



STATE OF TENNESSEE
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND
INSURANCE TENNESSEE STATE BOARD OF
ACCOUNTANCY

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Davy Crockett Tower
Nashville, TN 37243-1141
615-741-2550
Program Website:

<https://www.tn.gov/commerce/section/accountancy>

A meeting of the Tennessee State Board of Accountancy was held on Tuesday, February 4, 2025,
at Davy Crockett Tower, 500 James Robertson Parkway in Conference Room 1A

MEMBERS PRESENT

Greg Gilbert, Chair
John Griesbeck, Vice-Chair
Pamela Church, Secretary
Sam Bennett
Andy Bonner
Brad Buchanan
Brad Floyd
Kevin Monroe
Robert Vance

MEMBERS ABSENT

David Crenshaw

LEGAL COUNSEL

Laura Martin, Chief Counsel, Regulatory Boards
Lee Lott, Associate General Counsel, Regulatory Boards
Kyle Johnson, Associate General Counsel, Regulatory Boards
Chris Russell, Legal Assistant

STAFF

Gin Binkley, Executive Director
Duke Speed, Board Investigator
Karen Condon, Board staff
Reid Witcher, Assistant Commissioner

OTHERS ATTENDING

Kara Fitzgerald, President/CEO, TSCPA
Katie Cheek, Chief Operating Officer, TSCPA
Richard Brown, Applicant

CALL TO ORDER – Chairman Greg Gilbert

Chairman Gilbert called the meeting to order at 8:30 am.

Public Disclaimer and Roll-call

The meeting was properly noticed and the agenda posted on the Board's website on January 27, 2025. Members made their presence known through roll call and a quorum was established.

Announcements

Chairman Gilbert welcomed new Director Gin Binkley and announced that Mike Parton has resigned from the Board. TSCPA will submit names of potential candidates to the governor per statute.

Director Binkley compiled the Board's comments from the October meeting to develop a response letter to NASBA about the proposed competency-based pathway toward licensure.

Adopt Robert's Rules of Order

Motion and second to adopt Robert's Rules of Order for the year. Motion unanimously passed.

Review and Adopt Agenda

Motion and second to adopt the agenda as presented. Motion unanimously passed.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

October 22, 2024 – Regular Meeting

Motion and second to approve the minutes as presented. Motion unanimously passed.

REINSTATEMENT APPLICATIONS

CPA License (Appearance 2/2) – Richard Brown

Mr. Brown seeks reinstatement of his suspended CPA license. Mr. Lott provided an overview of the circumstances leading to the suspension. Mr. Brown had agreed via a consent order to:

- Voluntary suspension of his CPA license for two years
- Civil penalty of \$5,000
- Complete the three-part NASBA ethics course
- Required to appear before the board for reinstatement.

Mr. Brown represented to the Board that he met all requirements set forth in the consent order. He addressed the Board to detail his rehabilitation and restitution efforts and answer their questions.

Motion and second to approve the application to reinstate. Motion unanimously passed via roll call vote.

RULEMAKING HEARING

The Rulemaking Hearing began at 8:50am and was led by Laura Martin, Chief Counsel. The hearing was held to solicit public comments to proposed changes to these sections of accountancy rule 0020-06:

0020-06-.01 Definitions
0020-06-.03 Review Committee
0020-06-.04 Basic Requirements
0020-06-.05 Reviewers and Reviews
0020-06-.06 Peer Review Results
0020-06-.07 Peer Review Submission

Redline copies of the rules were provided for those present. No comments were offered by the public. The hearing concluded with the Board's approval of the proposed changes. Detailed voting is documented on the rulemaking hearing filing form.

SUMMARY SUSPENSION INFORMAL CONFERENCE T.C.A. 4-5-320

Kyle Johnson, Associate General Counsel, gave the Board an overview of applicable statutes relevant to the summary suspension of a license. Mr. Johnson gave a summary of the facts in the case of Jason Alexander Jerkins, CPA license #24208, against whom a complaint was filed with the Board of Accountancy. The Board received a complaint alleging that Jason Alexander Jerkins was mishandling the complainant's business and personal tax returns, and that Mr. Jerkins had stolen money from him. Subsequently, the Board received documents indicating that Mr. Jerkins had been indicted by a federal grand jury for wire fraud, money laundering, and aiding and assisting in the preparation of false tax returns. Mr. Jerkins was indicted on these charges on or about January 8, 2025, and the charges are currently pending. Due to the Respondent's pending criminal charges, he agreed to the voluntary summary suspension of his CPA license pending the outcome of his criminal proceedings or for subsequent license revocation proceedings or other action by the Board. He agreed to the voluntary summary suspension of his license without making any admission as to the facts or circumstances surrounding the alleged incident that led to his criminal charges. Prior to the Board meeting, Mr. Jerkins signed an Agreed Order stating as such, which was presented to the Board for review and entry.

Motion and second to approve and enter the Agreed Order for summary suspension. Motion unanimously passed via roll call vote.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Director Binkley presented an overview of Board staff activities and licensing matters.

Motion and second to approve the proposed meeting date Tuesday, February 3, 2026. Motion unanimously passed.

BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

Committees meet one day prior to the Board meeting to discuss agenda items, and to decide on recommendations to make to the full Board.

Licensing – Pam Church, Committee Chair

Belmont University course ETP 6510, Entrepreneurial Mindset

The Committee was asked to review and determine the eligibility of the referenced course as a general business education credit for CPA licensure requirements. The committee felt that the syllabus indicated that the content of the course meets the Board's criteria to qualify for business course credit.

Committee Motion to approve the course as a business course credit to meet licensure education requirements. Motion passed unanimously.

Consider CISSP Exam for CPE Credit

The Committee was asked to review and approve the Certified Information Systems Securities Professional (CISSP) exam for CPE credit and to determine the field of study to assign.

Committee Motion to approve the course for CPE credit for 15 credit hours in the field of study management services. Motion passed unanimously.

Consider ERES as foreign credit evaluation service provider

The Board utilizes foreign credit evaluation services for candidates who received credit from a foreign university. Educational Records Evaluation Services (ERES) is used by NASBA in other states with no reported issues.

Committee Motion to approve Educational Records Evaluation Services (ERES) as a foreign credential evaluation service provider. Motion unanimously passed.

Credit Extension – Vikas Jadhav

Candidate requests a 15-month extension to 9/30/2026 for BEC due to medical issues.

Committee Motion to approve the request. Motion passed unanimously.

Credit Extension – Daniel Swift

Candidate requests an extension for FAR to 6/30/2025 due to medical and covid-related issues and has passed the remaining exam sections since this request.

Committee Motion to approve this request. Motion passed unanimously.

Law and Rules – John Griesbeck, Committee Chair

Review of Discipline Matrix

The Committee reviewed the discipline matrix as approved by the Board on October 20, 2023. The Committee requested Mr. Lott to explore how penalties for peer review violations are computed and to provide input on how the Board may impose administrative and investigate costs in addition to civil penalties.

Enforcement – Kevin Monroe, Committee Chair

Case and Complaint Report

The Board heard an overview of the status of open complaints.

Legal Report

Consent Agenda

This agenda details cases in which Legal has not recommended formal discipline. Recommendations may include closure, a letter of warning, or a letter of instruction.

1. 2024041871
2. 2024044621
3. 2024048741
4. 2024052261
5. 2024052001
6. 2024062711

Committee Motion to approve items 1-6 on the consent agenda. Motion unanimously passed.

Proposed Discipline

This agenda details cases in which discipline has been recommended. The Committee requested a delineation of the civil penalties recommended, with detail provided for those cases with more than one violation.

- 7. 2024045291
- 8. 2024048131
- 9. 2024046751

The committee deferred Item 9 to the full Board, as the Respondent was the subject of a planned summary suspension hearing at this meeting.

Motion and second to place this matter in litigation monitoring. Motion unanimously passed.

- 10. 2024050321
- 11. 2024051231
- 12. 2024055241
- 13. 2024062791

Committee Motion to approve items 7-8 and 10-13 on the proposed discipline agenda as modified to clarify the instances in which multiple instances of violations have incurred a civil penalty. Motion unanimously passed.

Re-presentations

This agenda details cases in which facts of previously presented cases have changed or new information is available for the Board to consider.

- 14. 2023059391
- 15. 2023059401
- 16. 2023059411

Items 14-16 are related complaints against a firm and associated individuals, relating to a referral from the PCAOB. The recommendation is to close the complaints with no further discipline, considering the multi-million dollar penalty already imposed by PCAOB.

- 17. 2023051161

Item 17 was re-presented to the Board as a result of new legal action being brought against the respondent. In light of the new criminal case, the recommendation from the Committee is to place this matter back into litigation monitoring.

Committee Motion to approve items 14-17 of the Re-presentation agenda. Motion passed unanimously.

Executive – Chairman Gilbert, Committee Chair

Self-sufficiency Hearing

Chairman Gilbert gave an update to the Board on the results of the Tennessee State Board of Accountancy self-sufficiency hearing. As noted within the Executive Director's Report, representatives from the Department of Commerce and Insurance, along with Chairman Gilbert, attended a self-sufficiency hearing before the Joint Government Operations Committee on January 27, 2025. By statute, any regulatory board that operates at a deficit for two consecutive years is required to be reviewed by a joint evaluation committee during the legislative session following the second consecutive year of deficit. No action was taken by the Joint Government Operations Committee as a result of the proceedings.

Travel

The Committee and Board reviewed details of travel expenses incurred by the Board Investigator.

FY25 Financial Results

The Committee and Board reviewed the financial results of the Board through December 31, 2024.

FY26 Budget

Director Binkley provided an overview of the proposed FY26 budget.

Discussion included:

- The Board's desire to be in compliance with State regulations regarding operating at a deficit.
- The Board has an appropriate reserve balance, and a fee increase is not necessary at this time.
- The Division is taking steps to recoup some of the legal costs that the Board undertakes when taking action against a violation.

Motion and second to approve the budget as proposed. Motion passed unanimously via roll call vote.

NASBA UPDATES

NASBA Board of Directors – Andy Bonner

Mr. Bonner provided an update on NASBA activities, including ongoing NASBA initiatives, improved application processing times, a preview of a NASBA app to be used by exam candidates, and efforts to assess the effectiveness of NASBA's ALD platform. He provided a summary of the changes in CPA education and experience requirements instituted or planned by many states, including the potential impact on substantial equivalency and mobility.

NASBA Committee Updates, as needed

Pam Church, Education Committee

John Griesbeck, Communications Committee

Greg Gilbert, Enforcement Resources Committee

Kevin Monroe, UAA Committee

Mr. Monroe provided an update on considerations being made by the UAA Committee to understand the implications of current legislation posed by various states, as well as the status of the UAA Committee's process for considering whether updates are necessary to the UAA, given the current legislative environment.

Discussion was held, during which the Board members considered the responsibilities of the Board, in light of pending legislative changes in other states.

AICPA Committee Updates – as needed

Andy Bonner, Professional Ethics Executive Committee

Mr. Bonner provided updates on matters being considered by PEEC, primarily around firm ownership and alternative practice structures of accounting firms.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Mr. Lott noted that the legislature is still filing bills daily. House Bill 400 / Senate Bill 277 has been filed as a caption bill; it states that there may be a change to the CPA Examination subjects, changing the terminology from "*Business Law and Taxation*" to "*Taxation and Regulation*." Bills may be filed through February 9, though amendments may be filed after that.

TSCPA UPDATE – Kara Fitzgerald, TSCPA President and CEO

Ms. Fitzgerald addressed the Board with an update on pending legislation proposed by various states, to include implementation of an alternate pathway to CPA licensure and changes to mobility statutes. She also provided an update on activities undertaken by the TSCPA to determine an appropriate recommendation to the TSCPA Board of Directors.

New Business

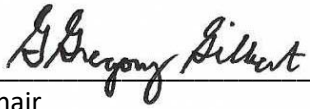
No new business was presented to the Board.

Public Comment

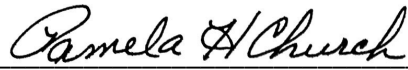
No members of the public indicated the wish to comment.

ADJOURN

Meeting adjourned at 11:40 am.

Handwritten signature of Gregory Gilbert in black ink, written in a cursive style.

Chair

Handwritten signature of Pamela H. Church in black ink, written in a cursive style.

Secretary