

Board of Registration of Hearing Instrument Specialists
Meeting Held by Video/Telephone Conference
Date: January 15, 2021 Time: 10:00 am

Public Session Meeting Minutes

Board Members Present by video or phone:

Eugene Antonell, Chair (EA)
Stanley Zoll (SZ)
Loleata Wigall, Secretary (LW)
Camille Catalano (CC)

Staff Present by video or phone:

Michael Hawley, Executive Director
Kristina Gasson, Board Counsel
Thomas Burke, Associate Executive Director

Members of the Public Present by video or phone:

RW

Called To Order:

- The meeting was called to order at 10:18 a.m. by EA.

Board Business:

- Review of Minutes:
 - October 16, 2020
A MOTION was made by CC to approve the minutes of the October 16, 2020 board meeting as written. SZ seconded. The motion passed on a roll call vote: CC – “Yes”; EA – “Yes”; SZ – “Yes”; LW – “Yes”.
- Report from Executive Director, Michael Hawley
 - Mr. Hawley notified the Board of his retirement on February 5, 2021. Thomas Burke will be staff contact for subsequent meetings. He noted that staff has received notice of business aid for establishments. Staff continues working mostly from home with some staff members going into the office several times a week.
- Report from Legal Counsel Kristina Gasson
 - Progress of federal regulations – Over the Counter Hearing Aids. Attorney Gasson reported that the deadline for FDA implementation of federal regulations regarding sales of over-the-counter hearing aids passed. Regulatory review is on hold until further notice. MS. Gasson invited Board members to provide feedback in anticipation of future review.
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Apprenticeship Extension Requests

- **Jeanne D’Amico**- Ms. D’Amico did not achieve a passing score on exam in July 2020 and submitted request for an extension of her apprenticeship. This is her second request for an extension. **A MOTION was made by SZ to grant a 3-month extension of Ms. D’Amico’s apprenticeship and directed staff to invite apprentice and her sponsor to appear before the Board at the next regularly scheduled meeting. LW seconded. The motion passed on a roll call vote: CC – “Yes”; EA – “Yes”; SZ – “Yes”; LW – “Yes”.**

Discussion:

- **Impacts of COVID-19**
No Discussion.
- **Review of Board Regulations, 265 CMR 2.00 – 10.00-**

Tabled.

Open Session for Topics not reasonably anticipated 48 hours in advance of the meeting:

- **Shemica Taylor**- Ms. Taylor submitted a request to the Board for an extension of her apprenticeship. This is her first request for an extension. **A MOTION was made by CC to grant an 18 month extension of Ms. Taylor's apprenticeship. LW seconded. The motion passed on a roll call vote: CC – "Yes"; EA – "Yes"; SZ – "Yes"; LW – "Yes".**

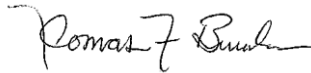
Executive Session Closed Per GL c. 30A, s. 21(a)(1) and (3):

CC moved to exit open session and enter executive session under G. L. c. 30A, § 21(a)(7), to comply with the provisions of the public record law, G. L. c. 30A, § 21(a)(7), ¶ 26(a) and to preserve the confidentiality of criminal record information pursuant to G. L. c. 6, § 172. LW seconded the motion. The motion passed by a roll call vote: CC – "Yes"; EA – "Yes"; SZ – "Yes"; LW – "Yes".

LW moved to exit executive session and enter open session. CC seconded the motion. The motion passed by a roll call vote: CC – "Yes"; EA – "Yes"; SZ – "Yes"; LW – "Yes".

At 11:11 a.m., a MOTION was made by CC to adjourn the open meeting. SZ seconded. The motion passed on a roll call vote: CC – "Yes"; EA – "Yes"; SZ – "Yes"; LW – "Yes".

Respectfully Submitted,



Thomas Burke
Executive Director

Documents used in Public Session:

- Agenda for January 15, 2021 Board meeting
- Minutes of October 16, 2020 Board meeting
- Apprenticeship Extension request from Jeanne D'Amico
- Apprenticeship Extension request from Shemica Taylor