



**STATE OF TENNESSEE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND INSURANCE
BOARD OF ARCHITECTURAL AND ENGINEERING EXAMINERS
500 JAMES ROBERTSON PARKWAY
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE 37243
615.741.2241**

Tennessee Board of Architectural and Engineering Examiners met on August 8, 2024, and the following business was transacted:

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Alton Hethcoat, Blair Parker, Frank Wagster, Melanie Doss, Rick Thompson, Jason Carder, Dr. Ashraf Elsayed, Jeff Nalley, James Collins, Eddie Jett

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Brian Tibbs (Virtual), Rob Barrick

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT: Glenn Kopchak, Aerial Carter, Laura Martin, Heidi Overstreet, Alexandria Griffey, Tammy Roehrich

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

NOMINATION COMMITTEE

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

Melanie Doss called the meeting to order at 9:30am and Director Glenn Kopchak took roll call.

Nominations for Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretary

Melanie Doss presented a slate of officers nominating Jason Carder as Chair, Frank Wagster as Vice Chair, and Blair Parker as Secretary. Jason Carder made a motion to approve the slate as presented. This was seconded by Jeff Nalley. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote and was forwarded to the board for further consideration.

NEW BUSINESS

No new business was presented.

BOARD MEETING

CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL / NOTICE OF MEETING

Melanie Doss called the meeting to order at 10:00 am and Director Glenn Kopchak took roll call.

Announcements

No announcements were presented.

AGENDA

Rick Thompson made a motion to adopt the agenda as written. This was seconded by Blair Parker. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

JUNE MINUTES

Dr. Ashraf Elsayed made a motion to approve the June minutes. This was seconded by Rick Thompson. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

PROFESSIONAL SOCIETY REPORTS

Kasey Anderson, Tennessee Society of Professional Engineers/American Council of Engineering Companies of Tennessee (TSPE/ACEC-TN), announced that the 2024 TN Engineers' Conference will be conducted on September 29 – October 1, 2024, in Franklin, TN, and further provided additional details related to upcoming events for the TSPE/ACEC-TN.

Claudia Lofton, President of Advocacy at International Interior Design Association (IIDA-TN Chapter), and Hannah Durham, President Elect of American Society of Interior Designers (ASID), announced that Capitol Day on the Hill will be conducted on Tuesday, September 24, 2024. Additionally, it was announced that the Annual State Conference will take place on September 19, 2024, at 1410 Event Venue. Further information was provided regarding upcoming events, including dates and locations.

Suzanne Herron, President of American Society of Civil Engineers, TN Section, reported updates and upcoming events for the ASCE, TN Section. Suzanne Herron also announced that the ASCE, TN is looking forward to releasing their infrastructure report card on the ASC website in 2025 or 2026.

Nathan Ridley, TN Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA-TN), announced that Kim Hawkins and Larry Mizell, both Landscape Architects from Middle Tennessee, will be recognized as National Fellows at a formal meeting in Washington, DC, and further provided updates and upcoming events for ASLA-TN.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Budget Report

Director Kopchak summarized the financial report for May through June. Director Kopchak reported there were no items of concern. Revenue continues to contribute toward the reserves, and the board and program are fiscally strong.

NCARB Annual Meeting Update

Rick Thompson provided a summary regarding the NCARB Annual meeting that was held in Chicago, IL. Rick Thompson provided meeting updates, to include opportunities and threats that AI present to the profession, review and seal of documents, reallocation of jurisdiction of regions, and new paths to licensure.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Melanie Doss presented the nominations committee motion for Jason Carder as Chair, Frank Wagster as Vice Chair, and Blair Parker as Secretary. This was seconded by Rick Thompson. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote by the full board.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD RELATED TO ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

There were no presentations from the public.

LEGAL

Legal Report (presented by Aerial Carter)

1. 2024024121

First Licensed: N/A (Unlicensed)

Expiration: N/A

Type of License: Engineering Firm

History (5 yrs.): None.

An anonymous complaint was submitted against the Respondent for engaging in the practice of engineering without the proper certificate of authorization. The complaint did not include any attachments, but it did contain a business address. Respondent did not provide a response.

Counsel reviewed the address, and the results were for a junk removal company. Counsel searched the name provided and two businesses were found. The first firm ("Firm") had multiple locations and one was in Tennessee and had the same address as the junk removal company. Counsel believes that the complaint was against this Firm. The second advertised as an engineering firm but it was located out of state. The Commission would not have authority over this matter due to the lack of jurisdiction.

The Firm advertises services related to creating ideas and solutions that improves automation with an emphasis on "control and/ or monitoring." There was no mention of engineering or architectural services offered.

Based off the information provided, this matter would be best determined by the Contractor's board, but it is believed that the Respondent meets the exception under specialty licenses and would not require an exam.

Counsel recommends that this matter be dismissed due to lack of jurisdiction.

Reviewed by Board member:

Mitigating Factors:

Aggravating Factors:

Recommendation: Dismiss

Board Decision: Concur.

2. 2024007221

First Licensed: 07/25/2017

Expiration: N/A

Type of License: Professional Engineering Firm

History: None.

Respondent self-reported that their license was suspended in another state due to tax related issues. This occurred on or around January 25, 2024. The Respondent stated that they are working with accountants regarding the issue and as of March 14, 2024, the license in the other jurisdiction has been reinstated.

Counsel recommends that this Respondent be assessed a civil penalty of Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00) for violation of Tenn. Code Ann. §62-2-308(a)(1)(F).

Reviewed by Board member:

Mitigating Factors: Self Reporting; Disclosed disciplinary action; Respondent took corrective action.

Aggravating Factors:

Recommendation: Assess a Civil Penalty of Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00) for violation of Tenn. Code Ann. §62-2-308(a)(1)(F).

Board Decision: Defer to an Engineering Board member for further review and re-present at the next Board meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Melanie Doss expressed that she would like to revisit the topic of obtaining a newsletter for the board. Director Kopchak informed the board that a request for information was sent out to gauge interest by the industry in producing a newsletter, with none of the associations or affiliated vendors indicating an interest in being commissioned by the board in that effort. There is also no dedicated division wide resource available for outreach and external communications. That function would have to be done by immediate program staff which currently may not have the capacity or expertise. Although it appears a path forward has become very limited, staff will continue to explore the possibility.

ADJOURNMENT

Melanie Doss adjourned the meeting at 11:15 a.m.