

New Hampshire Board of Accountancy
Minutes from the June 22, 2009
Public Meeting
Held at the Office of the Board of Accountancy



Present: Jefferson Chickering, CPA, Chairman, Deborah Butler, CPA, Secretary, Richard O. Hanson, CPA, Wayne Geher, CPA, Owen Walton, Public Accountant, Sheila Christie, Public Member, and Andrea Goldberg, Public Member.

Absent: None

1. The public session of the Board convened at 8:46 am and adjourned at 12:19 pm. The non-public session convened at 12:30 pm and adjourned at 1:50 pm.
2. The minutes from the May 18, 2009 meeting were adopted with minor grammatical changes.
3. Marlene Gazda, CEO and Harold Williams, CPA, attended this meeting as representatives of the NH Society of CPA's. Pam Lemire, Robert Vachon, CPA and Geoffrey Bracket, CPA, attended representing New England Peer Review.
4. **The following Newsletters were reviewed:**
 - A. **NASBA State Board Report- May 2009**
>No comments
 - B. **North Carolina State Board Report- No. 5-2009**
>It was noted that North Carolina requires a minimum of 2 hours in a group study course or a four hour self-study course on professional ethics and conduct.
 - C. **Missouri State Board Report- April 2009**
>It was noted that Missouri requires that licensees earn a minimum of 2 hours of ethics every year. This would require a licensee earn 6 hours in a three year renewal period.
 - D. **Maryland Board of Accountancy "The Account Balance" Newsletter Spring 2009**
>It was noted that Maryland is considering allowing exam candidates to sit for the CPA exam with 120 hours of education and then require 150 hours of education to obtain certification. It was also noted that Maryland's examination pass rate for the January/February window was 50.7%.
 - E. **AICPA State Regulatory Update- Summer 2009**
>It was noted that according to the proposed NASBA internationalization of the exam plan, candidates would consent to comply with each state Board eligibility requirements for the exam and for certification.

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5. General Correspondence Reviewed

A. NASBA Quarterly Summary of the Computer Based Testing Steering Group Report for the first Quarter 2009

>This document was reviewed, no comments.

B. Issues for Spring Council, Dated April 2009 from the AICPA

> The CPA Society presented this document to the Board at the May 18, 2009 Board Meeting and the Board requested it be included in June's correspondence. The title of the paper is "Federal Regulation of Tax Preparers". The pros and cons of such an initiative were discussed. Points that were made included, the concern that if non-CPA's held a "license" or a "registration" or some type of endorsement this might further confuse the general public on the roles and different levels of service a non-licensee and a licensee can offer and who is regulated and by whom. Further discussion included concerns regarding which governmental body would be responsible for regulating such a large population and how enforcement would work. The pro side of the issue is that there may be value in regulating, in some manner, those that prepare tax returns for others for fees. However, it seemed appropriate that the regulating could come in the same form as the Enrolled Agent status and could stem from the IRS. This matter will stay on the agenda for future discussion.

C. Internal Revenue Service Newswire Article- June 4, 2009

>In this article IRS Commissioner Doug Shulman announced on June 4, 2009 that by the end of 2009 he will propose a comprehensive set of recommendations to help the IRS better leverage the tax return preparer community with the twin goals of increasing taxpayer compliance and ensuring uniform and high ethical standards of conduct for tax preparers.

D. An Excerpt from the Publication-Review & Outlook dated May 19, 2009

>According to this publication, the Supreme Court agreed on May 18, 2009 to hear arguments in a case challenging the constitutionality of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.

6. Correspondence Requiring a Response

A. Vermont Public Accounting Firm

> A Vermont firm asked the Board if performing a peer review in New Hampshire would require a firm license. The Board agreed that a firm from Vermont providing only peer review services in New Hampshire would not need a firm license.

B. Request for Waiver of 18 Months

>An exam candidate asked the Board to extend her 18 months to pass all four parts so she did not lose Regulation. The candidate has experienced a tragedy in her family; however, after a review of the facts in the case, the Board felt that whereas the reason for the requested waiver occurred in 2005 and the candidate has sat several times since then and had passed audit, that the extension would not be granted.

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7. Old and New Business

A. Ethics Committee

>Mr. Hanson reported that the Board's Ethics Committee had met with Judith Labbe-Huard, Chairman of the NH Society's Ethics Committee to discuss the Board's proposed CPE course outline. Mr. Hanson reported that the two committees came to an agreement on the draft. Mr. Hanson did comment that he felt that it might not be appropriate to have the society involved in pre-approving courses whereas the Society is a CPE vendor. There were several suggestions for the pre-approval method, all suggestions will be reviewed. Mr. Hanson will forward the draft to the Ethics Committee of the Society for their review.

B. House Bill 256 -Mobility Legislation

>This legislation has passed both houses and has been enrolled. The staff will prepare information, instructions and new forms to reflect the changes.

C. House Resolution 5716 Licensing of Tax Preparers

>Ms. Gazda expressed the Society's concerns over this issue.

D. Peer Review Oversight Committee

>No new information.

E. CPE for Board Meetings

>The Board will consider allowing CPE to be earned when licensees attend certain Board meetings. This will stay on agenda.

F. International Standards (GAAP vs IFRS)

>No discussion.

G. Board Budget for 2009 and Budget Request for 2010-2011

>The Board was updated on the state budget proposed cuts and state employee layoffs.

H. Peer Assistance Program

>No discussion.

I. CPE Audit

>The majority of the audits are completed with only a few remaining.

J. NASBA Committee Updates (UAA, Communications and CLEC)

>The Board reviewed a Power Point Presentation from NASBA on the Communications Committee. This presentation suggested ways for the Board to better communicate with its licensees and the public. Mr. Chickering announced that both himself and Louise Romeo had won the Communications Committee contest conducted by NASBA.

K. Exam Content

>No Comments

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L. Meeting With Representative of New England Peer Review (NEPR)

>Pam Lemire, Executive Director, Geoffrey Brackett, CPA , Clerk and Robert Vachon, CPA, Technical Reviewer came in to meet with the Board. The representatives of NEPR updated the Board on the new peer review changes and spoke in general about NEPR. The Executive Directors of both organizations will meet periodically to discuss matters concerning both agencies. It was also decided that the Board's Peer Review Oversight Committee would also meet periodically with representatives of NEPR to discuss matters concerning both of those entities.

M. Society Update

>Mr. Chickering asked Ms. Gazda to update the Board on Society matters which might interest the Board. Ms. Gazda reported that the Society as well as the Board is waiting for HB 256 to be signed by the Governor. She stated that the society is monitoring the state budget proposals and were working with different state agencies regarding the different state tax proposals.

N. Memorandum of Understanding

As discussed previously, the Board and the Society is attempting to draft a document that both agencies will sign to further the effort of cooperation between the two entities. Mr. Chickering requested that Ms. Gazda review the document entitled "Memorandum of Understanding". As this is a working draft changes could be made to include items of interest not represented should either side regard a missing matter relevant. Ms. Gazda will present the draft to her Board of Directors on July 16, 2009.

N. Board Meetings at Colleges

>The Board is scheduled to meet at Southern New Hampshire University on October 19th which will hopefully include St. Anselm's and will attempt to arrange a meeting at UNH in November.

O. Multi-State Compact

>Mr. Chickering reported that at the NASBA Regional Meeting there was a suggestion that the New England states arrange a meeting to initiate discussions on a possible multi-state compact. This compact may include but not be limited to the possible convergence of requirements for experience, education, CPE requirement etc. Mr. Chickering will continue to discuss this initiative with other state board representatives.

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8. The following applications for Certification as a Certified Public Accountant in New Hampshire were approved on June 22, 2009.

1	Rami T. Alnagi	4911
2	Konstanze Amtrup	4912
3	Anthony H. Aylward	4913
4	Marcia D. Baker	4914
5	Emily J. Butler	4915
6	Jennifer A. Caron	4916
7	Wan Sum Chiu	4917
8	Badr El Hassan	4918
9	Ehud Yehuda Feiner	4919
10	Anke Franzbach	4920
11	Chunli Fu	4921
12	Yuki Furukawa	4922
13	Eduardo A. Ho	4923
14	Rainer A. Mueller	4924
15	Kosuke Nakamura	4925
16	Yoshihiro Nakayama	4926
17	Thomas W. Perry	4927
18	Sultan T. Qamhawi	4928
19	Ryan E. Raymond	4929
20	Geovanie D. Rodgers	4930
21	Bernhard Schaden	4931
22	Katie A. Scheier	4932
23	Paul A. Smythe	4933
24	Norbert F Solbrig	4934
25	Katrin B. Sturm	4935
26	Shekegra C. Thompson	4936
27	Katherine M. Touby	4937
28	Vy K. Truong	4938
29	Satoshi Tsunoda	4939
30	Michael J. Walsh	4940
31	Dominic B. Williams	4941
32	Chung Keun Yim	4942
33	Zhe Zhang	4943

9. Upon the motion of Owen Walton and the second of Deborah Butler, the Board, by roll call vote, resolved to conduct a non-public session for the purpose of discussing complaints of alleged licensee misconduct. This non-public meeting is authorized by RSA 91-A: 3,II (c), RSA 91-A: 3,II (e), RSA 91-A: 5, IV Lodge v. Knowlton, 118 N.H. 574 (1978) and the Board's executive and deliberative privileges. Each member recorded his or her vote on the motion, which passed by a unanimous roll call vote which is as follows:

Vote: Jefferson Chickering, Yea
Andrea Goldberg, Yea
Wayne Geher, Yea
Deborah Butler, Yea
Sheila Christie, Yea
Richard O. Hanson, Yea
Owen Walton, Yea

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- 10.** Upon the motion of Richard Hanson and the second of Jefferson Chickering, the Board, by roll call vote, resolved to withhold the minutes of the preceding non-public session from public disclosure pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, III on the grounds that public disclosure would be likely to effect adversely the reputation of a person other than a board member and to render the proposed action ineffective. Each member recorded his or her vote on the motion, which passed by a unanimous roll vote of all members present which is recorded as follows:

Vote: Jefferson Chickering, Yea
Andrea Goldberg, Yea
Wayne Geher, Yea
Sheila Christie, Yea
Deborah Butler, Yea
Richard O. Hanson, Yea
Owen Walton, Yea

Deborah Butler, Secretary and Certified Public
Accountant