

North Carolina Locksmith Licensing Board
Meeting Minutes
11:30am, May 26, 2021
Raleigh, North Carolina

Members Present: Jon Jeffries, Jennifer Richards, Jim Storie, Larry Mares, *Patrick Armeen, Debbie Atkinson, Mike McCarty, Hunt Willis (video conference)*

Absent (excused): Bobby Blackmon

Staff: Barden Culbreth, Reed Fountain

Call to Order: Jon called the meeting to order at 11:32am.

Ethics Awareness Statement: Jon asked the members for any potential conflicts or appearances of conflicts with the business today. Hearing none, the meeting continued.

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes: Jim motioned to approve the previous meeting minutes. Larry seconded the motion and the minutes were unanimously approved.

Accept the Financial Report: Jennifer presented the most recent statements to the Board. She reported no issues and offered a motion to accept the financial report. Larry seconded the motion and the report was unanimously accepted.

Approval of the 2021/2022 Budget: Jon presented the proposed budget prepared by the Jennifer and Barden. Jennifer was recognized for an amendment to the proposed budget. She motioned to add \$200 to the proposed Printing Expenses Line Item. Jim seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Jennifer motioned to approve the amended budget. Larry seconded and the 21/22 Budget was unanimously approved.

Education and Testing Committee: Jim reported that he proctored an exam on May 1 in Winston-Salem. The next exam will be June 19 in Wilmington at Cape Fear Community College. Jim also reported that one applicant passed after taking test six times. He was pleased the young man completed his exam and earned his license.

Chair's Report: Jon asked the Board to consider potential rule changes in the near future.

Jon asked that Reed prepare draft language for a rule which would allow inactive status for active duty/deployed military personnel. He asked that a new DD-214 be required at the point of renewal. Jennifer stated she would like this specific to persons who were deployed. Hunt described the procedure that military personnel take to secure secondary employment. Barden asked about language that would allow the Board to review these requests on a case-by-case basis. Jon stated he was aware of several locksmiths considering military service as opposed to the private sector. Larry described the review process for deployed persons with other organizations he works with. Reed and Barden agreed to develop draft language for review. Jon asked that Reed prepare draft language that would allow or direct licensed persons the ability to destroy their CE certificates following upload to Certemy. Reed and Barden would prepare draft language.

Jon then recommended a rule change to eliminate the CE exemption based on age, time licensed, and experience locksmithing. Jennifer, Jim, and Debbie stated that they did not believe locksmiths over 62 years old would be willing to learn new skills or benefit from CE training.

Reed described how any change could have a grandfathering period.

Jennifer asked why specific numbers were used, (62 years of age, nine years of licensing, and 15 years of experience). Barden stated he did not know why these were chosen.

Barden recommended that the Board focus on issues within the statute, such as moving to a one-year license. Jon stated he wanted the Board to focus on Rule changes.

Debbie proposed a CE exemption based only on number of years licensed. Discussion followed.

Mike stated that he did not support the CE exemption at all and was not aware of other professional licenses that allowed renewals with no CE.

Barden again recommended that the Board look at amending its statute at the General Assembly.

Reed stated that he believed draft rule language could be developed that would meet everyone's concerns.

Discussion followed based on Debbie's recommendation of CE exemption based on number of years licensed. Jon directed staff and legal counsel to prepare draft rule exempting licensees from CE if they had been licensed for 21 years. Further discussion followed. Jim motioned to table discussion on the rule. Debbie seconded and the motion was tabled unanimously.

Board Office Report: Barden briefly provided an update on Certemy launch and new office operating procedures using the software and paper applications.

Legal Update: Reed provided an update on action at the NC General Assembly.

Reed provided update on 3 disciplinary matters before the Board, including a licensee Sufian Sawaed who continued to refuse service for letters related to an ethics complaint of illegal practice.

Jim motioned to suspend the license of Sufian Sawaed. Mike seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

A hearing would be scheduled, to be held at the next Board meeting, to resolve a complaint against a licensee Kfir Cohen. Debbie stated she would be recused from this hearing since she was one of the complainants.

Unfinished Business: None.

New Business: None.

Next Meeting: August 18th, 11:00am, with Hearing scheduled at 1pm, in Raleigh at the office of Young Moore Henderson, PA.

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