

Vermont Secretary of State
Office of Professional Regulation
BOARD OF STEOPATHIC PHYSICIANS & SURGEONS
UNAPPROVED MINUTES
September 11, 2008

1. The meeting was called to order at 10:10 a.m.

Board members present: Howard S. Jonas, D.O., Chair; William Cove, D.O., Vice-Chair; John Welch, Esq.; and Mary C. Mazzariello. Absent: John Peterson, D.O.

OPR staff present: Larry Novins, Board Counsel; Carla Preston, Unit Administrator; and Kara Shangraw, Administrative Assistant.

Others present: Via-phone J. Davis Buckley, Esq.

2. The Chair called for approval of the Minutes of the June 12th meeting. Mr. Welch made a motion, seconded by Dr. Cove, to approve the Minutes of the June 12, 2008 meeting as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

3. **Hearings/Stipulations Review:**

A status hearing was held in the matter of William A. Birge, Docket Numbers OS01-0806 and OS05-0506. The Respondent was not present. Dr. Birge's Attorney, J. Davis Buckley, Esq., regarding prior cases, participated via telephone. Dr. Birge's license was suspended in 2006. The reason for this hearing was to resolve the pending cases. Based on the information presented, the Board voted to leave the status of Dr. Birge's license as Suspended, and to close the pending cases against this license until Dr. Birge requests reinstatement.

4. **Reports/Guests:**

5. **Legislation/Rulemaking:**

6. **Complaints/follow-up cases:**

7. **Applications/Discussion:**

The Board voted to formally approve the following applicants for licensure as Osteopathic Physicians:

Kevin White—032-559

Robert Morley—032-560

Melissa Lantz—032-561

David Simcoe—032-562

8. Newsletter Topics:

9. Correspondence:

- a. The Board reviewed and noted the miscellaneous correspondence.

10. Federation of State Medical Boards Correspondence:

- a. The Board reviewed and noted the June 2008 and July 2008 “Newslines.”
- b. The Board reviewed and noted the Journal of Medical Licensure and Discipline.
- c. The Board reviewed and noted the FSMB Handbook 2008-2009.

11. Other Business Introduced by the Board

Dr. Jonas mentioned his concerns about physicians leaving the state without notifying their patients. Attorney Novins noted that there is information available via the Internet for proper steps in closing a practice. After considerable discussion, the Board agreed to include some recommendations and websites on the subject of closing a practice in its next newsletter. The group agreed that there were many different variables to the closing of a practice.

12. Public Comment

13. The meeting adjourned at 11:20 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kara Shangraw
Administrative Assistant