

**STATE OF MARYLAND  
BOARD OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTANCY  
BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES  
January 5, 2021**

**LOCATION:** Google Meets Teleconference

**MEMBERS**

**IN ATTENDANCE:** James E. Marshall, Jr., Chair  
Macon M. Ware, III, Secretary  
Dr. Jan L. Williams  
Barrett E. Young  
Leslie Mostow  
Joe Petito  
Brian Dunne

**MEMBERS/STAFF**

**ABSENT:** Shanai Jordan, Executive Director  
Norbert Fenwick, CE Consultant  
Alex Quinn, Investigator

**DLLR OFFICIALS/STAFF:**

Gregory Morgan, Commissioner  
Christopher Dorsey, Assistant Executive Director  
Matthew Lawrence, Legal Counsel  
Linda L. Rhew, Administrative Officer

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Mary Beth Halpern, MACPA

The January 5, 2021, meeting of the Maryland Board of Public Accountancy was called to order at 9:03 AM by Chairman of the Board, James E. Marshall, Jr.

Upon a motion **(I)** by Mr. Mostow, and seconded by Mr. Petito, the minutes of the December 1, 2020, meeting were unanimously approved without corrections.

**Chairman's Report**

Chairman Marshall provided a summary of the Board's activity for the 2020 year to show how much the Board has accomplished.

For 2020 the Education Committee reported there were 26 (twenty-six) transfer of grade approvals and 2 (two) denials.

The Experience Committee reported that a total of 90 reciprocal applications were approved and one denial, as well as 237 Maryland exam candidate license applications were approved with 0 denials for 2020.

The Firm Committee reports for 2020 reported there were thirty-six (36) firm permits approved and one denial.

The Peer Review Committee reported a total of fifty-two (52) reports were accepted, seventeen (17) reports pass with deficiencies, nine (9) reports were failures. During 2020, 19 (nineteen) firms enrolled in the program and 7 (seven) dis-enrolled.

The Complaint Committee began the year with thirty-three (33) open complaints. The Board received seventy-five (75) new complaints and closed sixty-seven (67) complaints. At the end of 2020 there were forty-one (41) open complaints.

### **Executive Director's Report**

Mr. Dorsey reported for Ms. Jordan, that a budget report was not available for this meeting. Staff are working on it and do expect to have one for the February meeting.

Upon a motion **(II)** by Mr. Ware, and seconded by Mr. Petito, the Board unanimously approved the Executive Director's report.

### **Exam Appeals**

There were no exam appeals.

### **Education Report**

Dr. Williams presented the Education Report. There were zero (0) Transfer of Grades application approvals. There was one (1) transfer of grades application from New York that was a denial due to the applicant lacking three (3) semester credit hours in US federal income tax and in ethics.

Upon a motion **(III)** by Mr. Petito, and seconded by Mr. Young, the Board unanimously approved the Education Report.

### **Experience Report**

Mr. Mostow presented the Experience Report. There were seven (7) Reciprocal applications approved, zero (0) Reciprocal application denials. The seven (7) Reciprocal applications originated from the following states: 1-NJ, 1-TX, 4-VA and 1-WY.

There were seventeen (17) Maryland candidate license application approvals and zero (0) Maryland candidate application denials.

Upon a motion **(IV)** by Mr. Dunne, and seconded by Mr. Ware, the Board unanimously approved the Experience Report.

### **Firm Permit Report**

Mr. Dunne presented the Firm Permit Report. There were two (2) Maryland firm permit applications approved with offices located in Maryland. There were zero (0) firm permit applications closed.

Upon a motion **(V)** by Mr. Barrett, and seconded by Mr. Young, the Board unanimously approved the Firm Permit Report.

### **Peer Review Oversight Committee Report**

Mr. Ware reported the following: Two (2) new firms have enrolled in the Peer Review Program since December 1; 21 (twenty-one) firms have had reviews accepted since December 1; zero (0) firms have failed since December 1; zero (0) firms were dropped or terminated since December 1; and two (2) firms have passed with deficiencies since December 1.

Upon a motion **(VI)** by Mr. Petito, and seconded by Dr. Williams, the Board unanimously approved the Peer Review Report.

### **New Business**

No new business.

### **Old Business**

Commissioner Morgan shared with the Board information pertaining to emails being received and responded to concerning enquiries to become a CPA in Maryland.

Chairman Marshall asked for an update at the February meeting in regard to the progress of firm succession.

Chairman Marshall inquired about Mr. Mostow contacting NASBA about the CE tool program's progress. Mr. Mostow reported the CE tool is a work in progress.

Mr. Mostow shared with the Board that he had the opportunity to watch a demo conducted by NASBA, AICPA and Prometric showing a candidate taking a remote virtual test. Mr. Mostow stated he had concerns, as cheating appears to be an easy thing to do. Mr. Mostow pointed out that, based on the demo, a candidate could be receiving information from an outside party via a wireless headset, as the phone would not need to be visible.

Mr. Mostow informed the Board about NASBA's ongoing efforts to establish a chapter of The Center for Public Trust at the University of Maryland. He noted that Deloitte sponsors many chapters around the country. Mr. Mostow also indicated that UMD has an organization called C-BERC, The Center for Business Ethics, Regulation and Crime, part the school of public policy. Mr. Mostow believes the Board will need support from may directors within the UMD to start a chapter. Finally, NASBA are contacting Alfonzo Alexander, president of the CPT, for help in providing material to the UMD.

### **Correspondence**

The status of the letter that was received from received from J.J. Schmelzle concerning the Peer Review process was discussed briefly. The Board members stressed their desire to have staff provide their response as soon as possible.

The Board was reminded, Ms. Halpern from MACPA will present the annual report at the February meeting.

**Executive Session**

Upon a motion **(VII)**, by Mr. Young, and seconded by Mr. Petito, the Board went into a closed Executive Session at 9:21 AM via a Google meeting teleconference, where log-in information was only provided to Board members and staff. The purpose of this session was to consult with counsel. This session is permitted to be closed pursuant to Section 3-305(b) (7) of the General Provisions Article, Maryland Annotated Code. It returned to the regular business meeting at 9:28 AM upon a motion **(VIII)**, by Mr. Petito, and seconded by Mr. Young.

**Return to Open Session**

Upon a motion **(IX)** by Dr. Williams, and seconded by Mr. Young, the Board unanimously approved the motions made during Executive Session.

Upon a motion **(X)** by Mr. Petito, and seconded by Mr. Ware, the Board adjourned at 9:31 AM.

**NEXT MEETING:** February 2, 2021, via Google Meets teleconferencing at 9:00 AM

\_\_\_\_ With corrections    X Without corrections

Signature on original document

2/2/2021

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Chairman

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date