

**NC Locksmith Licensing Board**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**Raleigh, NC**  
**1pm, May 31, 2023**

**Members:** Mike McCarty, Larry Mares, Jim Storie, Debbie Atkinson, Garrett Davis, Jack Walder, and Deanna Brena

**Members Not Present:** Henry King and Patrick Armeen

**Board Staff:** Barden Culbreth, Reed Fountain

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

**Ethics Awareness Statement:** Mike read the State Government Ethics Awareness Act and asked for conflicts or appearances of conflicts related to the business before the Board. Hearing none, the meeting continued.

**Approval of Agenda:** Larry Mares motioned to approve the agenda. Jim Storie seconded, and the motion carried.

**Approval of the Meeting Minutes:** Larry motioned to approve the previous meeting minutes. Jim seconded, and the previous meeting minutes were approved.

**Approval of Financial Reports:** Larry motioned to approve the financial reports and Jim seconded. The financial reports, which were two reconciled statements, were approved.

**Approval of Proposed FY2023-2024 Budget:** Mike asked Barden to walk through the proposed FY23-24 budget for consideration. Discussion followed.

*Jack Walder joined the meeting.*

The Board discussed the idea of moving to 1-year licensing and reducing the number of hours of CE required for renewal. The rationale for the proposed change, which would require a change in statute by the NC legislature, was that licensees would be better able to avoid late fees if their license was renewed annually. It would also break the 3-year boom-bust revenue cycle for the Board. No consensus was reached.

Larry motioned to approve the proposed FY23-24 budget. Jack seconded, and the budget was approved unanimously.

**Exam and Education Committee Report:** Jim reported on his most recent exam proctoring session. He reported that he believed a test-taker brought in material allowing them to cheat. The committee is instituting a new set of security policies, including not allowing cell phones in the exam room. Cell phone may be kept in their vehicle or at the front desk with the proctor.

The Board previously discussed allowing a Hebrew-English dictionary in the test. Barden shared with the Board a recent email asking for an English translator to sit with the test taker. Discussion followed. The Board unanimously agreed this should not be allowed and that people should study with a translator or dictionary in their own time. The Board members reaffirmed their commitment to meeting the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

**Chairman's report:** Mike asked Barden to share with the public how the Board funds are being spent, specifically asking that the approved budget and end of year report be posted on the Board website.

**Board Office Report:** Barden stated there were additional items from the Board office, including updates on the Certemy application portal and Board website in general.

**Legal Update:** Reed Fountain was recognized and provided update on activities at the NC General Assembly.

He reported that there was a recent injunction against Rodrigo Perez for unlicensed locksmithing.

He reported on two other injunctions that were in progress.

**Unfinished Business:** None.

**New Business:** Jim asked that the Board visit law changes or rule changes to address issues that developed in a previous hearing regarding contract employees and apprentices. Discussion followed.

**Schedule Next Meeting:** July 26, 5:30pm Zoom

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