

Board of Registration of Hearing Instrument Specialists
Meeting Held by Video/Telephone Conference
Date: April 16, 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:

Kristina Gasson, Board Counsel
Thomas Burke, Executive Director

Members of the Public Present by video or phone:

Jeanne D'Amico

Called To Order:

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

Board Business:

- Review of Minutes:
 - January 15, 2021
A MOTION was made by CC to approve the public session minutes of the January 15, 2021 board meeting as written. SZ seconded. The motion passed on a roll call vote: CC – “Yes”; EA – “Yes”; SZ – “Yes”; LW – “Yes”.
A MOTION was made by CC to approve the executive session minutes of the January 15, 2021 board meeting as written. LW seconded. The motion passed on a roll call vote: CC – “Yes”; EA – “Yes”; SZ – “Yes”; LW – “Yes”.
- Report from Executive Director, Thomas Burke
 - Mr. Burke reported that the search for a new Executive Director continues and Ms. Casey Yebba has joined the Unit as Administrative Assistant. Staff continues working mostly from home with some staff members going into the office several times a week.
- Report from Legal Counsel Kristina Gasson
 - Ms. Gasson reported that although the deadline for FDA implementation of federal regulations regarding sales of over-the-counter hearing aids passed, she would continue to monitor progress. She will provide an update at the subsequent Board meeting. In light of pending implementation, she recommended the Board conduct regulation review at the subsequent Board meeting. She anticipates that the Board will continue to meet remotely until directed to do so otherwise.

Apprenticeship Extension Requests

- **Jeanne D'Amico**- Ms. D'Amico met with the Board to request a formal extension of her hearing instrument apprenticeship. Ms. D'Amico requested testing accommodations and Mr. Burke directed her to submit her request in writing to Board staff. This is her second formal request to the Board for an extension. **A MOTION was made by CC to grant an 18-month extension of Ms. D'Amico's apprenticeship. 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.

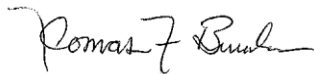
- **Review of Board Regulations, 265 CMR 2.00 – 10.00-**
Tabled.
- **Massachusetts Hearing Society**
No vote taken.

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

- The Board discussed the need for a fifth Board member. Mr. Burke advised Board members to encourage eligible candidates to apply directly to the Governor's office.

At 11:55 a.m., a MOTION was made by S Z to adjourn the open meeting. EA 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 April 16, 2021 Board meeting
- Minutes of January 15, 2021 Board meeting
- Apprenticeship Extension request from Jeanne D'Amico