

**Vermont Secretary of State
Office of Professional Regulation
BOARD OF ACCOUNTANCY
Location: 89 Main Street, 3rd Floor, Montpelier, VT 05602**

Approved Minutes

September 20, 2016

Members present: Joshua Partlow, Thomas Shortle, Steve Love, John Borch and Danny Coane

Staff present: Gabriel Gilman, Carla Preston, Lauren Hibbert, Rachel Allen and Aprille Morrison

1. The Chair called the meeting to order at 9:04 am.
2. **Approval of the Minutes of the August 23, 2016 meeting.** Mr. Love made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Mr. Coane seconded the motion. Motion passed.
3. **Reports/Follow-up cases.** Case Managers Report by Carla Preston

Ms. Preston informed the Board they currently have fifteen (15) pending cases. One (1) is on hold, two (2) the Investigative Team has recommended closing, ten (10) are under investigation, and two (2) are pending charges being filed.

Carla Preston and Lauren Hibbert met with Board members to discuss a new Investigative Team procedure that prosecution would like members to start using. Ms. Preston will forward the form-fillable paper to members to use in assisting the office during the Investigation process.

4. **Hearings/Stipulations/Concluded Investigations:** None
5. **Correspondence/Discussion items**

NASBA Academic Credential Evaluation Service. Mr. Partlow participated in a regional call with NASBA and there was discussion regarding the credential evaluation service that NASBA provides. Mr. Partlow wanted to inform members that this service was available and additional discussion regarding the Vermont Board using this service may be had at another meeting. There was also discussion regarding social security number (SSN) requirements. Vermont currently does not require an accountant to have an SSN to sit for the examination or be licensed. The Board is considering making an SSN requirement for licensure and requiring an assertion at licensure that the candidate intends to practice in Vermont. However this will need to be discussed at greater length and Mr. Partlow suggested requesting comments from current licensees and the Vermont Society as part of the rule revision public comment process. Ms. Morrison informed members that they currently have 893 applicants to sit for the exam, 424 applicants who have passed all four parts of the exam and are in the process of meeting the requirements for licensure and 1,250 licensed CPA's. Colin Benjamin, OPR Director, also attended this discussion and will report to the Board at their October meeting on their budget and the potential impact on the budget of requiring an SSN or intent to practice assertion.

Champlain College Test Outs. Lisa Lafoe e-mailed the Board regarding whether college courses that she has "tested out of" would be acceptable toward meeting her education requirement. The Board is not in a position to pre-approve courses or curriculums. Ms. Morrison will respond to Ms. Lafoe based upon feedback provided by the Board.

Administrative Rules Review and Revisions. Mr. Gilman provided Board members with a working draft of Administrative Rules for their review and conducted a detailed review of proposed rule revisions. The draft rules have been drafted in the new format developed by the Office of Professional Regulation. Significant proposed changes to the rules in addition to the format change include an SSN requirement, an intent to practice in Vermont assertion, clarification of self-reporting requirements, CPE Rule changes to adopt the new Statement on Standards for Continuing Professional Education Programs and fields of study and the addition of mandatory facilitated state board access to peer review results. The Board will continue work to finalize the proposed Rule revisions at the October Board meeting.

6. Licensing – Review the following applications for licensure

Mr. Shortle made a motion to approve the following applicants for licensure. Mr. Love seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Edward Berliner – Endorsement

Ashley Vencatagadoo – Exam

David Zahorsky – Endorsement

7. Election of Officers

Mr. Coane made a motion to keep the current slate of officers. Mr. Love seconded the motion. Motion passed. Officers are as follows:

Chair – Joshua Partlow

Vice Chair – Thomas Shortle

Secretary – John Borch

8. The next regularly scheduled meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 25, 2016.

9. Adjourn. There being no additional business Mr. Partlow adjourned the meeting at 3:45 pm.