

**MAINE BOARD OF ACCOUNTANCY**  
**Minutes of November 26, 2024**

**Call to Order**

Board Chair Todd Desjardins called the meeting of the Board of Accountancy to order at 8:33 a.m.

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Todd Desjardins, Chair  
Robert Brown, Jr.  
Thomas Cyr  
Alison Lorenz

**MEMBER ABSENT**

Yolanda “Lannie” Moffatt, Public Member

**STAFF PRESENT**

Penny Vaillancourt, Board Manager  
Teneale Johnson, Executive Secretary  
John Belisle, Assistant Attorney General  
Timothy Steigelman, Assistant Attorney General  
F. Mark Terison, Esquire, Hearing Officer

**Introduction and Explanation of Meeting**

As authorized by Title 1 section 403-B(1) of the Maine Revised Statutes and the Board member Remote Participation Policy adopted by the Board on May 9, 2023. The agenda for this meeting consists of various items for the Board.

**AGENDA MODIFICATIONS AND APPROVAL:**

- A motion was made by Mr. Cyr to approve the agenda as written. Ms. Lorenz seconded the motion. Vote 4-0 in favor.

**MINUTES REVIEW AND APPROVAL:**

- *September 10, 2024*: Following a review of the draft minutes, Mr. Cyr made a motion to approve the minutes. Ms. Lorenz seconded the motion. Vote 4-0 in favor.

**CHAIR REPORT:**

- No Report

## **APPLICATION REVIEWS:**

### **Initial:**

- Chady Haddad, CP11990: An application was filed on October 30, 2024 and included a Verification of Work Experience form, which does not appear to meet the public accounting setting/experience. Following their review of the application materials, Mr. Brown made a motion to preliminarily deny the application based on the work experience setting, and to afford the individual an opportunity to withdraw their application. Ms. Lorenz seconded the motion. Vote 3-0 in favor. (Mr. Cyr abstained)
- Chien Tzu Huang, CP11919: An application was filed on September 13, 2024 and included a Verification of Work Experience form which does not appear to meet the public accounting setting/experience. Following their review of the application materials, Mr. Brown made a motion to preliminarily deny the application based on the work experience setting, and to afford the individual an opportunity to withdraw their application. Ms. Lorenz seconded the motion. Vote 3-0 in favor. (Mr. Cyr abstained)
- A-Reum Jung, CP10428: An application was filed on September 13, 2024 and included a transcript evaluation which appears to not meet the 150-semester hour requirements for licensure. Following their review of the application materials, Mr. Brown made a motion to preliminarily deny the application based on failure to meet the semester hour requirements, and to afford the individual an opportunity to withdraw their application. Ms. Lorenz seconded the motion. Vote 3-0 in favor. (Mr. Cyr abstained)
- Viktor V. Stolyar, CP3152: An application was filed on October 9, 2023 and remains incomplete at this time. Following their review of the application materials, Mr. Brown made a motion to preliminarily deny the application based on the applicant's failure to provide a transcript showing 150 semester hours, failure to meet the work experience requirements as the firm is not licensed, and failure to submit evidence of 40 hours of continuing education. Ms. Lorenz seconded the motion. Vote 4-0 in favor.
- Adam Totman, CP11908: The Board voted to table this application at a previous meeting and requested clarification regarding their work experience. The applicant has submitted a revised work experience form for the Board's review and discussion. Following their review of the application materials, Ms. Lorenz made a motion to approve the application for licensure. Mr. Brown seconded the motion. Vote 3-0 in favor. (Mr. Desjardins abstained)

### **Renewal:**

- Daniel K. Gayer, CP9147: An online application was filed on September 16, 2024 and the licensee answered "yes" disclosing disciplinary action taken against his license to practice law in Maine. Following their review, Mr. Brown made a motion to grant the renewal application. Ms. Lorenz seconded the motion. Vote 4-0 in favor.

- Kathryn Hodgkins, CP5779: An online application was filed on September 30, 2024 with the licensee answering “No” to meeting the continuing education requirements, subsequently completed 40 hours, and submitted documentation of completing the courses by October 31, 2024. Following their review of the application materials, Mr. Brown made a motion to approve the renewal application. Mr. Cyr seconded the motion. Vote 4-0 in favor.

### **ADJUDICATORY HEARING(S):**

- *Case No. 2024-ACC-20217 – Rita Y. Lahoud:* Hearing Officer F. Mark Terison, Esq., convened the adjudicatory proceeding at 9:05 a.m. The purpose of the hearing was to determine whether grounds exist for the Board to approve or deny Rita Y. Lahoud’s application for renewal of licensure as it relates to Case No. 2024-ACC-20217 and the allegations as outlined in the Notice of Hearing which were failure to complete the continuing education requirements for license renewal. Timothy Steigelman, Assistant Attorney General presented the Board Staff position.

Following the presentation of documentary evidence and testimony, the following motions were made:

- Mr. Cyr made a motion to approve Ms. Lahoud’s 2023 license renewal application, and to place a 12-month period of probation on her license. Within the period of probation, Ms. Lahoud will be required to provide documentation showing completion of four (4) hours of continuing education on the topic of Ethics. Ms. Lorenz seconded the motion. Vote 4-0 in favor.

Mr. Cyr made a motion to direct the Board Chair to sign the final Decision and Order without further review from the full Board. Ms. Lorenz seconded the motion. Vote 4-0 in favor.

The hearing adjourned at 11:31 a.m.

- *Case No. 2024-ACC-20218 – NDU Consulting Services, LLD:* Hearing Officer F. Mark Terison, Esq., convened the adjudicatory proceeding at 11:40 a.m. The purpose of the hearing was to determine whether grounds exist for the Board to approve or deny the application for renewal of licensure for NDU Consulting Services LLC as it relates to Case No. 2024-ACC-20218 and the allegations as outlined in the Notice of Hearing which were failure to complete the required peer review audit. Timothy Steigelman, Assistant Attorney General presented the Board Staff position.

The Licensee (principal owner) filed a motion requesting to withdraw the application for renewal as they no longer practice in Maine. Mr. Cyr made a motion to allow NDU

Consulting Services to withdraw their application for license renewal. Ms. Lorenz seconded the motion. Vote 4-0 in favor

The hearing adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

**OTHER ITEMS:**

Report by Trish Brigham, Executive Director, Maine Society of CPA's RE: Licensure Pathways:

- Summary Overview of Proposed Legislative Initiatives:
- Summary Response to AICPA/NASBA's proposed UAA changes:

Ms. Brigham and David Stone, CPA were present to provide information to the Board regarding anticipated legislation in an effort to alleviate the shortage of practitioners in the state and broaden access without affecting the quality of practitioners.

**APPLICATION REVIEWS (Continued):**

**Renewal:**

- Arpita Joshi, CP4777: An online application was filed on September 18, 2024 and the licensee answered "yes" disclosing disciplinary action taken against his license since the last renewal. Following their review and discussion of the application materials, Mr. Cyr made a motion to approve the renewal. Ms. Lorenz seconded the motion. Vote 4-0 in favor.
- Anne Robinson, CP2019: An online application was filed on September 30, 2024, and licensee answered "No" in meeting the continuing education requirements but has since submitted documentation showing completion of the required credit hours. Following their review of the application materials, Mr. Cyr made a motion to approve the application for renewal. Mr. Brown seconded the motion. Vote 4-0 in favor.
- Peter Ventre, CP1887: An online late renewal application was filed on October 8, 2024 and the licensee answered "No" in meeting the continuing education requirements. Following their review of the application materials, Mr. Cyr made a motion to grant the licensee an extension until December 31, 2024 to complete the remaining credit hours needed for renewal. Ms. Lorenz seconded the motion. Vote 4-0 in favor.
- Linna Zhang, CP9331: An online late renewal application was filed on October 26, 2024 and the licensee answered "No" in meeting the continuing education requirements and is requesting to change her license status to "inactive". Following their review of the application materials, Mr. Cyr made a motion to preliminarily deny the application based on failure to meet the requirements for renewal, and to offer the licensee an opportunity to withdraw their application. Ms. Lorenz seconded the motion. Vote 4-0 in favor.

- William Brewer CPA & Co., FM10000017: The Board tabled this renewal application at its September 10, 2024 meeting and requested more information regarding the failed peer review report. The Firm has submitted additional information for review. Following their review of the application materials, Mr. Cyr made a motion to approve the application. Ms. Lorenz seconded the motion. Vote 4-0 in favor.
- Bruzgo & Company LLC, FM10001332: An online renewal application was filed September 25, 2024, requiring a peer review report which was provided to the Board on September 30, 2024. Following their review of the application materials, Mr. Cyr made a motion to approve the application for renewal. Ms. Lorenz seconded the motion. Vote 4-0 in favor.
- Clark Schaefer Hackett Co., FMF20000510: An online renewal application was filed on September 3, 2024 with a “Yes” response disclosing disciplinary action referencing a SEC settlement. Following their review of the application materials, Mr. Cyr made a motion to approve the application for renewal. Ms. Lorenz seconded the motion. Vote 4-0 in favor.
- Kelly, Dawson & Souter, LLC, FM10001397: An online renewal application was filed on August 5, 2024 requiring a peer review report which was provided to the board on September 19, 2024. Following their review of the application materials, Mr. Cyr made a motion to approve the application. Ms. Lorenz seconded the motion. Vote 4-0 in favor.
- KPMG LLP, FM100000711: An online renewal application was filed on September 27, 2024 with a “Yes” response disclosing 2024 state licensing board action taken by Virginia, Hawaii, and Minnesota related to a 2019 SEC settlement which was previously reported to the Board. Following their review of the application materials, Mr. Brown made a motion to approve the application for renewal. Ms. Lorenz seconded the motion. Vote 3-0 in favor. (Mr. Cyr recused)
- Leonardo & Co PA, CPA, FM10001284: An online renewal application was filed on September 28, 2024 requiring a peer review report and corrective actions which were provided to the Board for review and discussion. Following their review of the application materials, Mr. Cyr made a motion to approve the application for renewal. Ms. Lorenz seconded the motion. Vote 4-0 in favor.
- Novogradac, FMF10001261: An online late renewal application was filed October 15, 2024, with a “Yes” response disclosing a 2024 state licensing board action taken by Kansas. Following their review of the application materials, Mr. Cyr made a motion to approve the application for renewal. Ms. Lorenz seconded the motion. Vote 4-0 in favor.
- UHY LLP, FMF10000919: An online renewal application was filed September 27, 2024, with a “Yes” response disclosing a 2023 PCAOB censure/fine resulting in the California licensing board opening an inquiry. The 2023 PCAOB action was previously reported to

the Board. Following their review of the application materials, Mr. Cyr made a motion to approve the application for renewal. Ms. Lorenz seconded the motion. Vote 4-0 in favor.

**Reinstatement:**

- Margaret S. Sawyer, CP2284: An application for reinstatement was filed on September 30, 2024 which included the required 80 hours of continuing education. However, a transcript review is necessary to determine if the candidate meets the 150-semester hour/content requirement. The license previously expired on September 30, 2023. Following their review of the application materials, Mr. Cyr made a motion to approve the application for reinstatement. Ms. Lorenz seconded the motion. Vote 4-0 in favor.
  
- Mary Sawyer, CP2760: An application for reinstatement was filed on September 30, 2024 which included the required 80 hours of continuing education. However, a transcript review is necessary to determine if the candidate meets the 150-semester hour/content requirement. The license previously expired on September 30, 2018. Board staff has been working directly with this applicant, and given the additional 29 semester hours required, she is seeking to withdraw her application at this time. Following their review of the application materials, Mr. Cyr made a motion to allow Mary Sawyer to withdraw her application for license reinstatement. Ms. Lorenz seconded the motion. Vote 4-0 in favor.

**REPORTING NOTIFICATIONS:**

The following reports were accepted as an FYI and letters will be sent to each, thanking them for the report and no further action will be taken:

- September 19, 2024 – Ernst & Young, LLP
- September 20, 2024 – Novogradac & Company, LLP
- October 23, 2024 – Ernst & Young, LLP

**BOARD MANAGER’S REPORT:** Ms. Vaillancourt reported the following information to the Board:

- Legislative Update: The 1<sup>st</sup> Regular Session will begin in January and provided a reminder as to their role as board members.
  
- Proposed Rulemaking Update: Ms. Vaillancourt provided a summary of what other licensing boards have for rules as it relates to inactive status and requirements for re-entering the profession. A draft rule will be presented to the members in January 2025 for their review and discussion.

- Licensing Charts: Ms. Vaillancourt provided members with a CPA licensure and examination chart.

**LICENSING REPORTS:** The reports were reviewed and accepted as an FYI.

- Active, Inactive, and Issued licenses

**OTHER ITEM(S):**

*The following agenda items were accepted as an FYI:*

- Preliminary Agenda for Future Meetings
- Case Management Reports

**PUBLIC OPPORTUNITY TO COMMENT:**

- No comments received.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Mr. Cyr made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 1:50 p.m. Ms. Lorenz seconded the motion. Vote 4-0 in favor.