

North Carolina Locksmith Licensing Board
Meeting Minutes
Raleigh, NC / Zoom
11:00am, August 16th, 2020

Members Present: Jon Jeffries, Bobby Blackmon, Jim Storie, Jennifer Richards, Debbie Atkinson, Mike McCarty, Hunt Willis

Members Absent: Steve Bright (excused), Larry Mares (unexcused)

Staff: Barden Culbreth, Reed Fountain

Call to Order: Chair Jon called the meeting to order at 11:15am.

Ethics Awareness Statement: Jon read the Ethics Awareness Statement and asked if the Board members had any conflicts or appearances of conflicts with today's agenda. Hearing none, the meeting continued.

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes: Jim Storie motioned to approve the previous meeting minutes. Bobby Blackmon seconded, and the minutes were approved.

Approval of Financial Report: Hunt Willis motioned to approve the Financial Report. Bobby seconded and the minutes were approved.

Education/Testing Committee: Jennifer Richards reported on the August 2020 test. Jim noted that the committee needed to look for new members to cover areas of the state with Steve Bright coming off Board. Discussion followed.

Chair's Report: Jon reported that the Ethics Committee, of which he is a member, is still negotiating a resolution for a complaint given to the Board.

Updates from Board Office: Barden presented a proposal for DocuSign software. Jim asked if there was any specific demand for the product. Barden reported there was not but the Board could use it in their apprentice agreements and CE Sponsor forms. Jon asked if the Board's information would remain property of the Board if the contract were terminated. Barden did not know. Mike McCarty reported that many real estate brokers use DocuSign. Discussion followed. Jon recommended the money be put aside for later credentialing software for the Board. There was no motion to move forward with DocuSign proposal at this time.

Updates from Legal Counsel: Reed provided an update on the upcoming session of the General Assembly. He also reported on a public records request the Board office received from the James Martin Center for Academic Renewal (formerly the Pope Center for Higher Education Policy). The request was for number of licensees, complaints received over a specific period, and information about continuing education and application requirements. Barden has complied with the request and is providing further information as requested. Reed reported that he was not aware of other Boards receiving this request.

Reed also reported that the Board would be preparing an October 1 report to the Legislature on the Board's actions in response to COVID-19.

Reed also provided an update on injunctions that are in-process but have not been served. One recipient was now living in Washington State.

Unfinished Business: None.

New Business: Debbie Atkinson reported that several locksmiths in the Triangle had reported that their Google listings were indicating they were “Permanently Closed.” They believed it was result of outside manipulation by competitors. Barden asked that if any suspects were available that the victims should file complaints with him via email.

Schedule Next Meeting: October 19th, 2020 6:00pm Zoom/Conference Call.

Adjourn: Hunt motioned to adjourn. Jim seconded and the meeting ended.