

Connecticut State Board of Accountancy
Meeting Minutes
Monday, February 4, 2014 – 10:45 A.M.
Second Floor Conference Room
30 Trinity St., Hartford, CT 06106
860-509-6179
sboa@ct.gov

Acting Chairman Richard H. Gesseck, CPA called the meeting to order at 10:52 A.M. at the Connecticut State Board of Accountancy, 30 Trinity Street, Hartford, Connecticut.

Attorney Sonia Asare gave a brief summary of the Connecticut General Statutes § 20-280(b) which states in part “ a majority of the board members then serving shall constitute a quorum at any meeting duly called”, therefore the remaining two members can conduct the meeting. Mr. Gesseck and Ms. Triplett both agreed to address only routine matters and defer hearings and enforcement cases until 5 more members are appointed.

PRESENT:

Richard H. Gesseck, CPA
Martha S. Triplett, Esq. – By Conference

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

James F. Spallone, Deputy Secretary
Sonia Worrell Asare, Legal Counsel
Stephanie Sheff, License and Application Analysts
Constance Sakyi, Paralegal Specialist 1
Blanche Tucker-Reeves, Fiscal Administrative Manager
Av Harris, Communications Director
William Gardella, Legal Intern

OTHERS PRESENT:

Art Renner, CPA, Executive Director of CT Society of CPA
Camille Murphy, President of CT CPA
John L. Evanich, Jr., CPA
Marcia L. Marien, CPA
Ed Jacovino, Journal Inquirer

ACTION REQUIRED – Approve Minutes of the January 13, 2014 Board Meeting
Mr. Gesseck made a motion to accept the January 13, 2014 minutes. Mr. Triplett seconded the motion. Both Members voted in favor.

OFFICE UPDATE – JAMES F. SPALLONE, DEPUTY SECRETARY

Deputy Secretary Spallone stated that as of Monday, February 3, 2014, Staff Attorney Sonia Asare will be responsible for the day to day operations of the Office of State Board of Accountancy. Deputy Secretary Spallone also stated that the office will be under the supervision of the Deputy’s

Office and Attorney Sonia Asare will report to the Deputy Secretary. Deputy Spallone also stated that Attorney Asare has been with the office for 2 years and understands the office operations. Diane Steir, the former Interim Manager, has returned to her previous duties.

Deputy Spallone gave a brief biography of Attorney Sonia Asare, who graduated from Spelman College at Atlanta, Georgia with Bachelors in Economics, Syracuse University College of Law with a certificate in corporate law, and Maxwell School with a Masters in Economics and was admitted to Connecticut Practice since 2006. Attorney Asare worked at the Travelers Indemnity as a Senior Regulatory Analyst from 2007 to 2012 and presently an Adjunct Professor at the Capitol Community College, teaching economics.

ALD – DATE OF BIRTH & LAST 4 SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER UPDATE

Attorney Asare stated that she is working with the IT department regarding updating our website, applications and renewal forms to obtain DOB and Social Security numbers which will be protected. The personal data regulation and the Privacy Act have been posted on the SBOA's website. Applications will be updated to collect last four digits of social security numbers and date of birth. Applications will also have the language from the personal data regulation and disclosure statement. ALD is only available to executive directors of Boards of Accountancy.

Ms. Martha Triplett asked if Attorney Asare's title will change. Deputy Spallone stated that her title will still be Staff Attorney II and any changes will be reported to the Board at such time.

TRAINING MANUAL FOR FUTURE BOARD MEMBERS

Mr. Gesseck stated that subjects that need to be addressed are continuing education and licensure requirements, overview of key enforcement issues, competency, return of records, commissions and contingent fees. Mr. Gesseck suggested a three hour training sessions regarding the specified topics which will be necessary at the time of Board appointments. Attorney Asare stated that she will draft a power point presentation for the Board to review and also invite some individuals who previously trained the board to come back and train the new members of the Board. Ms. Triplett stated that one training will be appropriate for the new Board members and it should be done as soon as possible.

REGULATION (Sec. 20-280-24 Experience) APPROVED BY THE REGULATIONS REVIEW COMMITTEE

Attorney Sonia Asare stated that she submitted an amendment to Regulation Section 20-280-24 which required Continuing Professional Education of 16 hours attest and now it has been changed to 8 hours. The amendment was approved by the Regulations Review Committee on January 27, 2014 and it is posted on our website. Deputy Spallone stated that all of the Board's regulations are posted online and he would like to give the credit to Attorney Asare who worked hard to have the regulation approved.

STATE BOARD OF ACCOUNTANCY BUDGET REPORT

Blanche Reeves-Tucker, Fiscal Administrative Manager gave a brief summation of the budget and travel guidelines. Ms. Blanche Reeves-Tucker stated that the Board members have the option of being reimbursed by the Secretary of the State for their allotted travel expenses or have the agency take care of their travel arrangements.

EXAM AND LICENSING

Action required – Industry, Government, or Self Employed experience, and Other Applications

- **James R. Duff** – Application for Initial CPA Certificate & Initial CPA License; Industry Accounting

Mr. Gesseck made a motion to approve. Ms. Triplett seconded the motion. Both members voted in favor.

- **Michael Bellerose** – Application for Initial CPA Certificate & Certificate Registration; Industry Accounting experience. Mr. Gesseck made a motion to approve. Ms. Triplett seconded the motion. Both members voted in favor.
- **Mark Lang** – Application for Initial CPA Certificate & Initial CPA License; Industry Accounting experience. Mr. Gesseck made a motion to approve. Ms. Triplett seconded the motion. Both members voted in favor.
- **Dariel Benitez**– Application for Initial CPA Certificate & Initial CPA License; Industry Accounting experience, tabled at the October Board meeting. Submitted additional information on experience verification form. Mr. Gesseck made a motion to approve. Ms. Triplett seconded the motion. Both members voted in favor.

PCAOB Inspection Reports Received – member comment on review

- Review date January 22, 2014 Report on **BDO USA, LLP**
Grant Thornton LLP
Kraft CPAs PLLC
Richey, May & Co. LLP
PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP

OTHER BUSINESS

Enforcement Cases – None

PUBLIC COMMENT

Opportunity for members of the public to address the Board

Mr. Art Renner, CPA, Executive Director of CT Society of CPA asked if there has been any development in appointing new Board members. Deputy Spallone stated that he had informed the Governor’s office about the resignations and has not received any new information.

Deputy Spallone assured Mr. Renner that the Office of the Secretary of the State and the Governor’s office want the new Board members appointed as soon as possible. Mr. Renner stated that the Connecticut Society of CPAs would like to offer their assistance to the Board and would like to renew the relationship between the two offices.

Ms. Triplett made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:35 A.M. Mr. Gesseck seconded the motion. Ms. Triplett and Mr. Gesseck voted in favor.

Mr. Gesseck invited the public to the Subcommittee meeting to discuss the Experience Requirements Form SBA-12. Mr. Gesseck stated that the language on the SBA-12 form needs to be changed to make it user friendly. Ms. Triplett stated that the form is too long and needs to be more condensed. Mr. Gesseck offered to revise the form to a shorter version and to include definitions, guidelines, employment information and general instructions and submit to the Subcommittee to review.

Subcommittee meeting adjourned at 11:55 am.

Next scheduled meeting: Tuesday March 13, 2014, 9:45 AM. – 2nd Floor, 30 Trinity Street,
Hartford, CT