy Director (agenda item #8)  
Greg Francois, Acting Chief Investigator (agenda item #7)

Visitors present included:

Marjorie Kaiser, CPA, representing the Alaska Society of CPAs (ASCPA)  
Bernadette Kopyy, representing the Alaska Society of Independent Accountants (ASIA)

**Agenda Item 1 – Review Agenda**

Mr. Rulien noted that he would have to leave a little early on 10/17/17. It was also noted that the Board might want to start application review on 10/16/17 if they finished other business early and had time.

### **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. Beltrami, and approved unanimously, it was:**

**RESOLVED to approve the minutes of the August 3-4, 2017 meeting as written.**

### **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. Kaiser was present and let the Board know about the following AK Society activities:

- The Society wanted to thank the Board for their work on HB147
  - They will send a letter of support once they see the updated version of the bill with recommended changes
- CalCPA peer review contract ends December 31, 2017; the Society is reviewing options.
- The Society is considering expanding live/online CPE offerings
- The Society is currently accepting scholarship applications

### **Agenda Item 6 – NASBA Updates**

#### **Conferences**

Annual Meeting –Mr. Rulien (scholarship) and Ms. Hondolero were approved to attend the NASBA annual meeting.

#### **Committees**

Mr. Johnson – Legislative Support Committee – Mr. Johnson stated that he had participated in his last committee meeting and some of the handouts from that meeting were included in the packet. There is a professional license coalition (PLC) that is studying occupational licensing and discussing eliminating some licenses and pushing mobility. There was also discussion about the restoring

Board immunity act, which has come up as a result of the North Carolina dental case (anti-trust, barrier to trade). Under this act, Alaska would have to create one master Board that oversees all Board regulations.

Mr. Rulien –Uniform Accountancy Act (UAA) committee – Met telephonically; approved the draft CPE rules. There was also discussion about use of title; the committee took no action.

Ms. Brewer-Tarver – CPE Committee – new appointment; has not yet met with the committee.

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

The Board started application review while waiting for the investigative report.

The Board asked for refresher information on the exam, such as test windows and blackout periods. Ms. Hondolero indicated that she would try to locate this information.

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

Acting Chief investigator Francois was present to discuss the most recent report (dated 10/4/17). Investigator Francois indicated that they are in recruitment for the investigator III that would be assigned to the Board.

Investigator Francois reviewed the complaint process:

- Complaint must be in writing.
- Complaint packet is sent out; if not sent back in 30 days, the complaint is closed. If the packet is received back a case might be opened.
- Investigator will review past cases to see if there are guidelines for the case.

If there is unlicensed practice, options may include:

- Cease & desist
- Suspension
- Consent agreement (avoids administrative hearing)

Investigator Francois distributed a license action options sheet to Board members. Mr. Johnson asked if cases can be closed by investigations without Board member review. Investigator Francois indicated that yes cases can be closed without Board member review, but if the assigned investigator has questions, they will contact a Board member.

The Board asked about why items would be listed as 'closed' on the report. Investigator Francois stated that most of the time this is due to not receiving a

written complaint packet back. If there is independent verification of an incident/violation, there is authority to conduct an investigation. But typically everything has to be in writing; no anonymous complaints.

Mr. Rulien asked if reduced budgets were impacting the investigative section. Investigator Francois indicated that no, reduced budgets does not mean they are working less cases, they will still process items the same as before. It is likely that a new investigator would be hired by 11/15/17 and be in place before the next Board meeting. The Board thanked investigator Francois for his report.

### **Agenda Item 8 – Board Business**

#### **Division Update**

Ms. Chambers called in to speak with the Board. Revenue/Expenditure report(s) were included in the meeting packet, but contained no new data; final FY17 info. expected to be available soon. Ms. Chambers noted that they are fine tuning payroll data to make sure that coding is correct. License fees will remain the same.

Mr. Rulien asked if there was any preliminary numbers; is the Board anticipated to end FY17 with a surplus? Ms. Chambers stated that she was not ready to provide this information; the FY17 report will be out soon.

Mr. Johnson asked Ms. Chambers if she had heard anything about the Restoring Board Immunity Act. Ms. Chambers indicated that she had heard of it; it is backed by a lobbying group and she said she would follow up with the Division's Legislative Liaison and attorneys to see if there was any additional information. Mr. Johnson asked if the State had taken a position on this. Ms. Chambers stated that she hasn't heard anything regarding a State position. Mr. Johnson noted that if Alaska opted in, Board members would be covered, but a new group would be required to approve all regulations for existing Boards. Ms. Chambers indicated that Board members are provided immunity under the State and that there is no known State position on this topic.

Mr. Johnson also asked about an occupational licensing study and asked if the Division was participating. Ms. Chambers stated that she is a CLEAR Board member, so she is familiar with this study. The Division had started an application, but didn't get everything together. Mr. Johnson asked if there was going to be a move to eliminate any Boards. Ms. Chambers responded that no, the Division is not looking at eliminating Boards, but is looking at how to streamline processes.

Mr. Johnson asked about increasing fees for business licensing and corporate licensing. Ms. Chambers stated that this would have no impact on professional licensing; any excess from those licenses goes to the general fund.

**Agenda Item 9 – CPA Exam Surveys**

The Board reviewed the surveys that had been received (2 from the most recent test window and 1 from a prior window). There was one survey reporting they felt the new exam format is tough because review of multiple documents is required to answer certain questions and time is wasted clicking back/forth between documents. Another person reported an issue with their computer crashing.

**Agenda Item 12 – Application Review**

There was discussion about the 18 month window to pass all 4 sections of the exam. The Board requested information on what other jurisdictions allow.

The Board completed their review of the exam extension requests and took the following action.

**Upon a motion duly made by Ms. Brewer-Tarver seconded by Mr. Hogue, and approved unanimously, it was:**

**RESOLVED to approve the request from Xiaoqi Zhao for extension of the BEC section to 8/17/17.**

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

**RESOLVED to approve Fumihiro Hayatsu's request for extension of his FAR score until 12/10/17.**

**Upon a motion duly made by Ms. Beltrami seconded by Mr. Hogue, and approved by a majority of the members present, it was:**

**RESOLVED to deny Hoyeong Kim's request for extension of AUD score; extension request not due to delayed score release.**

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

**RESOLVED to approve Hassan Al Mouallem's request for extension of FAR score until 12/10/17.**

**\*See additional motion on this request; it was later denied**



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

**RESOLVED to approve Fanbo Liu to sit for the exam.**

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

**RESOLVED to deny Devanshi Sharma's request for extension of BEC score; extension request not due to delayed score release.**

**Upon a motion duly made by Mr. Hogue seconded by Ms. Brewer-Tarver, and approved unanimously, it was:**

**RESOLVED to approve Avinash Ramesh's request for extension of REG score until 12/22/17.**

**Upon a motion duly made by Ms. Beltrami seconded by Ms. Brewer-Tarver, and approved unanimously, it was:**

**RESOLVED to approve Ahmed Abdulla's request for extension of BEC scores until 12/4/17.**

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

**RESOLVED to approve Chinmayi Sheshadri's request for extension of REG score until 10/15/17.**

**Upon a motion duly made by Ms. Brewer-Tarver seconded by Mr. Hogue, and approved unanimously, it was:**

**RESOLVED to approve Sushant Eriwal's request for extension of FAR score until 3/10/18.**

**Upon a motion duly made by Mr. Hogue seconded by Ms. Brewer-Tarver, and approved unanimously, it was:**

**RESOLVED to approve Rafal Ferdynus to sit for the exam.**

**Motion duly made by Ms. Beltrami seconded by Mr. Hogue to deny Masuro Kukita's request for extension of FAR score until 12/31/17.**

**\*Motion did not pass (majority voted against motion)**

**Upon a motion duly made by Ms. Brewer-Tarver seconded by Mr. Hogue, and approved by a majority of the members present, it was:**

**RESOLVED to approve Masuro Kukita's request for extension of FAR score until 12/31/17.**

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

**RESOLVED to approve Saichi Akuto's request for extension of FAR score until 2/28/18.**

**Upon a motion duly made by Ms. Brewer-Tarver seconded by Mr. Hogue, and approved unanimously, it was:**

**RESOLVED to approve Anthony Harb's request for extension of BEC score until 12/10/17.**

**Upon a motion duly made by Mr. Hogue seconded by Ms. Brewer-Tarver, and approved unanimously, it was:**

**RESOLVED to approve Evan Fox to sit for the exam.**

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

**RESOLVED to approve Tarika Sampath's request for extension of BEC score until 3/31/18.**

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

**RESOLVED to approve Mahmoud Fayz's request for extension of AUD/FAR scores until 1/15/18.**

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

**RESOLVED to approve Amr Ibrahim's request for extension of FAR score until 3/2/18.**

**Upon a motion duly made by Mr. Hogue seconded by Ms. Brewer-Tarver, and approved unanimously, it was:**

**RESOLVED to approve Mustaque Ali Sheikh's request for extension of REG score until 10/31/17.**

**Upon a motion duly made by Ms. Beltrami seconded by Ms. Brewer-Tarver, and approved unanimously, it was:**

**RESOLVED to deny Kento Ogauchi's request for extension of BEC/FAR/REG scores; request not due to delayed score release.**

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

**RESOLVED to approve Izumi Shirayama's request for extension of FAR score until 12/10/17.**

**Upon a motion duly made by Ms. Brewer-Tarver seconded by Mr. Hogue, and approved unanimously, it was:**

**RESOLVED to approve Azusa Saeki's request for extension of BEC score until 12/10/17.**

**Upon a motion duly made by Mr. Hogue seconded by Ms. Brewer-Tarver, and approved unanimously, it was:**

**RESOLVED to approve Husain Ahmed Gherbal's request for extension of AUD score until 1/1/18.**

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

**RESOLVED to approve Hasan Salem's request for extension of BEC score until 3/11/18.**

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

**RESOLVED to approve Nikita Rekhi's request for extension of BEC score until 12/31/17.**

**Upon a motion duly made by Ms. Brewer-Tarver seconded by Mr. Hogue, and approved unanimously, it was:**

**RESOLVED to approve Masaki Sato's request for extension of FAR score until 12/31/17.**



**Upon a motion duly made by Mr. Hogue seconded by Ms. Brewer-Tarver, and approved unanimously, it was:**

**RESOLVED to approve Hussain Muhammad's request for extension of AUD score until 1/26/18.**

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

**RESOLVED to approve Vaidhyanathan Ganapathy's request for extension of BEC and AUD scores until 1/15/18.**

**Motion duly made by Mr. Hogue seconded by Mr. Johnson to approve Tatsuo Okura's request for extension of FAR score until 11/1/17 and BEC score until 12/31/17.**

**\*Motion did not pass; extension not granted.**

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

**RESOLVED to approve Yuki Matsuo's request for extension of FAR score until 12/10/17.**

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

**RESOLVED to approve Sinan Asfour's request for extension of FAR score until 11/16/17.**

**Upon a motion duly made by Ms. Brewer-Tarver seconded by Mr. Hogue, and approved by a majority of the members present, it was:**

**RESOLVED to deny Hassan Al Mouallem's request for extension of FAR score; request not due to delayed score release.**

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

**RESOLVED to recess the meeting until the next morning.**

The meeting was recessed at 4:40 p.m., until Tuesday, October 17, 2017.

**Tuesday, October 17, 2017**

**Call to Order/Roll Call**

The meeting was called to order by Leslie Schmitz, Chair, at 8:30 a.m. Those present, constituting a quorum of the Board were:

Donovan Rulien II, CPA – Anchorage  
Jeffrey Johnson, CPA – Fairbanks  
Karen Brewer-Tarver, CPA – Juneau  
Wayne Hogue, Public member – Kotzebue  
Marja Beltrami, CPA – Anchorage  
Leslie Schmitz, CPA – Anchorage

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

Cori Hondolero, Executive Administrator

Visitors present included:

Marjorie Kaiser, CPA, representing the Alaska Society of CPAs (ASCPA)  
Bernadette Kopyy, representing the Alaska Society of Independent Accountants (ASIA)  
Shalome Cederberg, representing Boards & Commissions (Governor's office)

**Agenda Item 10 – Review Agenda**

The Board moved up the statute/regulation discussion.

The Board asked for the ED report:

**ED Report**

Travel update – NASBA annual meeting – Rulien (scholarship) and Hondolero will attend.

HB147 – updated version of the bill included in the packet for Board review.

Renewal – Fees expected to remain the same, working on form updates and hoping to open renew mid-November. Online renewal will close on 12/31/17.

**Agenda Item 11 – Public Comment**

Marjorie Kaiser, CPA stated that she would suggest a standard approval of 6 months on the exam extension requests vs. reviewing them on a case by case

basis. Ms. Kaiser also indicated that the Board may want to consider changing from 18 to 24 months for time allowed to pass the CPA exam.

The Board noted that they would ask NASBA for information on how long each jurisdiction allows exam candidates to pass. Mr. Johnson stated that the uptick in requests was unique and due to the new exam. In the past not many requests had been received and they were generally for medical reasons.

There was discussion about renewal forms. Mr. Johnson asked about adding a DBA line for sole proprietors. The Board stated that if this was easy, then yes do it and if there was a cost, then do not do it. The Board also noted that the sheet outlining the differences between UAA & the AK statutes/regulations should be included with the renewal.

### **Agenda Item 13 – Statute/Regulation Projects**

Ms. Brewer-Tarver noted that if the Board wanted to consider a change to the required time to pass the exam, a change to 12 AAC 04.235 would be required.

Ms. Schmitz wanted the Board to think about the use of title issue and consider if changes are required. Ms. Schmitz will meet with investigator Francois and will try to get a better understanding of this issue.

The Board reviewed the revised version of HB147 included in the packet. It was noted that the Board should start work on a full cleanup of the references listed throughout the regulations, so that information is ready if the bill passes. Mr. Rulien stated that he would review the regulations to identify sections that need update; Mr. Hogue said that he would help with this project. Ms. Brewer-Tarver noted that the Board might want to just make time every year (May) to prepare required AICPA reference updates.

It was noted that 12 AAC 04.038 needs to be updated to be comprehensive; carving compilation out (review UAA). Ms. Brewer-Tarver will work on this section.

Mr. Johnson brought up using the UAA entity definition and noted that this would eliminate multiple sections of the current Alaska regulations.

The Board asked Ms. Hondolero to follow up with NASBA again regarding what other jurisdictions do with peer review information. It was noted that Ms. Hondolero and Mr. Rulien had previously been in contact with Dan Dustin at NASBA and a quick poll was supposed to be sent out to other jurisdictions, but they hadn't received any additional information.

### **Agenda Item 14 – Correspondence**

The Board reviewed the correspondence items contained in the Board packet.

**Agenda Item 12 – Application Review**

The Board completed application review and took the following action:

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

**RESOLVED to approve Mohammad Abou Baker, Alejandra Blanco Briceno, Kerry Boggs-Lopez, Xin Fan, Jocelyn Garner, Junfeng Jiang, Amber LeBlanc, Fangfang Li, Raymond Pitka Jr., Stephen Tibbs, Meghan White and Hanning Zhang for licensure by exam.**

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

**RESOLVED to approve Rachel Carson and Tiana Walters for licensure by reciprocity.**

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

**RESOLVED to approve the Out-of-State firm permits of Dixon Hughes Goodman LLP, Hauser Jones & Sas, PLLC and Salmon Sims Thomas & Associates PLLC.**

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

**RESOLVED to approve the firm permits of Hutchings & Associates LLC and Segelhorst CPA LLC.**

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

**RESOLVED to approve the mandatory CPE audits of:**

- **Thomas Bartlett**
- **Duan Yang Chen**
- **Sheila King**
- **Yang Li**
- **David McAlpin**
- **Kiyonobu Ueda**

- **Lisa Lopez**

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

**RESOLVED to approve the mandatory CPE audit of Olga Goncharova pending receipt of the required ethics hours.**

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

**RESOLVED to approve the request from Raphael Marcel for CPE credit (40 hours, including ethics 4 hours) for the CFA level 2 exam.**

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

**RESOLVED to approve the request from Tammy Stromberg for CPE credit (40 hours) for the CFA level 1 exam.**

### **Agenda Item 15 – Administrative Business**

#### **Sign Wall Certificates**

- Mandy Zin Man Tai #2302
- Pingchuan Ma #120305
- Jad Hawwa #121082
- Tatyana Vlasova #122760
- Dawood Vajhi #122761
- Muhammad Imran Afzal #122785
- Yi Zhang #122858
- Srikanth Iyengar #123175
- Inam Ur Rahman #123177
- Alicia Dold #123191
- Emma Jones #123270
- Elena Ivanova #123271
- Gregory Stachowiak #123881
- Antoine Benard #123950
- Richard El Ayle #124682

#### **Task List**

#### **Cori Hondolero**

- Work with Mr. Hogue on updating the statute/regulation tracking sheet



- Ask NASBA for information on what other jurisdictions allow for their required timeframe to pass the CPA exam
- Get Board refresher info. on exam (windows/blackouts etc)

Ms. Schmitz

- Review use of title issue

Ms. Brewer-Tarver

- Work on 12 AAC 04.038 (review UAA)

Mr. Rulien

- Identify regulations that need reference updates

Mr. Hogue

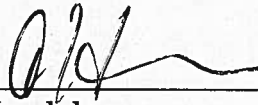
- Will work on statute/regulation tracking list to add additional page/link with additional information for each change
- Work with Mr. Rulien on identifying areas of the regulations that need reference updates

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

**RESOLVED to adjourn the meeting**

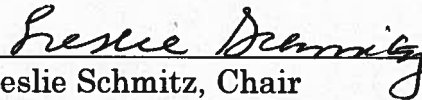
There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted:



\_\_\_\_\_  
Cori Hondolero  
Executive Administrator

Approved:



\_\_\_\_\_  
Leslie Schmitz, Chair  
Alaska Board of Public Accountancy

Date: 2-12-2018