



State of Idaho
Division of Occupational and Professional Licenses
Board of Accountancy

BRAD LITTLE
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Board Meeting Minutes of 10/19/2023

Board Members Present: Kevin Oakey - Chair
Jason Peery
Michael Armstrong Jr.
Jamie Duman
Toni Hackwith
Cynthia Harmon
Larry Hunter

Division Staff: Kent Absec, Executive Officer
Greg Loos, General Counsel
John Price, Investigative Unit Supervisor
Lizzie Kukla, Licensing Unit Manager
Charlene Nelson, Licensing Specialist
Christian Runnalls, Board Support Specialist

Others Present: Andrea Rosholt, Rosholt Law

The meeting was called to order at 9:23 AM by Kevin Oakey.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made and seconded to approve the 7/18/2023 minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

DIVISION BUSINESS

Executive Agency Legislation: Ms. Kukla explained that the Division has put forth executive agency legislation for the 2024 Legislative Session that would change renewals from an annual renewal to a biennial renewal with the expiration date remaining as the licensee's birthday.

Financial Update: Ms. Kukla gave the financial report, which indicated that the Board had a cash balance of \$826,969.30 as of June 30, 2023.

BOARD BUSINESS

Contingent Credit Period: Mr. Absec stated that four surrounding states have adopted the NASBA rule to increase the conditional credit exam section timeframe from 18 to 30 months. He further stated that the Board cannot officially adopt the extended timeframe due to a conflict in rule that will need to be resolved through a rule change in 2024, but that the Board can delegate authority to the Executive Officer to waive the 18-month requirement for candidates taking the exam after January 1, 2024.

A motion was made and seconded to delegate authority to the Executive Officer to waive the 18-month time limit on conditional credit for exam sections passed after January 1, 2024, until a rule change is implemented. The motion was amended to delegate authority to the Executive Officer to waive the 18-month time limit to no less than 30 months on conditional credit exam sections starting on January 1, 2024, until a rule change is implemented. The motion carried unanimously.

Credit Relief Initiative: Mr. Absec informed the Board that NASBA has asked state licensing Boards to extend credit for exam sections that expired between January 30, 2020, and May 11, 2023, to June 30, 2025, to offset the hardships caused by the declaration of emergency orders due to the pandemic. Mr. Absec stated that since Idaho had a shorter lockdown period and Idaho continued testing during the lockdown, Idaho had fewer extension requests than most other states. He presented a breakdown of affected Idaho candidates to the Board.

A motion was made and seconded to adopt the credit relief initiative and delegate authority to the Executive Officer to grant appeals to candidates who apply for credit that was lost from January 1, 2020, to December 1, 2023. Following discussion, the motion carried unanimously.

Firm ESOP Ownership: Mr. Absec informed the Board that a larger accounting firm is going to be organized under an ESOP ownership and some States oppose this. He stated that Idaho has had different types of ownership brought before the Board. In previous cases, the Board did not take a position on this type of firm ownership at a meeting. Mr. Loos clarified that the Board's statute does allow for partial ownership of a firm by a non-licensed entity.

Delegated Authority to Close Expungement Requests: A motion was made and seconded to delegate authority to Division staff to close expungement requests that fall under Idaho Code § 67-1413(3). The Motion carried unanimously.

Delegated Authority for Closing Unfounded Complaints: A motion was made and seconded to delegate authority to Division staff to close unfounded complaints. The motion carried unanimously.

SSNs for Applicants: Mr. Absec stated that under Idaho Code § 73-122 the Board is required to have an applicant's social security number so the Board will start collecting social security numbers from applicants. Mr. Absec stated that the licensee's files that are sent to NASBA will not have the full social security number included and that the new licensing system, OASIS, is encrypted to protect sensitive information.

Conference Updates: Mr. Absec stated that NASBA committee assignments have been sent out. He stated that the next NASBA meeting is in New York at the end of the month.

Licensing Report: Ms. Nelson presented the licensing report to the Board.

Public Comment: Laura Lantz, Idaho Society of Certified Public Accountants, stated her appreciation for the discussions the Board has had in the meeting and is pleased with the actions the Board has taken in helping candidates.

Executive Session

A motion was made and seconded to enter executive session under Idaho Code § 74-206(1)(d) to consider records that are exempt from disclosure under the Idaho Public Records Law, Idaho Code § 74-106(9). The purpose of the executive session was to discuss documents relating to the fitness of a licensee to retain a license or registration. The vote was: Ms. Hackwith, aye; Ms. Harmon, aye; Mr. Armstrong, aye; Ms. Duman, aye; Mr. Hunter, aye; Mr. Peery; and Mr. Oakey, aye. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made and seconded to exit executive session. The motion carried unanimously.

Discipline

A motion was made and seconded to close case numbers I-ACC-2024-1, I-ACC-2024-2, and I-ACC-2024-3 with an advisory letter. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made and seconded to close case number I-ACC-2024-4. The motion carried unanimously.

Adjourn

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:35 PM.