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

F I N A L M I N U T E S

MEETING OF:

STATE BOARD OF ACCOUNTANCY

TIME: 10:45 A.M.

Held at

PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF STATE

2601 North Third Street

One Penn Center, Board Room C

Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17110

as well as

VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS

January 18, 2023

1 ***

2 State Board of Accountancy

3 January 18, 2023

4 ***

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

11 ***

12 [Ronald K. Rouse, Esquire, Board Counsel, informed
13 everyone that the meeting of the State Board of
14 Accountancy was being held in a hybrid format of in-
15 person and livestream teleconference pursuant to Act
16 100 of 2021, which requires boards to use a virtual
17 platform to conduct business when a public meeting is
18 held.

19 Mr. Rouse also noted the Board met in Executive
20 Session to have attorney-client consultations and for
21 the purpose of conducting quasi-judicial
22 deliberations.]

23 ***

24 The regularly scheduled meeting of the State
25 Board of Accountancy was held on Wednesday, January

1 18, 2023. Sheri L. Risler, CPA, Chair, called the
2 meeting to order at 10:45 a.m.

3 Arion R. Claggett, Acting Commissioner, Bureau
4 of Professional and Occupational Affairs, was not
5 present at the commencement of the meeting.

6 ***

7 Roll Call

8 [Sheri L. Risler, CPA, Chair, requested a roll call
9 of Board members.]

10 ***

11 [The Board experienced technical difficulties.]

12 ***

13 Roll Call/Introduction of Attendees

14 [Sheri L. Risler, CPA, Chair, requested a roll call
15 of Board members and introduction of attendees.
16 There was a quorum of Board members.]

17 ***

18 Appointment - Prosecution Division Annual Report
19 Presentation

20 Carolyn A. DeLaurentis, Esquire, Deputy Chief
21 Counsel, Prosecution Division, informed Board members
22 that she would be serving with the new administration
23 as executive deputy chief counsel but presenting
24 today in her role of overseeing the prosecution
25 division.

1 Ms. DeLaurentis presented to the Board to provide
2 a summary of the prosecution division's role and
3 present annual numbers for 2022. She informed Board
4 members that the Bureau of Professional and
5 Occupational Affairs provides administrative and
6 legal support to all 29 boards and commissions under
7 the prosecution division and the counsel division.
8 She noted professional licensing protects the health
9 and safety of the public and protects the integrity
10 of the professions.

11 Ms. DeLaurentis explained that the Office of
12 Chief Counsel is under the Governor's Office of
13 General Counsel, noting the prosecution division is
14 one division under the Office of Chief Counsel. She
15 noted the prosecution division works with the Bureau
16 of Enforcement and Investigation (BEI), along with
17 the Professional Compliance Office (PCO).

18 Ms. DeLaurentis stated BEI, PCO, and prosecution
19 are all tasked with receiving complaints,
20 investigating allegations, ensuring public safety,
21 and enforcing compliance with the acts and
22 regulations for all 29 boards and commissions. She
23 explained that BEI consists of investigators and
24 inspectors and PCO is support staff who takes in and
25 reviews complaints.

1 Ms. DeLaurentis announced that she would be
2 serving as Executive Deputy Chief Counsel. She
3 stated the prosecution division has five senior
4 prosecuting attorneys, noting Ray Michalowski is
5 assigned to the State Board of Accountancy. She also
6 noted Paul Jarabeck, Heather McCarthy, and William
7 Newport are all senior prosecutors, along Karl
8 Geschwindt, who is an acting senior prosecuting
9 attorney. She mentioned there are 33 prosecuting
10 attorneys, including Board liaisons.

11 Ms. DeLaurentis addressed the complaint process,
12 noting complaints are received from any source to
13 address anything in their jurisdiction. She stated
14 the most efficient way to file a complaint is on the
15 Pennsylvania Licensing System (PALS) at pals.pa.gov.
16 She noted prosecution accepts complaints from other
17 agencies, law enforcement, and sometimes through
18 media reports.

19 Ms. DeLaurentis discussed levels of review,
20 including jurisdiction checks, noting administrative
21 assistants review every complaint to see if it falls
22 under one of the 29 boards and commissions. She
23 mentioned complaints are sent to sister agencies if
24 prosecution does not have jurisdiction. She noted
25 BEI helps to determine whether an investigation is

1 warranted after it is determined prosecution has
2 jurisdiction.

3 Ms. DeLaurentis explained that attorneys are
4 making charging decisions in conjunction with their
5 senior prosecutor. She noted prosecution decides
6 whether to file an order to show cause, issue a
7 citation, close a case, or issue a warning letter.
8 She stated the individual is entitled to a hearing,
9 where boards could hear their own hearings or can be
10 delegated to the hearing examiner. She noted hearing
11 examiners issue a proposed decision, and the Board
12 makes the final decision. She noted the Board also
13 makes the final decision for consent agreements,
14 where both sides are negotiating toward a
15 resolution.

16 Ms. DeLaurentis addressed the role of prosecutors
17 when presenting consent agreements. She noted the
18 information contained within the consent agreement is
19 the only information prosecution is allowed to
20 publicly speak on because there is a confidentiality
21 statute that prohibits disclosure of the contents of
22 their files.

23 Ms. DeLaurentis stated BEI not only conducts
24 interviews, inspections, and obtains evidence but
25 also serve subpoenas, orders, and letters. She noted

1 BEI does not have the ability to get a search warrant
2 but do have subpoena authority. She stated BEI also
3 testifies to the results of their investigations and
4 inspections. She mentioned that prosecution has
5 inspection authority for certain boards but not all
6 of them. She noted some boards are required under
7 their regulations or statute to provide documents if
8 requested and may be in violation of the act or
9 regulations if they do not present those.

10 Ms. DeLaurentis addressed the post-investigation
11 process, where BEI provides all of the facts and
12 information to the attorneys to determine the next
13 step. She noted the cases are reviewed by attorneys
14 and legal analysts to decide whether to close the
15 case or charge. She noted charging options include
16 immediate temporary suspensions if someone is an
17 immediate danger to the health and safety of the
18 public.

19 Ms. DeLaurentis stated prosecution also has the
20 ability to issue automatic suspensions that usually
21 concern drug act violations or 302 commitments. She
22 noted they have the ability to order an examination
23 to ensure practice safety. She mentioned they also
24 have petitions for appropriate relief for when
25 someone has violated a board order, orders to show

1 cause, and consent agreements. She noted levels of
2 discipline include revocations, suspensions,
3 probations, reprimands, fines, remedial education,
4 and cost of the investigation.

5 Ms. DeLaurentis referred to the confidentiality
6 statute under 63 Pa.C.S. § 3109, where prosecution
7 information is confidential and privileged except for
8 the final action of the agency. She explained that
9 Department of State investigations are noncriminal
10 investigations under the Right-to-Know Law.

11 Ms. DeLaurentis stated the information could be
12 shared with other licensing boards, law enforcement,
13 and other agencies in furtherance of investigative
14 efforts but only their final action could be shared
15 publicly.

16 Ms. DeLaurentis provided data as of January 3,
17 2023, that includes notary and State Navigation
18 Commission but not charities. She reported the
19 number of open cases for the whole division was
20 13,154 but less than last year at 15,141. She stated
21 16,084 cases were opened in 2022 and is down from
22 2021 at 18,363 cases. She reported closing 17,826
23 files in 2022 and is up from 2021, where 15,994 cases
24 were closed.

25 Ms. DeLaurentis informed Board members that an

1 annual report is issued to the General Assembly,
2 which includes case categories, and would inform
3 Board Counsel when that report is finalized.

4 Ms. DeLaurentis addressed specific information
5 for the State Board of Accountancy, noting 237 cases
6 were opened in 2022, which is an increase from 2021
7 at 162. She reported 174 cases were closed in 2022
8 and 130 in 2021. She mentioned that the Board has a
9 December 31 renewal, noting any violations are
10 reflected in 2022 numbers, which is why that number
11 is elevated. She reported 219 open cases, which is
12 an increase from 2021 at 153.

13 Ms. DeLaurentis referred to disposition of closed
14 cases, including discipline and no discipline. She
15 noted discipline would include fines, Act 48
16 fines/citations, and probation. She stated the Board
17 of Accountancy has low discipline, where licensees
18 are following the rules and regulations of the
19 profession. She mentioned that non-disciplinary
20 actions are called Z codes in their system.

21 Ms. DeLaurentis addressed warning letters, noting
22 the Board received 53 warning letters in 2022 and is
23 an increase from 2021 at 42. She noted warning
24 letters help maintain the integrity of the profession
25 by attempting to correct any behavior that may become

1 an issue and are issued for de minimis violations.

2 Chair Risler thanked Ms. DeLaurentis for the
3 presentation, and Mr. Rouse congratulated Ms.
4 DeLaurentis on her promotion.]

5

6 Approval of minutes of the November 16, 2022 meeting

7 CHAIR RISLER:

8 We are going to move on regarding the
9 approval of the minutes from our last
10 meeting.

11 [The Board discussed corrections to the minutes.]

12 CHAIR RISLER:

13 Do I have a motion to accept the
14 minutes from the November 16, 2022
15 Board meeting as amended and to accept
16 those minutes?

17 MS. ELLIS:

18 So moved.

19 MR. OCKER:

20 Second.

21 CHAIR RISLER:

22 Roll call, please.

23

24 Sheri Risler, aye; Arion Claggett, aye;
25 Keri Ellis, aye; Monique Ericson, aye;

1 John Grater, aye; Benjamin Holland,
2 abstain; Mary Jensik, aye; Charles
3 O'Brien, aye; Michael Ocker, aye; John
4 Petchel, aye; David Stonesifer,
5 abstain.

6 [The motion carried. Benjamin Holland and David
7 Stonesifer abstained from voting on the motion.]

8 ***

9 Report of Prosecutorial Division

10 [Ashley P. Murphy, Esquire, Board Prosecution
11 Liaison, noted there were no consent agreements on
12 the agenda today. She stated prosecution has been
13 busy and working on hearings that are currently
14 pending as far as briefs being filed, along with
15 hearings being scheduled. She mentioned that
16 continuing education audit enforcement actions are
17 ongoing as well. She noted being up to date with Act
18 110 of 2022.

19 Ms. Murphy informed Board members that she met
20 with two peer review gurus, Allison Henry from the
21 Pennsylvania Institute of Certified Public
22 Accountants (PICPA) and Gary Freundlich from the
23 American Institute of Certified Public Accountants
24 (AICPA), who were helpful and provided a lot of
25 information.

1 Chair Risler requested further information
2 regarding the continuing professional education (CPE)
3 audits.

4 Mr. Michalowski reported opening 29 CE cases in
5 2022, noting not everybody who is audited fails the
6 audit. He mentioned working closely with the Board
7 administrator, Miranda, and her staff who produce
8 those records for prosecution. He noted the Board
9 has a written set of Act 48 citations to use for
10 citations for shortages in continuing education
11 courses. He mentioned that half of the audits are
12 resolved, where individuals were short 1 credit and
13 received a warning letter, and the ones in active
14 prosecution are in the citation process.

15 Mr. Michalowski addressed case types, noting
16 that most complaints actually come from the Board,
17 where the vast majority of complaints received,
18 almost 100 out of over 200 cases last year were
19 lapsed license cases and about 160 of over 200 cases
20 were related to applications. He reported that the
21 majority of the practice case complaints received
22 were people complaining of professional conduct or
23 competency related to taxes.

24 Mr. Michalowski mentioned that prosecution does
25 not get a lot of audit and attest activity reported

1 to them unless it is coming through PICPA, AICPA, or
2 a federal agency. He noted that complaints of audit
3 and attest activity is almost always a tax-related
4 complaint.]

5 ***

6 Report of Board Counsel - Possible Delegation to
7 Hearing Examiner

8 MR. ROUSE:

9 Item 2 on the agenda is a matter that
10 was discussed in Executive Session.

11 Regarding the matter of BPOA v.
12 James Davis Gazonas, Case No. 22-55-
13 005924, after discussion in Executive
14 Session, I believe the Chair would
15 entertain a motion to delegate this
16 matter to a hearing examiner to conduct
17 a formal hearing and issue a Proposed
18 Adjudication and Order for review by
19 the Board.

20 CHAIR RISLER:

21 That is correct. Do I have a motion to
22 delegate to a hearing examiner to
23 conduct a formal hearing and issue a
24 Proposed Adjudication and Order for
25 review by the Board?

1 MR. OCKER:

2 So moved.

3 MS. ELLIS:

4 Second.

5 CHAIR RISLER:

6 Any discussion? Roll call, please.

7

8 Sheri Risler, aye; Arion Claggett, aye;

9 Keri Ellis, aye; Monique Ericson, aye;

10 John Grater, aye; Benjamin Holland,

11 aye; Mary Jensik, aye; Charles O'Brien,

12 aye; Michael Ocker, aye; John Petchel,

13 aye; David Stonesifer, aye.

14 [The motion carried unanimously.]

15

16 Report of Board Counsel - Miscellaneous

17 [Ronald K. Rouse, Esquire, Board Counsel, addressed
18 Act 110 of 2022 regarding amendments to the Certified
19 Public Accountant (CPA) Law. He provided changes to
20 regulations based on the statutory amendments. He
21 stated Act 110 of 2022 was signed into law on
22 November 3, 2022, and went into effect on January 2,
23 2023.

24 Mr. Rouse noted Section 4.2(b)(3)(i), (ii), and
25 (iii) have been amended to include economics and

1 technology as two additional subjects to count toward
2 the postsecondary education semester hours needed in
3 order to take the CPA Examination. He stated it is
4 recommended § 11.57(a)(1), (2), and (3) are amended to
5 account for the statutory amendment to include
6 economics and technology.

7 Mr. Rouse noted it is also recommended that a
8 provision is added to § 11.57 of the regulation to
9 explain that candidates may apply to sit for the CPA
10 Examination if they are at least 18 years old, are of
11 good moral character, and have completed 120 semester
12 credit hours of postsecondary education.

13 Mr. Rouse noted an additional recommended
14 amendment that states and clarifies the applicant
15 must have completed a baccalaureate degree or higher
16 degree and achieve 150 semester hours in order to be
17 eligible for certification as a CPA.

18 He noted the statutory amendment, where people
19 who have 120 semester hours, have good moral
20 character, and are 18 years old can sit for the CPA
21 Examination.

22 Chair Risler asked whether anyone from the
23 public has any perspective on the definition of
24 technology since the current terminology is very
25 broad. She noted the Board believed the intent is to

1 follow the Information Systems and Control (ISC) part
2 through CPA Evolution and ensure courses mirror that.

3 Jennifer Cryder, CPA, MBA, Chief Operating
4 Officer and Executive Vice President, Pennsylvania
5 Institute of Certified Public Accountants, informed
6 Board members that the Pennsylvania Institute of
7 Certified Public Accountants helped suggest some
8 language in the law. She commented that PICPA is not
9 thinking about linking it to a specific section of
10 the CPA Exam. She noted technology skills are
11 important for licensees, and PICA's suggestion was to
12 keep the language as broad as possible because the
13 more specific the language was the more likely it
14 would have to be changed at some point in the future.

15

16 Mr. Rouse noted Chair Risler also recommended an
17 amendment to § 11.56(a) of the regulations to reflect
18 the statutory amendment, where a substantially
19 equivalent licensed individual from a foreign country
20 may verify a candidate's experience.

21 Mr. Rouse stated there are a number of
22 regulatory amendments needed based on the statutory
23 changes to peer review, including § 11.82 and § 11.86
24 of the regulations.]

25 MR. ROUSE:

1 Would the Chair entertain a motion to
2 direct Board Counsel to draft an annex
3 of general revisions consistent with
4 today's discussion?

5 CHAIR RISLER:

6 I would like to ask for a motion to
7 draft an annex of the items discussed
8 regarding Act 110 of 2022.

9 Is there a motion for that?

10 MR. HOLLAND:

11 So moved.

12 MS. ELLIS:

13 Second.

14 CHAIR RISLER:

15 Roll call, please.

16
17 Sheri Risler, aye; Arion Claggett,
18 abstain; Keri Ellis, aye; Monique
19 Ericson, aye; John Grater, aye;
20 Benjamin Holland, aye; Mary Jensik,
21 aye; Charles O'Brien, aye; Michael
22 Ocker, aye; John Petchel, aye; David
23 Stonesifer, aye.

24 [The motion carried. Arion Claggett abstained from
25 voting on the motion.]

1 ***

2 Report of Board Counsel - Miscellaneous

3 [Ronald K. Rouse, Esquire, Board Counsel, provided a
4 CPA Evolution update. He reported that the last date
5 for testing all current sections of the CPA
6 Examination would be December 15, 2023. He also
7 reported that no CPA Examination would be scheduled
8 between December 15, 2023 through January 9, 2024, to
9 allow for the information technology (IT) system
10 conversion to the new CPA Examination.

11 Mr. Rouse informed Board members that NASBA is
12 requesting all state boards to consider a dark period
13 where candidates cannot test for the Business
14 Environment and Concepts (BEC) section and that
15 boards of accountancy are being asked to determine
16 the final application deadlines for first-time and
17 reexamination of the BEC section.

18 Mr. Rouse explained that the NASBA Gateway
19 system would stop processing notices to schedule a
20 BEC session as of November 15, 2023, and boards of
21 accountancy must establish initial application
22 acceptance dates for the new discipline sections of
23 Business Analysis and Reporting (BAR), Information
24 Systems and Control (ISC), and Tax Compliance and
25 Planning (TCP). He stated authorization to test and

1 notices to schedule for BAR, ISC, and TCP would not
2 be accepted until November 22, 2023.]

3 MR. ROUSE:

4 I believe the Chair would entertain a
5 motion to set November 15, 2023, as the
6 deadline for submission of applications
7 for the BEC section of the current CPA
8 Examination.

9 CHAIR RISLER:

10 Do I have a motion to set November 15,
11 2023, as the deadline for applications
12 of the BEC section of the current CPA
13 Exam?

14 MS. ELLIS:

15 So moved.

16 CHAIR RISLER:

17 Do we have a second?

18 MR. OCKER:

19 Second.

20 CHAIR RISLER:

21 Roll call, please.

22

23 Sheri Risler, aye; Arion Claggett,
24 abstain; Keri Ellis, aye; Monique
25 Ericson, aye; John Grater, aye;

1 Benjamin Holland, aye; Mary Jensik,
2 aye; Charles O'Brien, aye; Michael
3 Ocker, aye; John Petchel, aye; David
4 Stonesifer, aye.

5 [The motion carried. Arion Claggett abstained from
6 voting on the motion.]

7 ***

8 MR. ROUSE:

9 I believe the Chair would entertain a
10 motion to set November 22, 2023, as the
11 initial application acceptance date for
12 the Business Analysis and Reporting,
13 Information Systems and Control, and
14 Tax Compliance and Planning sections of
15 the new CPA Examination.

16 CHAIR RISLER:

17 Do I have a motion to set November 22,
18 2023, as the initial application
19 acceptance date for BAR, ISC, and TCP.

20 Do I have a motion?

21 MS. ELLIS:

22 So moved.

23 CHAIR RISLER:

24 Second?

25 MR. HOLLAND:

1 Second.

2 CHAIR RISLER:

3 Roll call, please.

4

5 Sheri Risler, aye; Arion Claggett,
6 abstain; Keri Ellis, aye; Monique
7 Ericson, aye; John Grater, aye;
8 Benjamin Holland, aye; Mary Jensik,
9 aye; Charles O'Brien, aye; Michael
10 Ocker, aye; John Petchel, aye; David
11 Stonesifer, aye.

12 [The motion carried. Arion Claggett abstained from
13 voting on the motion.]

14

15 Report of Board Counsel - Miscellaneous

16 [Ronald K. Rouse, Esquire, Board Counsel, addressed
17 the NASBA and AICPA exposure draft of proposed
18 revisions to the Statement on Standards for
19 Continuing Professional Education Programs. He
20 informed everyone that a copy of the exposure draft
21 could be accessed through the NASBA website at
22 www.nasba.org and www.nasbaregistry.org.

23 Mr. Rouse mentioned NASBA and AICPA are
24 accepting written comments on the exposure draft
25 through March 31, 2023, and can be submitted to

1 comments@nasba.org. He noted the Statement on
2 Standards for Continuing Professional Education
3 Programs provides a framework for the development,
4 presentation, measurement, and recording of CPE
5 programs. He stated most of the proposed revisions
6 represent clarifications within the standards for CPE
7 programs and was last revised in 2019.

8 Mr. Rouse noted one proposed revision clarifies
9 that Group Live and Group Internet-Based programs are
10 determined by how the learner interacts with other
11 participants and instructor instead of how the
12 learning is consumed by the learner and is the
13 difference between a self-study program versus a
14 Group Live program. He stated the proposed revisions
15 also provide specific examples of each delivery
16 method with web-enabled, two-way video participation
17 and would be included as a Group Live program.]

18 ***

19 Report of Regulatory Counsel - No Report

20 ***

21 Report of Board Chair

22 [Sheri L. Risler, CPA, Chair, reminded Board members
23 to read the Sunshine Act for information and guidance
24 on the Board meeting process. She also encouraged
25 everyone to refresh themselves on the Gift Ban

1 Policy.]

2

3 Report of Acting Commissioner - No Report

4

5 Report of Board Administrator

6 [Miranda Murphy, Board Administrator, informed Board
7 members that the CE audit process for the 2020-2021
8 reporting period began shortly after the last Board
9 meeting. She noted conducting a 2.5 percent audit,
10 along with sending out 610 letters. She mentioned
11 that she would be sending out second notices on those
12 in the next two weeks and is hoping to have those
13 completed for the next Board meeting.]

14

15 Report of Committees

16 [Sheri L. Risler, CPA, Chair, informed Board members
17 that she would be reaching out through email to
18 discuss committee participation.

19 Chair Risler also wanted to start working on the
20 newsletter with NASBA between now and the next
21 meeting for it to be issued in the third quarter.]

22

23 Review of Requests - Extension of CPA Examination

24 Credit - Approved

25 MR. ROUSE:

1 Regarding Extension of CPA Examination
2 Credit, if we could group these in
3 terms of items 8 through 11 on the
4 agenda and items 13 through 20.

5 These are the Extension of CPA
6 Examination Credits for Elda Kokuri,
7 John Farren, Blaise Toroni, Saleh
8 Salman, Rajesh Nair, Ryan Ko, Saurabh
9 Pericherla, Jea Lee, Subhash Kurup, Ali
10 Hussain, Stephanie Davalos Mata, and
11 Alena Ilina.

12 Regarding those items at 8 through
13 11 and 13 through 20, I believe the
14 chair would entertain a motion to
15 approve the Extension of CPA
16 Examination Credits.

17 CHAIR RISLER:

18 Do I have a motion to approve the
19 Extension of CPA Examination Credits 8
20 through 11 and 13 through 20 as just
21 described by counsel?

22 MS. ELLIS:

23 So moved.

24 MR. OCKER:

25 Second.

1 CHAIR RISLER:

2 Roll call, please.

3

4 Sheri Risler, aye; Arion Claggett,
5 abstain; Keri Ellis, aye; Monique
6 Ericson, aye; John Grater, aye;
7 Benjamin Holland, aye; Mary Jensik,
8 aye; Charles O'Brien, aye; Michael
9 Ocker, aye; John Petchel, aye; David
10 Stonesifer, aye.

11 [The motion carried. Arion Claggett abstained from
12 voting on the motion.]

13

14 Review of Requests - Extension of CPA Examination
15 Credit - Approved

16 MR. ROUSE:

17 Next is item 12 on the agenda. I
18 believe we have a recusal, Keri Ellis.

19 MS. ELLIS:

20 Recuse.

21

22 [Keri A. Ellis, CPA, exited the meeting at 12:07 p.m.
23 for recusal purposes.]

24

25 MR. ROUSE:

1 I believe the Chair would entertain a
2 motion to approve the Extension of CPA
3 Examination Credits for Caroline Acker
4 at item 12.

5 CHAIR RISLER:

6 Is there a motion to approve the
7 Extension of CPA Exam Credit for
8 Caroline Acker?

9 MR. OCKER:

10 So moved.

11 CHAIR RISLER:

12 Second?

13 MR. GRATER:

14 Second.

15 CHAIR RISLER:

16 Roll call.

17

18 Sheri Risler, aye; Arion Claggett,
19 abstain; Monique Ericson, aye; John
20 Grater, aye; Benjamin Holland, aye;
21 Mary Jensik, aye; Charles O'Brien, aye;
22 Michael Ocker, aye; John Petchel, aye;
23 David Stonesifer, aye.

24 [The motion carried. Arion Claggett abstained from
25 voting on the motion. Kerri Ellis recused herself

1 from deliberations and voting on the motion.]

2 ***

3 [Keri A. Ellis, CPA, reentered the meeting at
4 12:08 p.m.]

5 ***

6 Review of Requests - Extension of CPA Examination
7 Credit - Denied

8 MR. ROUSE:

9 Items 21 and 22. This is an Extension
10 of CPA Examination Credit. I believe
11 the Chair would entertain a motion to
12 deny the Extension of CPA Examination
13 Credit for Lina Zhang at item 21 on the
14 agenda and Autumn Doctor at item 22 on
15 the agenda.

16 CHAIR RISLER:

17 Do I have a motion to deny the
18 Extension of CPA Exam Credit for Lina
19 Zhang and Autumn Doctor as noted on
20 today's agenda?

21 MS. ELLIS:

22 So moved.

23 CHAIR RISLER:

24 Second?

25 MR. OCKER:

1 Second.

2 CHAIR RISLER:

3 Roll call, please.

4

5 Sheri Risler, aye; Arion Claggett,
6 abstain; Kerri Ellis, aye; Monique
7 Ericson, aye; John Grater, aye;
8 Benjamin Holland, aye; Mary Jensik,
9 aye; Charles O'Brien, aye; Michael
10 Ocker, aye; John Petchel, aye; David
11 Stonesifer, aye.

12 [The motion carried. Arion Claggett abstained from
13 voting on the motion.]

14

15 Review of Requests - Extension of CPA Examination

16 Credit - Final Decision Needed

17 MR. ROUSE:

18 Items 23 is an Extension of CPA
19 Examination Credits. I believe the
20 Chair would entertain a motion to deny
21 the Extension of CPA Examination
22 Credits for Mirlande Jones at item 23
23 on the agenda.

24 CHAIR RISLER:

25 Is there a motion to deny the Extension

1 of CPA Examination Credits for
2 candidate Mirlande Jones at item 23 on
3 the agenda?

4 MS. ELLIS:

5 So moved.

6 MR. OCKER:

7 Second.

8 CHAIR RISLER:

9 Roll call, please.

10

11 Sheri Risler, aye; Arion Claggett,
12 abstain; Kerri Ellis, aye; Monique
13 Ericson, aye; John Grater, aye;
14 Benjamin Holland, aye; Mary Jensik,
15 aye; Charles O'Brien, aye; Michael
16 Ocker, aye; John Petchel, aye; David
17 Stonesifer, aye.

18 [The motion carried. Arion Claggett abstained from
19 voting on the motion.]

20

21 Review of Requests - Waiver of Minimum of 20 CPE
22 Credits Per Year - Approved

23 MR. ROUSE:

24 Items 24 and 25 on the agenda. This is
25 a Waiver of the 20 CPE Credits Per Year

1 in the matters of Brian Loftus and
2 Julie Arnold.

3 I believe the Chair would entertain
4 a motion to approve the Waiver
5 Requirement Minimum of 20 CPE Credits
6 Per Year for items 24 and 25 on the
7 agenda.

8 CHAIR RISLER:

9 Do I have a motion to approve the
10 Waiver Minimum of 20 CPE Credits Per
11 Year for item 24, Brian Loftus and item
12 25, Julie Arnold on today's agenda?

13 MS. ELLIS:

14 So moved.

15 CHAIR RISLER:

16 Second?

17 MR. OCKER:

18 Second.

19 CHAIR RISLER:

20 Roll call.

21

22 Sheri Risler, aye; Arion Claggett,
23 abstain; Kerri Ellis, aye; Monique
24 Ericson, aye; John Grater, aye;
25 Benjamin Holland, aye; Mary Jensik,

1 MR. OCKER:

2 Second.

3 CHAIR RISLER:

4 Roll call, please.

5

6 Sheri Risler, aye; Arion Claggett,

7 abstain; Kerri Ellis, aye; Monique

8 Ericson, aye; John Grater, aye;

9 Benjamin Holland, aye; Mary Jensik,

10 aye; Charles O'Brien, aye; Michael

11 Ocker, aye; John Petchel, aye; David

12 Stonesifer, aye.

13 [The motion carried. Arion Claggett abstained from
14 voting on the motion.]

15 ***

16 Correspondence

17 [Ronald K. Rouse, Esquire, Board Counsel, addressed
18 correspondence received from Assistant Professor Mark
19 Koscinski at Moravian University in Bethlehem,
20 Pennsylvania asking whether State Board of
21 Accountancy is receptive to a work for credit
22 program, where 30 of the 150 required credit hours
23 for receiving a CPA license could be earned by
24 completing a co-op program.

25 Mr. Rouse reported that the New Jersey State

1 Board of Accountancy approved colleges to grant up to
2 30 credits through a work for credit program after
3 adopting a plan in May 2022, and there is currently a
4 plan between PwC and Saint Peter's University
5 offering a co-op program.

6 Mr. Rouse informed Board members that he sent an
7 email to Elizabeth Wolfe, Senior Regulatory Counsel
8 for NASBA, to enquire about the direction of the work
9 for credit program, to see if any other states are
10 considering a program, and if there are other special
11 considerations NASBA has in terms of adopting such a
12 program. He noted he sent the email yesterday but
13 has not received a response.

14 Mr. Ocker noted being in total support of the
15 program from a small firm perspective because it
16 provides the opportunity for a small firm to have
17 people coming out of college who know how to do small
18 firm work. He commented that small firms are moving
19 to the Financial Reporting Framework for Small- and
20 Medium-Sized Entities more so than ever with
21 accountant standards changing and believed this
22 should happen for Pennsylvania.

23 Mr. Holland commented that the academic side of the
24 credits are necessary in a traditional academic sense
25 but also believed experience is

1 vitally important. He stated this is the wave of the
2 future and more discussion needs to happen but
3 believed Pennsylvania could be a leader in providing
4 the opportunity for pilot programs for several
5 colleges and universities. He mentioned the need for
6 more discussion and thought 30 credits may be a
7 little too high.

8 Mr. Stonesifer was fully behind any momentum that
9 further structures and gives those extra 30 credit
10 hours some substance and relevancy in accounting and
11 practical experience. He noted the importance of
12 fully understanding what internship experiences look
13 like and supporting core competencies opposed to the
14 way it is now.

15 Ms. Ellis agreed with other Board members and
16 asked Ms. Cryder to speak about what is going on at
17 PICPA. She noted the importance of finding ways to
18 get to the 150 credits to make sure their profession
19 keeps growing but also having the right type of
20 education with the 150 credits the law requires.

21 Chair Risler commented that she is in support as
22 well, but the Board needs to consider all of the
23 players impacted by this, especially the students.
24 She stated the candidates need to get credits on a
25 transcript and schools need to be willing to do that

1 because it is unlikely that they can go to work and
2 receive the credit by the accounting firm signing
3 something.

4 Chair Risler believed the Board needed to seek
5 more input from others regarding types of monitoring
6 requirements the accounting firm/university issuing
7 the credits will be happy with and designing that to
8 not just make it an easy 30 credits for going to work
9 for an accounting firm but also make it meaningful
10 for the candidates working in the field as opposed to
11 getting college credits. She also suggested seeking
12 information from other states and mentioned that
13 Pennsylvania can be the leader but also learn from
14 others at the same time.

15 Ms. Cryder informed Board members that AICPA has
16 come out with an 8-point pipeline plan that NASBA
17 would be sharing with the Board and nationally in
18 their town hall tomorrow. She stated AICPA has a
19 framework already built that would be in the
20 marketplace by fall. She mentioned that other local
21 and national firms have already done this, so there
22 are a number of different models and examples to
23 evaluate.

24 Ms. Cryder noted being invited onto a task force
25 nationally to help AICPA get their full program

1 built. She noted that she cannot affect any of the
2 changes but could help inform, educate, and bring the
3 right stakeholders together to make sure programs
4 meet the statute and regulations and would be happy
5 to convey input from the Board.

6 Ms. Cryder mentioned that Moravian University
7 reached out to her, along with a dozen other colleges
8 and universities, and believed she has the
9 opportunity to help influence this in the right
10 direction to make it academically rigorous. She
11 stated it is currently only available to the largest
12 of firms, noting the importance of firms that do not
13 have the resources of a PwC be able to do this.

14 Ms. Cryder commented that this is a path of
15 access to the profession for those who cannot afford
16 the five years of education. She referred to the CPA
17 Law, where internship credits on a transcript is
18 about how they take the framework that already exists
19 and are building programs within the firms and
20 universities in a way that builds academic rigor and
21 go beyond a handful of credits which is what they see
22 now.

23 Chair Risler requested information regarding how
24 colleges and universities are going to get paid for
25 putting the credits on the transcripts because

1 schools are not going to put credits on the
2 transcript unless they are paid tuition dollars. She
3 noted big firms are paying that but asked how that
4 would work for smaller firms.

5 Ms. Cryder explained that AICPA is building their
6 national model and encouraging colleges and
7 universities to have the cost of the credits be
8 average of a community college cost per credit. She
9 believed there is an opportunity in Pennsylvania to
10 have different variations on the fee and felt
11 strongly that each different version would still meet
12 the academic rigor test to uphold the integrity of
13 their profession.

14 Chair Risler noted the Board is looking forward
15 to working with Ms. Cryder in her role on the PICPA
16 Task Force and requested more information regarding
17 the town hall.

18 Ms. Cryder noted she would be happy to share the
19 8-point pipeline plan document once it is released
20 later today and would share that with Miranda Murphy.
21 She mentioned that she is crafting a draft response
22 to the plan for AICPA

23 Ms. Murphy informed Board members that they could
24 sign up for the town hall and would send anyone who
25 is interested a link and information once she

1 received it from Ms. Cryder.

2 Mr. O'Brien thanked Ms. Cryder for the information,
3 noting the Board benefits from her thoughts and insight
4 through her engagement with stakeholders. He asked
5 whether the Board could revisit the topic and if
6 correspondence could be sent for further discussion in
7 April.

8 Mr. Rouse noted the issue could be added to the
9 agenda and a notification could go out so parties
10 would be able to participate and bring their ideas to
11 the Board.]

12 MR. ROUSE:

13 Chair, if you would entertain a motion
14 to direct Board Counsel to draft a
15 response for Moravian University
16 letting them know the Work for Credit
17 Program is being discussed by the Board
18 and the matter would be on the next
19 Board agenda for further discussion.

20 [The Board discussed the motion and decided to put
21 the matter of the work for credit program under the
22 Regulatory Committee.]

23 CHAIR RISLER:

24 I'd like to make a motion to direct
25 Board Counsel to draft a response to

1 Moravian University regarding their
2 letter about work for credits as
3 discussed by the Board today.

4 Is there a motion?

5 MS. ELLIS:

6 So moved.

7 MR. HOLLAND:

8 Second.

9 CHAIR RISLER:

10 Roll call.

11
12 Sheri Risler, aye; Arion Claggett, aye;
13 Kerri Ellis, aye; Monique Ericson, aye;
14 John Grater, aye; Benjamin Holland,
15 aye; Mary Jensik, aye; Charles O'Brien,
16 aye; Michael Ocker, aye; John Petchel,
17 aye; David Stonesifer, aye.

18 [The motion carried unanimously.]

19 ***

20 Miscellaneous

21 [Sheri L. Risler, CPA, Chair, referred to the AICPA
22 proposed revisions to CPE provider standards for the
23 Board's review.

24 Chair Risler noted NASBA's 28th Annual Conference
25 for Board of Accountancy Legal Counsel and the 41st

1 Annual Conference for Executive Directors and Board
2 Staff February 27 through March 1, 2023, in Tucson,
3 AZ. She asked whether Miranda Murphy and Mr. Rouse
4 would like to attend, and they agreed to attend.]

5 CHAIR RISLER:

6 I make a motion to approve the
7 attendance at the NASBA 28th Annual
8 Conference for Board of Accountancy
9 Legal Counsel and the 41st Annual
10 Conference for Executive Directors and
11 Staff as noted on agenda item 29 for
12 our Board to approve our
13 representatives to attend these
14 conferences.

15 It is for Ronald Rouse to attend
16 the legal counsel event and for Miranda
17 to attend the executive directors and
18 staff meeting.

19 MS. ELLIS:

20 So moved.

21 CHAIR ELLIS:

22 Is there a second to the motion?

23 MR. OCKER:

24 Second.

25 CHAIR RISLER:

1 Roll call.

2

3 Sheri Risler, aye; Arion Claggett, aye;
4 Kerri Ellis, aye; Monique Ericson, aye;
5 John Grater, aye; Benjamin Holland,
6 aye; Mary Jensik, aye; Charles O'Brien,
7 aye; Michael Ocker, aye; John Petchel,
8 aye; David Stonesifer, aye.

9 [The motion carried unanimously.]

10

11 Miscellaneous

12 [Sheri L. Risler, CPA, Chair, encouraged everyone to
13 read the NASBA State Board Report, noting it to be
14 informative regarding current issues as well as
15 containing a recap from the annual meeting.

16 Chair Risler referred to the letter from NASBA
17 and AICPA regarding the 150 credit hours requirement,
18 where NASBA and AICPA discuss the requirement and why
19 it is necessary after a state proposed legislation to
20 reduce that requirement down to 120 credits.

21 Ms. Cryder informed Board members that the
22 Minnesota Society of CPAs introduced the legislation
23 even after receiving that letter from NASBA. She
24 explained that they are offering the traditional path
25 of 150 hours and a second path that is 120 hours of

1 education with two years of experience. She noted
2 that the Minnesota Society of CPAs felt that would
3 maintain substantial equivalency, but the letter came
4 out two weeks ago, where it clearly does not.

5 Ms. Cryder stated PICPA's position is that
6 substantial equivalency and mobility are paramount to
7 their profession and is not pushing for Pennsylvania
8 to make that change. She reported that a lot of
9 other states are not far behind Minnesota and
10 believed other states are also behind Minnesota with
11 this change.

12 Mr. Rouse commented that AICPA and NASBA were
13 explaining in the letter that reducing the 150 hours
14 would have consequences, where the state would not be
15 considered substantially equivalent and limit the
16 mobility of their licensees.

17 Chair Risler thanked Ms. Cryder for the update.
18 She informed everyone that AICPA published the
19 blueprints for the redesigned CPA Exam.]

20 ***

21 Miscellaneous - Next Meeting Dates

22 [Sheri L. Risler, CPA, Chair, noted the next Board
23 meeting date is April 21 and followed by May 19, July
24 19, September 20, and November 15.]

25 ***

1 Adjournment

2 CHAIR RISLER:

3 I'll entertain a motion to adjourn the
4 meeting.

5 MR. ELLIS:

6 So moved.

7 MR. ROUSE:

8 Is there a second?

9 MR. OCKER:

10 Second.

11 ***

12 [There being no further business, the State Board of
13 Accountancy Meeting adjourned at 12:39 p.m.]

14 ***

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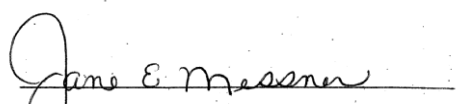
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CERTIFICATE

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.


Jane Messner,

Minute Clerk
Sargent's Court Reporting
Service, Inc.

STATE BOARD OF ACCOUNTANCY
REFERENCE INDEX

January 18, 2023

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TIME

AGENDA

9:00 Executive Session
10:30 Return to Open Session
10:45 Official Call to Order
10:45 Roll Call
11:09 Second Roll Call/ Introduction of Attendees
11:13 Appointment - Carolyn A. DeLaurentis, Esquire, Deputy Chief Counsel, Prosecution Division, Annual Report Presentation
11:36 Approval of Minutes
11:37 Report of Prosecutorial Division
11:44 Report of Board Counsel
12:02 Report of Board Chair
12:03 Report of Board Administrator
12:04 Report of Committees
12:04 Review of Requests
12:12 Correspondence
12:37 Miscellaneous
12:39 Adjournment