

North Carolina Locksmith Licensing Board
Meeting Minutes
11:00am, February 8, 2023
Zoom

Members: Mike McCarty, Larry Mares, Jim Storie, Deanna Brena, Jack Walder, Debbie Atkinson, Hunt Willis, Patrick Armeen

Staff Present: Barden Culbreth, Reed Fountain

Public: Jon Jeffries

Welcome and Call to Order: Chair Mike McCarty called the meeting to order.

Ethics Awareness Statement: Mike read the Ethics Awareness Statement and asked for potential conflicts of interest. Hearing none, the meeting continued.

Approval of the Agenda: Mike noted that the meeting minutes from the previous meeting (December 15, 2022) were not included in the meeting materials. The Board will approve these at the next meeting. Jack motioned to approve; Larry seconded, and the meeting continued.

Approval of the Financial Report: The Board considered the financial report included in the meeting packet. Jim Storie motioned to approve. Larry seconded and the report was approved.

Exam and Education Committee Report: Jim and Barden reported on the upcoming exams in Asheville-Buncombe Tech and Alamance Community College. Larry asked about upcoming tests in Greenville. Barden reported that Deanna helped him proctor and score at Robeson Community College recently.

Jim Storie asked that the Board consider letting foreign language speakers use a dictionary on the test. There was some discussion but Mike asked that the Board consider this at the next meeting. He asked that the Board staff ask other agencies what they do about foreign test takers.

Chairman's Report: Mike stated that the meeting today was to consider the rules, but he had a list of objections he wanted the Board to work on for the year. He mentioned continuing education review and adding more options for licensees.

Board office report: Barden talked about the new paper forms on the website. He also attended the NCLA meeting and fielded questions about Board operations

Reed described the process of how agencies consider and approve rule changes.

.0705 – Inactive Status due to Active-Duty Military Deployment: Mike read the rule for consideration. Larry asked about how logistics would be handled to notify the Board. Jim motioned to approve, Jack seconded and the rule was approved unanimously.

.0501 – Obligations of Licensed Locksmiths: Mike read the rule for consideration. Reed noted that there were no comments on this rule. Larry motioned to approve. Jim seconded and the rule was approved unanimously.

.0404 – Fees: Mike read the rule for consideration. Reed summarized the comments that were received by the Board. Copies of the public comment were received and reviewed. Larry reported that he had heard from the locksmith field and there was growing concern about raising the fees. Jim reported he heard the same concerns at the last NC Locksmith Association meeting. Jim reported that locksmiths ask him what the Board was doing for them and how this fee increase would benefit them.

Mike recognized former Board member and chair Jon Jeffries who spoke about the need to increase funding.

Jack and Patrick also reported that they hear from locksmiths who want to know how their money is being spent. Barden noted that the NCGS 93B Annual Audit and Annual Reports are available on the website. The Board asked him to send out the information to the licensees in email form.

Barden proposed to delay the vote until after the Annual Reports are received by the wider locksmith field. Debbie was opposed to delaying the vote. She asked how the Board could eventually move to an annual license. Barden reported that he would need to go to the legislature to make that change and did not have the personal staff time to do this but would make best effort. He recommended that the NC Locksmiths Association consider hiring a lobbyist.

Jack motioned to table the vote. Jim seconded.

Debbie stated most locksmiths thought the Board was to protect locksmiths and did not understand that it's to protect the public.

On the motion to table, which is to oppose adopting the .0404 Fee Rule Amendment:

In Favor: Jim, Jack, Patrick, Larry, Deanna

Opposed: Hunt and Debbie.

The rule amendment was not adopted.

Reed recommended republishing the Rule so there would be no questions between the motion to table and the Board's opposition to the fee increase. Discussion followed on dates. Mike asked Barden to work with Reed to republish the fee increase after the Board sends out the e-mail blast of the Annual Audit and Annual Report. Barden stated he would also post the Board's current budget on the website so the public could see in real-time how resources were being spent.

Legal Update: Reed provided some information on activities at the legislature.

93B Training: Reed provided the Board with training on the Board requirements found in NC General Statute 93B.

Unfinished Business: None.

New Business: None.

Next Meeting: April 5, 2023, 11am Zoom, to include Hearing on re-published Fee Rule.

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