

**Alabama State Board of Public Accountancy
Minutes of Board Meeting
March 10, 2017**

1. Date, Place and Attendance of Meeting:

A regular meeting of the Alabama State Board of Public Accountancy was held on Friday, March 10, 2017, at the RSA Plaza Conference Room, located in Montgomery, Alabama at 10:00 a.m.

Board Members Present: Mr. Steven M. Barranco, CPA
Mr. J. Earl Blackmon, CPA
Mr. Michael Terry Comer, PA
Dr. Steve Grice, CPA
Mr. Delbert Madison
Ms. Connie Sheppard-Harris, CPA
Mr. M. Chad Singletary, CPA

A lawful quorum of the Board was present for the meeting.

Also present were D. Boyd Busby, Executive Director; Carol J. Preston, Deputy Executive Director; Nicole T. Robinson, CPE Administrator; Billington M. Garrett, Assistant Attorney General; and Jeannine P. Birmingham, President and CEO of the Alabama Society of CPAs.

Present for hearings only were Kathy Brown, Esq., Governmental Hearing Officer; Stacey L. Johnson, Court Reporter and Commissioner for the State of Alabama at Large; Luther D. Abel, Attorney at Law, and Forrest W. Frost.

Sufficient prior notice of the meeting had been given as required by the Alabama Open Meetings Act.

2. Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order by M. Chad Singletary, CPA, Chair.

3. Approval of Agenda:

Mr. Comer made a motion to approve the agenda as presented for the March 10, 2017 meeting. Mr. Grice seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

4. Approval of Minutes of January 13, 2017 Meeting:

Mr. Grice made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 13, 2017 meeting. Mr. Barranco seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

5. Motion to Reconsider and Application for Rehearing:

The Board heard a request for a motion to reconsider and an application for rehearing for Forrest W. Frost. Mr. Singletary turned the meeting over to Kathy Brown, Esq., Governmental Hearing Officer, to serve as hearing officer and preside over this request. Mr. Forrest W. Frost attended the hearing and was represented by his attorney, Luther D. Abel. Mr. Abel requested that the Board reconsider the request to have Mr. Frost's peer review hearing continued that was presented at the January 13, 2017 Board Meeting. At the conclusion of the hearing, Mr. Barranco made a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss the general reputation and character of Mr. Frost and to deliberate on a contested case. Mr. Comer seconded and the motion carried on a roll call vote. Voting in favor of the motion were Ms. Sheppard-Harris, Messrs. Barranco, Blackmon, Comer, Grice, Madison and Singletary. Qualified Board members excused themselves at 10:30 a.m. to deliberate with an estimated time of 10-15 minutes needed to discuss the matter. The Board then deliberated in Executive Session. After deliberation, at 10:45 a.m., Mr. Singletary called the meeting back to order and called for a motion in the matter. Mr. Barranco made a motion that the Board deny Mr. Frost's request to reconsider and deny his request for a continuance. Mr. Grice seconded and the motion carried on a roll call vote. Voting in favor of the motion were Ms. Sheppard-Harris, Messrs. Barranco, Blackmon, Comer, Grice, Madison and Singletary. The transcript of the hearing is attached and becomes a part of these minutes.

6. Request for Reinstatement – William B. Stapp.:

A letter from William B. Stapp CPA Certificate No. 3022 requesting reinstatement to active status was presented to the Board. His reinstatement request included all the completed forms and fees that the Board had decided at their March 21, 1997 meeting would be necessary to gain favorable consideration for reinstatement. Mr. Stapp did not attend the hearing, and it was conducted in his absence. Mr. Stapp's written request also included completed 2016-2017 personal and firm registration forms, CPE certificates of completion, and cashier's checks totaling \$2,250.00. The payment comprised the reinstatement fee of \$100.00, personal and firm registration fees of \$150, and the \$2,000.00 administrative fine levied in the Board Order. Ms. Sheppard-Harris made a motion to reinstate Mr. Stapp's CPA Certificate No. 3022 to active status. Mr. Grice seconded the motion and it carried unanimously on a roll call vote with Ms. Sheppard-Harris, Messrs. Barranco, Blackmon, Comer, Grice, Madison and Singletary voting in favor of the motion.

7. Request for Reinstatement – Melissa Parr Sahagun:

A letter from Melissa Parr Sahagun CPA Certificate No. 8089 requesting reinstatement to inactive status was presented to the Board. Her reinstatement request included all the completed forms and fees that the Board had decided at their March 21, 1997 meeting would be necessary to gain favorable consideration for reinstatement. Ms. Sahagun did not attend the hearing, and it was conducted in her absence. Ms. Sahagun's written request also included a completed 2016-2017 personal registration form and cashier's checks totaling \$2,800.00. The payment comprised the reinstatement fee of \$100.00, personal registration fees of \$100 for 2015-2016 and 2016-2017, late renewal fees of \$600 for 2015-2016 and 2016-2017, and the \$2,000.00 administrative fine

levied in the Board Order. Mr. Barranco made a motion to reinstate Ms. Sahagun's CPA Certificate No. 8089 to inactive status. Mr. Comer seconded the motion and it carried unanimously on a roll call vote with Ms. Sheppard-Harris, Messrs. Barranco, Blackmon, Comer, Grice, Madison and Singletary voting in favor of the motion.

8. Request for Reinstatement – Shannon Garrett Cook.:

A letter from Shannon Garrett Cook CPA Certificate No. 10475 requesting reinstatement to active status was presented to the Board. His reinstatement request included all the completed forms and fees that the Board had decided at their March 21, 1997 meeting would be necessary to gain favorable consideration for reinstatement. Mr. Cook did not attend the hearing, and it was conducted in his absence. Mr. Cook's written request also included completed 2016-2017 personal registration form, CPE certificates of completion, and cashier's checks totaling \$2,850.00. The payment comprised the reinstatement fee of \$100.00, personal registration fees of \$150 for 2015-2016 and 2016-2017, late renewal fees of \$600 for 2015-2016 and 2016-2017, and the \$2,000.00 administrative fine levied in the Board Order. Mr. Barranco made a motion to reinstate Mr. Cook's CPA Certificate No. 10475 to active status. Ms. Sheppard-Harris seconded the motion and it carried unanimously on a roll call vote with Ms. Sheppard-Harris, Messrs. Barranco, Blackmon, Comer, Grice, Madison and Singletary voting in favor of the motion.

9. Request for Reinstatement – Roger D. Shannon:

A letter from Roger D. Shannon CPA Certificate No. 4543 requesting reinstatement to inactive status was presented to the Board. His reinstatement request included all the completed forms and fees that the Board had decided at their March 21, 1997 meeting would be necessary to gain favorable consideration for reinstatement. Mr. Shannon did not attend the hearing, and it was conducted in his absence. Mr. Shannon's written request also included a completed 2016-2017 personal registration form and cashier's checks totaling \$2,800.00. The payment comprised the reinstatement fee of \$100.00, personal registration fees of \$100 for 2015-2016 and 2016-2017, late renewal fees of \$600 for 2015-2016 and 2016-2017, and the \$2,000.00 administrative fine levied in the Board Order. Mr. Barranco made a motion to reinstate Mr. Shannon's CPA Certificate No. 4543 to inactive status. Mr. Grice seconded the motion and it carried unanimously on a roll call vote with Ms. Sheppard-Harris, Messrs. Barranco, Blackmon, Comer, Grice, Madison and Singletary voting in favor of the motion.

10. Revocation Correction:

Mr. Busby informed the Board that due to a clerical error, the Board voted to revoke the certificate of a CPA who had in fact submitted registration prior to the January 13, 2017 Board meeting. Ms. Sheppard-Harris made a motion to reverse the revocation action and fine of \$2,000 levied against this individual by the Board on January 13, 2017. Mr. Blackmon seconded the motion and it carried unanimously on a roll call vote with Ms. Sheppard-Harris, Messrs. Barranco, Blackmon, Comer, Grice, Madison and Singletary voting in favor of the motion. In addition, Mr. Madison made a motion to amend the minutes of the January 13, 2017 meeting to remove reference to this CPA to accurately reflect the actions taken at the January 13, 2017 Board meeting.

11. Executive Director's Update and Report on Activities:

(a) Continued Enforcement Activities

Mr. Busby updated the Board on continued enforcement activities. He informed the Board of site visits that he had made and of the focus of future site visits for revoked CPAs or non-CPAs holding themselves out as CPAs.

(b) Licensing System

Mr. Busby informed the Board that after extensive attempts working with GL Solutions to stabilize their licensing system, he has come to the conclusion that we must transition away from their system. He informed the Board of plans to transition back to the old system before June 2017 with plans to review other licensing systems.

(c) California Board Review for Firm Mobility

Mr. Busby informed the Board that Alabama is one of the 10 states mentioned at the NASBA meeting, not having a flag for discipline. Moving back to the Access database licensing system will provide an opportunity to add the required disciplinary flag.

(d) Ban the Box Legislation

Mr. Busby informed the Board that the bill as introduced does not affect licensing boards.

(e) Upcoming Issues

Mr. Busby informed the Board of CPE changes that are coming and to prepare to discuss these changes at the May meeting.

Mr. Busby discussed other issues that he would be tracking and bringing before the Board during 2017.

12. Approval of NASBA Contract for Wall Certificate Services:

Mr. Busby presented the Board with the NASBA Contract for printing and issuing wall certificates. Mr. Comer made a motion to approve the NASBA contract for wall certificates services. Mr. Grice seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

13. Review of Late Fees by Jurisdiction:

Mr. Busby presented the Board with a breakdown of late fees by jurisdiction. A brief discussion ensued but no action was taken.

14. AICPA Proposed Evolution of Peer Review Administration:

Ms. Jeannine Birmingham presented to the Board proposed changes to peer review. A brief discussion ensued but no action was taken.

15. Alabama CPA Examination Statistics:

A statistical summary of the Alabama CPA Examination was presented to the Board for review. A brief discussion ensued but no action was taken.

16. FY 2016-2017 Delinquent Licensees Update:

A statistical summary of FY 2016-2017 delinquent licensees was presented to the Board. A brief discussion ensued but no action was taken.

17. Complaints Update:

A complaints summary for FY 2009-2010 through 2016-2017 was presented to the Board. A brief discussion ensued but no action was taken.

18. Licensees Count:

A statistical summary of the number of Board licensees by category was presented to the Board. A brief discussion ensued but no action was taken.

19. FY 2016-2017 Licensees Who Voluntarily Surrendered:

A list of licensees who voluntarily surrendered their CPA Certificate in good standing during 2016-2017 was presented to the Board. A brief discussion ensued but no action was taken.

20. Other Business:

Mr. Busby informed the Board that Mr. Steven Barranco was reappointed for a second term to the Board and that Mr. Wim J. Schaffers was appointed to the Board effective October 1, 2017.

21. Adjournment of Meeting:

The next meeting of the Board is scheduled for Friday, May 12, 2016 at 10:00 a.m. in the office of the Board. There being no further business to come before the Board, Mr. Grice made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Barranco seconded and the motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 11:42 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted:



Delbert Madison
Secretary

Approved:


M. Chad Singletary, CPA
Chair