
Maryland Board for Professional Land Surveyors
Business Meeting Minutes

DATE: November 1, 2023

TIME: 11:00 AM

LOCATION: 1100 N. Eutaw St.
5th Floor Conference Room
Baltimore, MD 21201
(Teleconference via Google Meet)

MEMBERS PRESENT: John V. Mettee III, *Chair*
Tammy Rollins, *Vice-Chair*
Thomas M. Orisich, *Land Surveyor*
T.J. Frazier, *Land Surveyor*
Jeanne Nebre, *Land Surveyor*

MEMBERS ABSENT: Derrick McLaughlin, *Consumer Member*

STAFF PRESENT: Zevi Thomas, *Executive Director*
Matthew Venuti, *Board Counsel*
Matthew McKinney, *Director of Appointments and Regulatory Compliance*
Danielle Anderson, *O&P Web Coordinator*
Faith Green, *Board Administrator*

OTHERS PRESENT: Robert Dougherty, *Public Attendee*

Meeting Called to Order

Chair John V. Mettee III called the business meeting of the Maryland Board for Professional Land Surveyors at 11:05 a.m.

Approval of October 20, 2023 Minutes

Members of the Board reviewed the meeting minutes for October 20, 2023. Motion (I) was made by Mr. Orisich, seconded by Mr. Frazier, and unanimously carried by the Board to approve minutes with corrections.

Correspondence

Citizen's Request to Address the Maryland Board for Professional Land Surveyors

Mr. Dougherty stated he had concerns regarding a complaint filed in 2020. Mr. Dougherty stated that he is a licensed home contractor in Maryland and is required to have liability insurance. He stated that he noticed when he searched for licensed land surveyors on the Department of Labor website, that the Board does not require the licensees to have liability insurance. He added that he found this insurance policy concerning along with the pace at which the Board has handled complaints against licensed surveyors.

Mr. Venuti responded that the Board does not interfere with ongoing litigation, and it wants the legal process to take its course in the jurisdiction best equipped to handle the matter.

Mr. Orisich stated that the Board statute does not require this Board to mandate liability insurance for licensees, furthermore this could be deemed as a barrier due to insurance costs. The Board can only enforce what is obligatory within its current laws.

Data Prep Services

In response to the inquiry brought before the Board, Mr. Orisich stated that data preparation for civil construction purposes must be completed under a licensed land surveyor or professional engineer.

Mr. Frazier commented that this could be from a Continuing Education Provider who wanted clarification for students taking the course as well as the practitioners overseeing them in the field.

Mr. Mettee recommended that this question should be part of the FAQs on the Department of Labor website due to the frequency of the inquiry.

New Business

Fees

Mr. Thomas shared the proposed fees regulations from the Department of Budget and Management. Despite the moratorium on fee increases for several years, the fees can only be raised by 12% in a fiscal year. In addition, he added that we should amend language in the Regulations concerning fees not collected by the Board, i.e. NCEES exams.

Mr. Mettee further explained that the Joint Chairs for the Design Boards had interest in raising fees years ago, but the administration at the time would not allow it.

Mr. Orisich stated that he recalled the Board waived the application fee for original Maryland applicants.

Ms. Nebre inquired if they can strike out the verbiage "by reciprocity" to which Mr. Mettee agreed.

Mr. Orisich stated that sub-section (B) of the proposed regulations should be removed to which Mr. Venuti agreed.

Motion (II) was made by Mr. Frazier, seconded by Ms. Nebre, and carried out by the majority of the Board with one dissent to approve the fee increases, and if the opportunity allows, to remove the language about the fees in sub-section (B).

Old Business

Review of the Proposed Handbook for Code Officials

Mr. Orisich stated that he believed the proposed document from the Maryland Board of Architects to be redundant, and not required for the Professional Land Surveyors Board.

Ms. Nebre inquired if it was for the public or the Design Boards. Mr. Mettee responded that it was a document that the Chair of the Board of Architects intends to provide to Maryland Code Officials.

Mr. Thomas suggested that adding a few bullet points defining land surveying would be useful. Mr. Mettee stated that it is not as frequently a concern for surveyors as it might be for architects, and for this reason, did not see the benefit of being included in this handbook for code officials.

Executive Director's Report

Mr. Thomas reminded the Board of the National Council of Examiners for Engineering and Surveying's (NCEES) Outstanding Service Award nominations are due by January 31, 2024.

Board Counsel Report

None

Maryland Society of Surveyors

None

Review of Applications

Mr. Frazier stated that reviews is ongoing.

Complaint Committee Report

Mr. Orisich reported the following:

- 04-LS-20: Closed
- 06-LS-23: Offer and Consent Order
- 12-LS-23: Committee awaiting technical review
- 01-LS-24: Offer and Consent Order
- 15-LS-23: To be remained closed

Motion (III) was made by Ms. Nebre, seconded by Ms. Rollins, and unanimously carried by the Board to approve the Complaint Committee Report.

Adjournment

There being no further business to discuss, Motion (IV) was made by Mr. Frazier, seconded by Ms. Nebre, and unanimously carried by the Board to adjourn the meeting at 12:18 p.m.

Chair's Signature: Signature on File

Date: 12/6/2023