BEFORE THE STATE BOARD FOR PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS

STATE BOARD FOR PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS *

V. * CASE No. 10-PE-2023

SATISH W. KORPE 9512 Mount Vernon Landing Alexandria, VA 22309,

Respondent

.

CONSENT ORDER AND SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT

This matter came before the State of Maryland Board for Professional Engineers ("Board") based on Respondent Satish W. Korpe ("Respondent") October 18, 2022 application to reinstate his professional engineer license registration number 05-20546 that had expired on August 17, 2022. As the result of information the Respondent self-reported to the Board on October 18, 2022 about signing and sealing a document while his license was expired, the Board initiated a complaint against the Respondent on November 18, 2022. The Board also determined that administrative charges against the Respondent are appropriate and the matter should proceed to a hearing. To resolve this matter without a formal hearing, the Board and the Respondent (collectively "the parties") have agreed to enter into this Consent Order and Settlement Agreement ("Consent Order") to provide for the imposition of disciplinary measures which are fair and equitable in these circumstances and which are consistent with the best interest of the people of the State of Maryland. The parties agree and stipulate as follows:

- 1. At all times relevant the Board has had jurisdiction over the Respondent and the subject matter.
- 2. The Maryland Professional Engineers Act ("Act") provides that before a professional engineer's license expires, a licensee periodically may renew the license for an additional 2-year term if the licensee: is otherwise entitled to be licensed; pays to the Board a licensee fee set by the Board; and submits to the Board a renewal application on the form that the Board provides. See Md. Code Ann., Bus. Occ. & Prof. ("BOP"), §14-314(c).
- 3. The Respondent is a Maryland licensed professional engineer, license registration number 05-20546 ("Maryland license"). The Board originally issued a Maryland license to the Respondent in 1994. On July 30, 2020, the Board issued a license to the Respondent that expired on August 17, 2022. Due to an oversight, the Respondent did not submit a renewal application and pay the required renewal fee to the Board before that license expired.

- 4. The Respondent is also a Virginia licensed professional engineer, license number 0402024774 ("Virginia license"). The State of Virginia originally issued a Virginia license to the Respondent in 1994. The Respondent's Virginia license expires on February 29, 2024.
- 5. Under the Act, while the license of an individual is suspended, revoked, or expired, a person may not endorse a document, as provided under BOP §14-4A-02, with the name or seal of the individual. See BOP 14-504(b).
- 6. On September 29, 2022, Respondent signed and sealed a Minor Plan Revision for 515 Ashton Road, Ashton, Maryland 20777.
- 7. On October 18, 2022, the Respondent submitted an application to the Board to reinstate and renew his expired license. The Board selected the Respondent for a random audit to confirm compliance with continuing education requirements. In response to the audit, the Respondent provided proof of completion of the required continuing education requirements.

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- 8. The Respondent also wrote a letter to the Board dated October 18, 2022 explaining he did not submit a renewal application and pay the required renewal fee to the Board before his license expired on August 17, 2022 because of a "mistake due to oversight." The Respondent further explained "during this period, there was however 1 instance where a document was signed and sealed on 9-29-2022. It is attached for your reference. During this time my Virginia P.E. license was in good standing."
- 9. By signing and sealing a document while his license was expired, the Respondent neither deliberately nor willfully violated the Act. Nonetheless, to resolve this matter, the Respondent admits, and consents to the entry of an Order finding, that by signing and sealing a document on September 29, 2022, while his Maryland license was expired, the Respondent did violate the Maryland Professional Engineers Act, Bus. Occ. & Prof., §§14-317(a)(1)(vii) and 14-504(b) that provide:

§ 14-317. Denial, suspension, or revocation of license-Grounds.

- (a)(1) In general. —Subject to the hearing provisions of § 14-319 of this subtitle, the Board, on the affirmative vote of a majority of its members then serving, may deny a license to any applicant, reprimand any licensee, or suspend or revoke a license if:
- (vii) the applicant or licensee violates any provision of this title.
- (2)(i) Instead of or in addition to reprimanding a licensee or suspending or revoking a license under this subsection, the Board may impose a penalty not exceeding \$5,000 for each violation.
- (ii) To determine the amount of the penalty imposed under this subsection, the Board shall consider:

¹ Section 1, ch. 613, Acts 2013, redesignated former §§14-402 and 14-403 of this Article as Subtitle 4A Miscellaneous.

- 1. the seriousness of the violation;
- 2. the harm caused by the violation;
- 3. the good faith of the licensee; and
- 4. any history of previous violations by the licensee.
- (3) The Board shall pay any penalty collected under this subsection into the General Fund of the State.

§14-504. Endorsement of Documents.

- (b) Revoked, suspended, or expired license. While the license of an individual is suspended, revoked, or expired, a person may not endorse a document, as provided under §14-402 of this title,² with the name or seal of the individual.
- 10. In connection with the Respondent's violation of BOP §§14-317(a)(1)(vii) and 14-504(b), the Respondent agrees to pay, and the Board agrees to accept, a civil penalty in the amount of three hundred dollars (\$300.00). The Respondent agrees to pay the civil penalty within thirty (30) days of the date of this Consent Order by certified check, cashier's check, or money order payable to the Maryland Board for Professional Engineers. The Respondent shall mail the check to the Maryland Board for Professional Engineers, Division of Occupational and Professional Licensing, Maryland Department of Labor, 1100 N. Eutaw Street, Fifth Floor, Baltimore, Maryland 21201.
- 11. The Respondent agrees that he enters this Consent Order knowingly, freely, and voluntarily, having had the opportunity to consult with an attorney at his own expense and of his own choosing. By entering into this Consent Order, the Respondent expressly waives the right to an administrative hearing pursuant to BOP §14-319, any further proceedings before the Board to which the Respondent may be entitled in this matter, and any rights to appeal from this Consent Order and Settlement Agreement to any court of competent jurisdiction.
- 12. The Respondent agrees that this Consent Order fully and finally resolves Case No. 10-PE-2023, constitutes the Board's Final Order, and the Board may enforce this Consent Order as a Final Order. The Respondent acknowledges that the Board's records and publications will reflect the violation and the civil penalty imposed on the Respondent.

BASED UPON THE STIPULATIONS AND AGREEMENTS DESCRIBED ABOVE, IT IS THIS 26 DAY OF April , 2023:

ORDERED that by signing and sealing a document while the Respondent's professional engineer license registration number 05-20546 was expired, the Respondent violated the Maryland Professional Engineers Act, Md. Code Ann., Bus. Occ. & Prof., §§14-317(a)(1)(vii) and 14-504(b), and it is further,

² See footnote 1.

ORDERED that in connection with the violation the Respondent shall pay a civil penalty of three hundred dollars (\$300.00) in accordance with paragraph 10 of this Consent Order, and it is further

ORDERED that the Respondent has expressly waived the right to an administrative hearing pursuant to BOP §14-319, any further proceedings before the Board to which the Respondent may be entitled in this matter, and any rights to appeal from this Consent Order and Settlement Agreement to any court of competent jurisdiction; and it is further

ORDERED that the Board's records and publications shall reflect the violation and the civil penalty imposed on the Respondent.

STATE BOARD FOR PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS

Bv:

Signature on File

Chairperson

AGREED:

4-26-2023

Signature on File

Satish W. Korpe, Respondent