

**Vermont Secretary of State
Office of Professional Regulation
BOARD OF ACCOUNTANCY
MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 25, 2007**

1. The meeting was called to order at 9:15 a.m.

Members present: Pamela J. Douglass, CPA, Chairperson; Lee Spivey, CPA, Vice Chair; Claire LaVoie, CPA, Secretary; John Borch, CPA, and Rita Knapp, Ad Hoc member.

Member absent: Cairn Cross, Public member.

OPR Staff present: Kevin Leahy, Board Counsel; Edward Adrian, Prosecuting Attorney; Carla Preston, Unit Administrator and Patty Skinner, Administrative Assistant

2. The chair called for approval of the August 28, 2007 minutes. Mr. Spivey made a motion, seconded by Ms. LaVoie, to approve the minutes as read.

3. **Hearings/Stipulations**

- a. 9:30 a.m. The Board held a hearing regarding the State's request for Summary Suspension in the matter of Connie J. Anania, CPA, AC05-0807 and Connie J. Anania, CPA (firm), AC06-0807. The respondent, Connie J. Anania was not present. Attorney Edward Adrian presided for the State. Attorney Kevin Leahy presided for the Board. Ms. Knapp was an Ad Hoc member for this hearing. The Board voted to accept the state's request to summarily suspend the respondents licenses.

4. **Complaints/Follow-up cases**

- a. Report of Concluded Investigation in the matter of APP-AC17-0207. Mr. Spivey made a motion, seconded by Ms. LaVoie, to approve the investigation teams recommendation to close the case without charges. Mr. Borch investigating team member did not participate in the vote.

5. **Reports**

6. **The Board reviewed and discussed the following applications for licensure:**

Mr. Spivey made a motion, seconded by Ms. LaVoie, to approve the following applicants for licensure. Motion passed unanimously.

Bahirwani, Manish – Examination Bishop, Aaron – Reinstatement
Schiffman, Paul & Dattilio, P.C. – Firm

The Board reviewed the applications listed below and noted that documents were either missing or unacceptable to complete the applications. The applicant will be notified of the Board's findings.

Judge, Cara M. – Endorsement- The Board reviewed Ms. Judge's application for

licensure as a certified public accountant, but was unable to approve it due to lack of CPE's within two years preceding the application. The Board will also like to see Ms. Judge's CPE's through 7/23/2007. The Board will also remind Ms. Judge of the specific ethics courses that are acceptable for renewal purposes.

Otis/Atwell, LLC – Firm – The Board reviewed the application for registration of Otis/Atwell, LLC for firm registration, but was unable to approve it due to the fact that there does not appear to be anything in the Operating Agreement which shows that any ownership would preclude majority ownership by non CPA's as specified in Title 26, Chapter 1, § 74 (b).

7. AICPA Correspondence

8. NASBA Correspondence

- a. The Board reviewed and noted all correspondence

9. Correspondence

- a. The Board reviewed and noted all correspondence.

10. Public Comments

11. Other Board Business

- a. The Board decided to have a public rules hearing on November 6, 2007 prior to submission to ICAR and LCAR. This would give licensees an opportunity to communicate their thoughts on the rules before their busy season. The Board will do a mailing that will highlight the most controversial and extensive changes and notify licensees of the public hearing in November. The draft rules will be posted on our website and the memos will inform licensees of the hearing date.

The Board will request Deb Riley to post this information on their website for the Vermont Society of CPA's as well.

- b. The Board discussed how to handle name changes for accountancy firms and decided that new applications would be required since it usually involves a change in ownership. Chapter 26, Title 1, § 74 (b)
- c. The Board stressed the importance of having a downloadable form on it's website for licensees to keep track of their CPE's.
- d. Ms. Douglass attended a meeting in Connecticut to discuss mobility. The Board discussed mobility of licensees to go from one state to another without a temporary permit. An agreement would allow the state to charge a respondent with unprofessional conduct verses unlicensed practice.

The Board felt that this might be a better practice than what we have now.

e. The Board held an election of officers, and they are as follows:

Pamela Douglass – Chair

Lee Spivey – Vice Chair

Claire LaVoie - Secretary

12. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.