COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
BUREAU OF PROFESSIONAL AND OCCUPATIONAL AFFAIRS

FINAL MINUTES

MEETING OF:

STATE BOARD OF ACCOUNTANCY
VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

TIME: 10:31 A.M.

PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF STATE

April 20, 2021
State Board of Accountancy
April 20, 2021

BOARD MEMBERS:

Keri A. Ellis, CPA, Chair
Theodore Stauffer, Executive Secretary, Bureau of Professional and Occupational Affairs, on behalf of K. Kalonji Johnson, Commissioner, Bureau of Professional and Occupational Affairs
Monique M. Ericson, CPA, Office of Attorney General
Mary Jensik, CPA
Paul J. Kelly III, CPA - Absent
Charles A. O’Brien, CPA
Michael D. Ocker, CPA
Sheri L. Risler, CPA
Michael P. Rollage, CPA - Absent
David W. Stonesifer, CPA, Vice Chair

BUREAU PERSONNEL:

Ronald K. Rouse, Esquire, Board Counsel
Angela B. Lucci, Esquire, Board Prosecution Liaison
Sara Fox, Board Administrator
State Board of Accountancy
April 20, 2021

[Theodore Stauffer, Executive Secretary, Bureau of Professional and Occupational Affairs, noted the meeting was being recorded, and those who remained on the line were giving their consent to be recorded.]

[Ronald K. Rouse, Esquire, Board Counsel, stated the meeting of the State Board of Accountancy was being held by teleconference pursuant to Governor Wolf’s March 16, 2020 waiver of the physical presence requirement in Section 2.3(c) of the Certified Public Accountant (CPA) Law.]

[Pursuant to Section 708(a)(5) of the Sunshine Act, at 9:00 a.m. the Board entered into executive session with Ronald K. Rouse, Esquire, Board Counsel, to have attorney-client consultations and for the purpose of conducting quasi-judicial deliberations. The Board returned to open session at 10:30 p.m.]

The regularly scheduled meeting of the State Board of Accountancy was held on Tuesday, April 20,
2021. Keri A. Ellis, CPA, Chair, welcomed everyone to the meeting.

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Roll Call

[A roll call of Board members was taken by Mr. Rouse.]

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Approval of minutes of the January 20, 2021 meeting

CHAIR ELLIS:

The first item on our agenda is approval of the January 20, 2021 draft minutes.

[The Board discussed corrections to the minutes.]

CHAIR ELLIS:

Did anyone else have any comments on the minutes? Hearing none.

I’d like to ask for a motion to approve the January 20, 2021 draft minutes with revisions as noted.

MS. JENSIK:

So moved.

CHAIR ELLIS:

Do we have a second?

MR. OCKER:

Second.

CHAIR ELLIS:

All those in favor, say aye.
[The motion carried. Sheri Risler abstained from voting on the motion.]

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Report of Prosecutorial Division

[Ronald K. Rouse, Esquire, Board Counsel, noted two abstentions for item 2 on the agenda for Case Nos. 19-55-002162 & 20-55-005827, where the Board would not have sufficient affirmative votes.

  Ms. Lucci would move the Consent Agreements to the agenda for the May meeting with Tiffany Raker present.]

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[Angela B. Lucci, Esquire, Board Prosecution Liaison, presented the Consent Agreement for Case No. 19-55-016613.]

MR. ROUSE:

  I believe the Board would entertain a motion to adopt the Consent Agreement at item 3 on the agenda at Case No. 19-55-016613.

  Is there such a motion?

CHAIR ELLIS:

  So moved.

MS. RISLER:

  Second.
MR. ROUSE:

Any discussion? All those in favor, say aye. All those opposed, say nay.

[The motion carried unanimously. The Respondent’s name is Evan Ross Kita, Case No. 19-55-016613.]

***

Report of Board Counsel

[Ronald K. Rouse, Esquire, Board Counsel, addressed the visit at the last meeting with Colleen Conrad of the National Association of State Boards of Accountancy (NASBA) who presented to the Board to discuss a number of issues, including CPA Evolution as well as remote testing.]

Mr. Rouse referred to the white paper and letter regarding remote testing, where NASBA is proposing a pilot program for CPAs throughout the nation and requested all state boards of accountancy to determine whether or not there were any impediments to participating in the remote testing program.

Mr. Rouse informed the Board that the time and location for holding the examination shall be determined by the Board and may be changed from time to time under CPA Law Section 3.1(b). He also noted the examination may be administered in either written or computerized form and would not be an impediment to
participating in the pilot program.]

MR. ROUSE:

I believe there is a motion to allow Pennsylvania candidates to participate in the NASBA pilot program from remote testing and for this Board to accept the scores of the pilot program.

Is there such a motion?

CHAIR ELLIS:

So moved.

MR. ROUSE:

Is there a second?

MS. JENSIK:

Second.

MR. ROUSE:

Any discussion? All those in favor, say aye. All those opposed, say nay.

[The motion carried unanimously.]

***

[Ronald K. Rouse, Esquire, Board Counsel, requested to move item 5 on the agenda to the May 2021 Board meeting due to additional documents that need to be provided to the Board in that citation appeal.]

Mr. Rouse addressed the issue of firms being unclear regarding when to report changes in ownership
at their firms. He referred to CPA Law, where firms have to provide information regarding their shareholders, partners, owners, etc., who hold a CPA license in Pennsylvania or another jurisdiction on a biennial basis through their biennial renewal. He noted Section 8.8(b) should be a standard for which the Board requires firm ownership changes.

MR. ROUSE:

I believe there is a motion for changes to be reported on a biennial renewal basis consistent with Section 8.8(b) of the CPA Law.

Is there such a motion?

CHAIR ELLIS:

So moved.

MR. ROUSE:

Is there a second?

MS. RISLER:

Second.

MR. ROUSE:

Any discussion? All those in favor, say aye. All those opposed, say nay.

[The motion carried unanimously.]

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Report of Board Counsel - Miscellaneous
[Ronald K. Rouse, Esquire, Board Counsel, read a statement regarding a scam alert. He informed the Board that the Bureau of Professional and Occupational Affairs (BPOA) received reports that persons pretending to be from one of the health-related boards were contacting licensees by phone and mail about the status of their licenses.

Mr. Rouse noted scammers were altering information on caller ID to reflect as appearing to be from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and threatening license suspension for failure to act and falsely claiming involvement with agencies such as the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA).

Mr. Rouse stated scammers are known to threaten license suspension for failure to provide personal information and provided reminders from BPOA concerning contact and personal information for licensees.

Mr. Rouse mentioned that those who are the subject of an investigation or disciplinary action would receive notice by certified mail and/or personal service and provided with a contact name and phone number. He informed everyone to contact their local police department or the state police if they have
been a victim of the scam.]

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Report of Board Chair

[Keri A. Ellis, CPA, Chair, noted no changes to the Pennsylvania Sunshine Act, Gift Ban Policy, and Board committee assignments since the last Board meeting.]

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Review of Program Sponsor Applications

[Keri A. Ellis, CPA, Chair, noted two program sponsor applications.]

MR. ROUSE:

I believe there is a motion to defer the vote on item 11, J. Martin and Associates LLC, and to hear that matter at the next Board meeting.

Is there such a motion?

MS. ERICSON:

I would like to make a motion to defer No. 11.

MR. ROUSE:

Is there a second?

MS. JENSIK:

Second.

MR. ROUSE:

Any discussion? All those in favor, say
aye. All those opposed, say nay.
[The motion carried unanimously.]

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MR. ROUSE:

Regarding item 12, I believe there is a motion to approve the Application for Program Sponsor for Society of Financial Service Professionals’ Pittsburgh Chapter.

Is there such a motion?

MR. O’BRIEN:

So moved.

MR. ROUSE:

Is there a second?

MR. OCKER:

Second.

MR. ROUSE:

Any discussion? All those in favor, say aye. All those opposed, say nay.

[The motion carried unanimously.]

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Review of Requests

MR. ROUSE:

Regarding items 13, 14, and 16, I believe the Board would entertain a
motion to ratify the CPE Waivers.

Is there such a motion?

CHAIR ELLIS:

So moved.

MR. ROUSE:

Is there a second?

MR. OCKER:

Second.

MR. ROUSE:

Any discussion? All those in favor, say aye. All those opposed, say nay.

[The motion carried unanimously.]

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MR. ROUSE:

Regarding item 15, Jenifer Smith, I believe the Board would entertain a motion to ratify the CPE waiver.

Is there such a motion?

CHAIR ELLIS:

So moved.

MR. ROUSE:

Is there a second?

MS. RISLER:

Second.

MR. ROUSE:
Any discussion? All those in favor, say aye. All those opposed, say nay.

[The motion carried. Michael Ocker recused himself from deliberations and voting on the motion.]

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MR. ROUSE:

Moving on to item 17 on the agenda, I believe the Board would entertain a motion to ratify the CPE Extension for Maureen Hartung.

Is there such a motion?

CHAIR ELLIS:

So moved.

MR. ROUSE:

Is there a second?

MS. RISLER:

Second.

MR. ROUSE:

Any discussion? All those in favor, say aye. All those opposed, say nay.

[The motion carried unanimously.]

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MR. ROUSE:

Regarding items 18 and 19, these are extension of peer review. I believe the
Board would entertain a motion to ratify the Extension of Peer Review. Is there such a motion?

CHAIR ELLIS:
So moved.

MR. ROUSE:
Is there a second?

MS. JENSIK:
Second.

MR. ROUSE:
Any discussion? All those in favor, say aye. All those opposed, say nay.

[The motion carried unanimously.]

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MR. ROUSE:
Regarding the extension of CPA Exam credit, I believe the Board would entertain a motion to ratify the Extension of CPA Exam Credits for Eric Erickson at item 20. Is there such a motion?

CHAIR ELLIS:
So moved.

MR. ROUSE:
Is there a second?
MS. RISLER:

     Second.

MR. ROUSE:

     Any discussion? All those in favor, say aye. All those opposed, say nay.

     [The motion carried unanimously.]

     ***

Miscellaneous

     [Keri A. Ellis, CPA, Chair, noted 2021 Board meeting dates have been approved.]

CHAIR ELLIS:

     Do I have a motion to approve the 2022 Board meeting dates at item 22 on the agenda?

     Do I have a motion to approve those?

MS. RISLER:

     Motion to approve Board meeting dates.

MR. STONESIFER:

     Second.

CHAIR ELLIS:

     All those in favor, say aye. Opposed, say nay.

     [The motion carried unanimously.]

     ***
[Keri A. Ellis, CPA, Chair, noted the NASBA fee change implementation letter reflecting the increases for exam fees next year.]

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[Keri A. Ellis, CPA, Chair, referred to the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA) correspondence regarding an update on peer review. She also noted the Small Business Administration announced they have steps to improve the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) review process.

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[Keri A. Ellis, CPA, Chair, again noted the NASBA fee letter at item 25. She addressed NASBA Q4 2020 candidate performance, noting 55,000 candidates sat for the exam with a pass rate of 51%. She reported Q4 2020 overall statistics for Pennsylvania, showing 1,466 candidates sat for the exam with a pass rate of 48.33%.

Chair Ellis noted the NABSA Q4 candidate care
report showed candidate issues were mostly pencil and paper requests. She reported Pennsylvania’s ranked 6th in the number of candidates, 6th in the number of sections, 40th in pass rate, and 38th in average score. She mentioned the NASBA CPA Exam international expansion to Korea, Japan, and Asia regions.

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Miscellaneous - Election of Officers

MR. ROUSE:

Is there a motion to nominate a Board member for vice chair of the State Board of Accountancy?

CHAIR ELLIS:

I’d like to make a motion to nominate Sheri Risler for vice chair.

MR. ROUSE:

Is there a second?

MR. STONESIFER:

Second.

CHAIR ELLIS:

Any discussion. All those in favor, say aye. All those opposed, say nay.

[The motion carried unanimously.]

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Adjournment
CHAIR ELLIS:

Is there a motion to adjourn this meeting?

MS. RISLER:

Motion to adjourn.

CHAIR ELLIS:

Second?

MR. OCKER:

Second.

CHAIR ELLIS:

All those in favor, say aye. Opposed?

[The motion carried unanimously.]

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[There being no further business, the State Board of Accountancy Meeting adjourned at 11:03 a.m.]

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CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that the foregoing summary minutes of the State Board of Accountancy meeting, was reduced to writing by me or under my supervision, and that the minutes accurately summarize the substance of the State Board of Accountancy meeting.

Evan Bingaman,
Minute Clerk
Sargent’s Court Reporting Service, Inc.
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<tr>
<th>TIME</th>
<th>AGENDA</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9:00</td>
<td>Executive Session</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:30</td>
<td>Return to Open Session</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:31</td>
<td>Official Call to Order</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:32</td>
<td>Roll Call</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Approval of Minutes</td>
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<td>Report of Prosecutorial Division</td>
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<td>Report of Board Counsel</td>
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<td>Report of Board Chair</td>
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<td>10:53</td>
<td>Review of Requests</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:57</td>
<td>Miscellaneous</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:03</td>
<td>Adjournment</td>
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