

MINUTES

BOARD FOR PROFESSIONAL LAND SURVEYORS

DATE: November 4, 2015

TIME: 10:00 A.M.

PLACE: 500 N. Calvert Street
Room 308
Baltimore, Maryland 21202

PRESENT: Donald Ocker
John Jensen
Daniel Lavelle
Thomas Orisich
Brian Dunne

ABSENT: John V. Mettee, III, Chairman

OTHERS

PRESENT: Pamela Edwards, Executive Director
James Baseman, Assistant Executive Director
Milena Trust, Assistant Attorney General
Pat Simon, MSS
Bill Orsinger, MSS

CALL TO ORDER

Don Ocker, Vice-Chairman, called the meeting to order at 10:06 a.m.

ACTION ON MINUTES

A motion (I) was made by John Jensen, seconded by Tom Orisich, and unanimously carried to approve the minutes of the October 7, 2015 meeting with two changes.

COMPLAINT COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. Jensen provided the status of three complaints as follows:

- 16-LS-01 Response to Consent Order is being reviewed.
- 16-LS-02 The complaint has been closed due to lack of information from complainant. It can be reopened at a later date.
- 16-LS-03 More information needed.

BOARD FOR PROFESSIONAL LAND SURVEYORS

November 4, 2015

Page 2

Motion (II) was made by Brian Dunne, Seconded by Dan Lavelle, and unanimously carried to accept the complaint committee's report.

NEW BUSINESS

Tom Orisich shared with the Board that he will be attending the NCEES Exam Policy and Procedure Committee (EPP) meeting later this month. The EPP committee reviews the effectiveness of the NCEES exam process and recommends revisions to exam policies and procedures.

OLD BUSINESS

The Board discussed the MSS 2015 Fall Conference Town Hall meeting which featured members of the surveyors' and engineers' boards in a question and answer session. Milena Trust mentioned that there were a large amount of follow-up questions. MSS would like to obtain the question and answers from the Board for future reference. James Baseman will send the written documents to MSS.

Pat Simon stated that the question and newer session was very well received and was one of the largest sessions at the conference. He said the MSS 2015 Fall Conference Town Hall meeting put a "face" to the Board which was beneficial. Written feedback from the attendees will be collected for the Board. For future meetings MSS would like to have an opportunity to have back and forth dialogue. Milena Trust noted that general informational meetings must address issues that usually will not be specific to individuals.

A discussion ensued around having an actual board meeting at a conference. Mr. Ocker stated that the logistics of this would be difficult, especially regarding audience participation. MSS will look into a closed meeting structure for the next meeting.

MSS REPORT

MSS Chapter Meetings

The Board members were furnished with a copy of the MSS Chapter meetings where the Education Bill would be discussed. It was asked that the Board try to have representation at the meetings, and the Board encouraged the members to attend their local chapter meetings to provide unofficial support. Tom Orisich tentatively agreed to attend the November 17th and 18th meeting.

Notification of Cancelled Meetings

MSS asked that they be notified if the monthly board meeting is to be cancelled or rescheduled. The Board agreed to this.

Updated Education Bill

Milena Trust reminded MSS that the Board has sent the discussed revisions of the Education Bill to Tim Quinn for an updated copy to be created. It was asked that MSS send the revised copy to the Board at their earliest convenience, so that everyone would be working from the same updated copy.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Pamela Edwards reported that the engineering and land surveying exams were administered without incident. The exams started late, due to an issue outside of the Boards control, but did not affect the required amount of time. In response to MSS's question about the official process to complain about any examination issues, Mrs. Edwards noted that a letter needed to be written to her, to address any concerns.

Ms. Edwards confirmed that the concept sheet for the CPC regulations was submitted to the Commissioner; however it must be approved by the Secretary before meetings of the CPC committee can reconvene.

BOARD COUNSEL'S REPORT

Ms. Trust noted the engineering firm permit requirement, which calls for all engineering firms to be licensed, has gone into effect and has raised many questions. One of the issues is that all boards except for the PE board charges a fee for the application and license. Another issue with the permit is that all businesses must also obtain a Certificate of Good Standing through the Maryland Assessment and Taxation Department and out-of-state businesses must register as a foreign corporation, which incurs additional fees. There has been a good response from the engineering community, with the Board receiving 500 firm applications in the first week. There will continue to be a lot of discussion around this because due to the similarity of the design boards, it can ultimately affect the other boards.

REVIEW OF APPLICATIONS

The following application to take the PLS examination was approved:

1. Jonathan Markland.

BOARD FOR PROFESSIONAL LAND SURVEYORS

October 7, 2015

Page 4

The following application for Firm permit was approved:

1. Herbert Crowder, Inc.

Following a review of the above applications by a minimum of two board members, a motion (III) was made and unanimously carried.

OTHER BUSINESS

The Board discussed the imminent retirement of Pamela Edwards. It was questioned how her position will be filled and the timeframe to expect this to happen. Due to this being an appointed position, the process should go faster than usual.

The Board noted that the next scheduled Board meeting is December 2, 2016.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, a motion (IV) was made by John Jensen, seconded by Dan Lavelle, and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 11:15 a.m.

Without Corrections

With Corrections



Donald Ocker, Vice-Chairman

Date: Dec. 2, 2015