

**Vermont Secretary of State
Office of Professional Regulation
BOARD OF ACCOUNTANCY
MINUTES
JULY 31ST , 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 and Cairn Cross, Public member

Members Absent: John Borch, CPA

OPR Staff Present: Kevin Leahy, Board Counsel; Robert Backus and Judith Cutler, Prosecuting Attorneys; Carla Preston, Unit Administrator and Patty Skinner, Administrative Assistant.

Others Present: John F. Darcy and Danielle Clark from The Darcy Group

- 2. The minutes of the June 26th meeting were unavailable due to the relocation of offices from Redstone to National Life Building**

- 3. Hearings/Stipulations**

- a. Hearing in the matter of AC11-0306 and AC12-0306, John F. Darcy and the Darcy Group Ltd. Attorney Kevin Leahy, presided for the Board. Robert Backus and Judy Cutler, State Prosecuting Attorney's, were present for the State. The respondent and his witness were present. Ms. Douglass, investigative member, did not participate in the vote.

- 4. Complaints/Follow-up cases – N/A**

- 5. Reports – N/A**

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

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

**Erin Smith – Examination
Jennifer Swenor – Endorsement**

**LarsonAllen, LLP – Name Change
David Littlehale - Reinstatement**

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

Arthur Ham - Examination – The Board reviewed Mr. Ham's application for licensure, but was unable to approve it due to the fact that Mr. Ham's "Report of Supervised Experience Form" was not filled out correctly by his supervisor.

Ronald H.R. Smith - Endorsement – The Board reviewed Mr. Smith's application for licensure by endorsement, but was unable to approve it due to the lack of an acceptable ethics course.

RHR Smith & Co., CPA's – Firm – The Board reviewed the application for the firm and found it to be incomplete. A copy of the firm's peer review is required.

7. AICPA Correspondence

8. NASBA Correspondence

- a. The Board reviewed and noted all correspondence

9 Correspondence

- a. The Board reviewed all of the correspondence.

10. Public Comments

11. Other Board Business

- a. Cases outstanding –number/timing of future hearings was discussed
- b. Newsletter topics and a draft were reviewed. The Board will be addressing the issue of audit and attest function hours.
- c. Review of rules:

Effective July 1, 2007 the statute (26 V.S.A. § 71a) was amended to delete the provision which allowed candidates to apply to sit for the Certified Public Accountant examination with only 60 semester hours of college credit. This amendment effectively changed the minimum to 120 semester hours of college credit to be eligible to sit for the CPA examination. It was clear that any candidate applying to sit for the examination after July 1, 2007 must have 120 semester hours to be eligible. The Board discussed the need for transition for those candidates who were approved with only 60 credits (minimum) and have taken all or portions of the CPA examination. The transition applies to the timeframe in which to pass all

portions of the examination and for licensure requirements. Since the Board only required 60 semester hours, CPAES reviewed applications to meet that minimum. The Board anticipates that most candidates will have considerably more than 60 semester hours of college credit.

- Candidates approved to sit for the CPA examination prior to June 30, 2007 on the basis of 60 credits, but have not yet passed all components, would be allowed two years to successfully complete the examination. To become licensed, applicants would be applying under the current statutes and must demonstrate a minimum of 120 semester hours (i.e., 120 credits, demonstrate two years of experience, etc.).
- Candidates who have passed all components of the CPA examination as of June 30, 2007 may apply for licensure under the old rules. Experience requirements would be considered under the old rules (i.e., 60 credits, demonstrate four years of experience, etc.). These candidates would have already received notification from the Board re the experience and other requirements to be met for licensure.

Applicants may petition the Board for a hardship for good cause shown, which would be considered on a case by case basis. The hardship must pertain to the acceptance of experience in lieu of additional college credits.

The Board will inform CPAES of these transition requirements immediately. CPAES has agreed to notify all candidates. This Policy will be posted on the Board's Web site and included in its Newsletter.

12. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:50 p.m.

Due to conflicts, the date for the next Board of Accountancy meeting will be discussed.