

MINUTES OF THE KANSAS BOARD OF ACCOUNTANCY
APRIL 23, 2021
9:00 AM
VIRTUAL MEETING

1. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS:

A. CALL TO ORDER:

Sean P. Weaver, CPA called the meeting to order. Other Board members in attendance were Meridith Bihuniak, CPA; Jeff Bottenberg, Public Member; Jim Gillespie, CPA; and Julie Spiegel, CPA. Also in attendance was Susan L. Somers, Executive Director; Tim Resner, Disciplinary Counsel to the Board; Darin M. Conklin General Counsel to the Board; Natasha Schamberg and Rita Barnard, on behalf of the Kansas Society of CPAs; Craig Dassow and Joyce Schartz, of the Public Accountants Association.

B. CONSENT CALENDAR:

1-3. The Board reviewed the minutes of the January 15, 2021 and February 9, 2021 meetings; certificates/permits to practice; firm registrations; and the March 31, 2021 financials. Mr. Gillespie moved, and Ms. Spiegel seconded to approve the Consent Calendar. Upon a roll call vote, the motion unanimously carried.

2. CPA EXAM:

A. The Board reviewed the CPA exam scores for December 17, 2020 to March 18, 2021. Mr. Gillespie moved, and Mr. Bottenberg seconded, to ratify the scores. Upon a vote, the motion unanimously carried.

B. The Board reviewed the Q4 2020 CPA Exam Performance Summary. No action was required to be taken.

C. The Board reviewed the Q4 2020 Candidate Care Report. No action was required to be taken.

D. The Board, pursuant to K.A.R. 74-2-7(g), reviewed requests for waivers of exam course requirements as follows:

1. Matthew Bucci: Request for waiver of 2 hours of written and oral communications and a management and administration course to be eligible to sit for the CPA exam. After review and discussion, Ms. Spiegel moved, and Mr. Gillespie seconded, to waive 2 hours of written and oral communications, but deny the request for a waiver of the management and administration course. Upon a vote, the motion unanimously carried.

2. Kathy Ramsey: Request for waiver of 2 hours of written and oral communications to be eligible to sit for the CPA exam. After review and discussion, Mr. Gillespie moved, and Ms. Spiegel seconded, to approve the request for waiver. Upon a vote, the motion unanimously carried.

3. Patricia Hackett: Request for waiver of an upper division economics course to transfer her CPA exam scores from Texas to Kansas. After review and discussion, Mr. Bottenberg moved, and Mr. Gillespie seconded, to approve the request for waiver. Upon a vote, the motion unanimously carried.

3. CPE/CERTIFICATES/PERMITS TO PRACTICE/PEER REVIEW/FIRM REGISTRATIONS:

A. Ms. Somers presented to the Board the list of firms with peer reviews either due or in process. No action was required to be taken.

4. HEARINGS AND DISCIPLINARY ACTION:

A. LUCIA KLINKNER, CPA, individually and in her a capacity as a Firm, STIPULATION AND CONSENT ORDER: Mr. Gillespie, the investigator, recused himself from this matter. Ms. Klinkner and her attorney, Randy Debenham, appeared virtually before the Board. This matter was before the Board for approval of a Stipulation and Consent Order that arose from an investigation and subsequent determination that Respondent had issued an attest report without being properly registered as a firm and conduct reflecting adversely on her fitness to practice as a CPA. The terms of the Stipulation and Consent Order required Respondent to appear before the Board; payment of a fine in the amount of \$500.00, plus costs, pursuant to K.S.A. 1-206, to include attorney's fees and court reporter fees; and censure. Respondent's application for firm registration was granted. After discussion, Ms. Spiegel moved, and Ms. Bihuniak seconded, to approve the Stipulation and Consent Order. Upon a roll call vote, the motion unanimously carried, with Mr. Gillespie not participating.

B. BLAND & ASSOCIATES, P.C.; BLAND & ASSOCIATES, P.A.; JEREMY C. VOKT, KAILEY A. RISKOWSKI AND JUSTIN J. FRAUENDORFER, STIPULATION AND CONSENT ORDER. Mr. Weaver, the investigator, recused himself from this matter. Respondents appeared virtually. Joan M. Cannon also made statements relative to this matter at Respondent's request. This matter was before the Board for approval of a Stipulation and Consent Order that arose from an investigation and subsequent determination that Bland & Associates, P.C. had failed to maintain compliance with K.S.A. 1-308, specifically the failure to comply with provisions governing firm ownership and a failure to notify the Board of a change of its ownership. The terms of the Stipulation and Consent Order required Respondents to appear before the Board, Bland & Associates, P.C. to pay a fine in the amount of \$10,000, plus costs, pursuant to K.S.A. 1-206, to include attorney's fees and court reporter fees; and censure of Bland & Associates, P.C. Bland & Associates, P.A.'s application for firm registration of December 28, 2020 is denied. Bland & Associates, P.A.'s application for firm registration of March 2, 2021 is

granted. Applications for Kansas certificate and permit as filed by Jeremy C. Vokt, Kailey A. Riskowski and Justin J. Frauendorfer are granted. After discussion, Mr. Gillespie moved, and Mr. Bottenberg, seconded to accept the Stipulation and Consent Order. Upon a roll call vote, the motion unanimously carried, with Mr. Weaver not participating.

C. GOLD COAST AUDIT FINANCIAL AND TAX SERVICES, INC. STIPULATION AND CONSENT ORDER. Mr. Weaver, the investigator, recused himself from the matter. John Kontos, CPA, appeared virtually on behalf of the firm. This matter was before the Board for approval of a Stipulation and Consent Order that arose from an investigation wherein it was determined that Respondent had practiced without a valid firm registration, failed to comply with K.S.A. 1-308, committed an act discreditable to the profession, failed to timely comply with Peer Review, and failed to comply with applicable professional standards. The terms of the Stipulation required Respondent to appear before the Board; pay a fine in the amount of \$2,000 plus costs, pursuant to K.S.A. 1-206, to include attorney's fees and court reporter fees; undergo a pre-issuance review of its next Kansas audit; and censure. After discussion, Mr. Bottenberg moved, and Mr. Gillespie seconded to accept the Stipulation and Consent Order as amended. Upon a roll call vote, the motion unanimously carried, with Mr. Weaver not participating.

Mr. Bottenberg then moved, and Mr. Gillespie seconded, that the portions of the agency record where there is discussion or admission into evidence of peer review report documents, shall be closed pursuant to K.S.A. 1-501(h). Upon a vote, the motion carried, with Mr. Weaver not participating.

D. NEIL BLEISH STIPULATION REGARDING AMOUNT OF COSTS: Mr. Bottenberg, the investigator, recused himself from this matter. Mr. Resner presented a Stipulation of Costs in this matter agreed to by the parties in lieu of a hearing on a motion to determine costs. After discussion, Mr. Gillespie moved, and Ms. Bihuniak seconded, to accept the Stipulation Regarding Amount of Costs. Upon a roll call vote, the motion unanimously carried, with Mr. Bottenberg not participating.

THE FOLLOWING STIPULATIONS AND CONSENT ORDERS AS APPROVED BY THE CHAIR, OR VICE-CHAIR (AS APPLICABLE) WERE REVIEWED BY THE BOARD. NO ACTION WAS REQUIRED TO BE TAKEN.

BARRALE RENSHAW CPAs AND ADVISORS, LLC STIPULATION AND CONSENT ORDER: Failure to comply with applicable professional standards. The firm shall undergo a post-issuance review of a Kansas audit identified by the parties; reimbursement of costs pursuant to K.S.A. 1-206, to include attorney's fees; and censure.

GARY EUGENE BUSH, II STIPULATION AND CONSENT ORDER: Practicing without a valid Kansas Certificate and Permit. Payment of a fine and reimbursement costs pursuant to K.S.A. 1-206, to include attorney's fees; and censure. Application for certificate and permit approved.

LILY R. CARPIO, CPA STIPULATION AND CONSENT ORDER: Failure to meet the requirements to renew her permit. Payment of a fine; reimbursement of costs pursuant to K.S.A. 1-206, to include attorney's fees; obtain additional CE; and censure.

ELLINGER AND CAPPEL, LLC STIPULATION AND CONSENT ORDER: Practicing without a valid firm registration. Payment of a fine and reimbursement of costs pursuant to K.S.A. 1-206, to include attorney's fees; and censure. Application for firm registration approved.

TAYLOR GROUP, LLC STIPULATION AND CONSENT ORDER: Failure to comply with applicable professional standards. Respondent to undergo a pre-issuance review of all review engagements until further order of the Board, reimbursement of costs pursuant to K.S.A. 1-206, to include attorney fees; and censure.

WELCH & ASSOCIATES, LLC SUMMARY ORDER AMENDING STIPULATION AND CONSENT ORDER APPROVED DECEMBER 10, 2018: Released the firm from the pre-issuance review requirements for audit services rendered for Kansas clients. Reimbursement of costs pursuant to K.S.A. 1-206, to include attorney's fees.

CHRISTINE LEE WINANS, CPA & KIMBERLY NICOLE WINANS, CPA, STIPULATION AND CONSENT ORDER: Failure to comply with applicable professional standards. Respondents prohibited from performing or offering to perform audit services without prior written permission from the Board and censure.

5. OTHER:

Ms. Somers, Mr. Conklin, and Mr. Resner reported on the NASBA Executive Director/Legal Counsel meeting held virtually in April, 2021. Topics of discussion were CPA Evolution, remote testing, legislative updates, succession planning, cyber security, and COVID 19.

B. Mr. Conklin briefed the Board on legislation passed during the 2021 legislative session; in particular, HB 2066, which in part, shortens the period of time in which regulatory bodies are required to issue licenses for military members, military spouses, residents, and non-military prospective residents.

6. ADJOURN

There being no further business to come before the Board, Ms. Spiegel moved, and Mr. Bottenberg, seconded to adjourn. Upon a vote, the motion unanimously carried.

/s/ Susan L. Somers

Susan L. Somers
Executive Director