



At 10:25 a.m. on May 26, 2023, Ronald B. Blich called the meeting to order, with the following members present:

Ronald B. Blich	President
Kevin J. Singh	Secretary
John Cardone, Jr.	
Michael F. Holly	
David K. Brossett	
Kristine A. Kobila	
Christian R. Elberson	

Also present:
Tyson J. Ducote, Executive Director
Justin G. Owens, Deputy Director
Paul H. Spaht, Board Legal Counsel
Richard J. LeBlanc, past board member (via Zoom)
Joe Delaune, Chief Architect, La. State Fire Marshal's Office (via Zoom)

President Blich welcomed everyone to the meeting, acknowledged this meeting as Mr. Elberson's first, and reviewed the agenda. He then recognized public comment time and welcomed past board member Richard LeBlanc to the meeting via Zoom. Mr. Blich and the entire board recognized and thanked Mr. LeBlanc for his 17 years of service to the board and the citizens of Louisiana and his untiring and selfless work with the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards. He will be missed.

Fire Marshal's Office report

Mr. Leblanc left the meeting, and Joe Delaune joined the meeting via Zoom. Delaune gave an update on the recent activities of the Fire Marshal's Office, including the new energy code review and a request by interior designers to be able to be listed as the Professional of Record in the Fire Marshal's plan review system for small projects which do not rise about the square footage thresholds which require a licensed architect or civil engineer. Upon completion of his report, Delaune and Spaht exited the meeting.

Review and discussion of legal service contract

Ducote explained to the board that Spaht had expressed a desire that FY24 would be his last year as the board's legal counsel. Ducote explained a couple of options for locating a replacement and discussed increasing Spaht's hourly rate up to the standard state rate of \$225.00/hour from his current rate. Blich created an Ad Hoc committee comprised of Holly, Cardone, and himself to begin the search for a replacement.

The Board unanimously approved the motion by Mr. Cardone, seconded by Mr. Holly, to approve the FY24 legal services contract with an increase in the hourly rate to \$225.00/hour for the legal services of Spaht, not to exceed the standard state rate of \$225.00/hour.

Review and discussion of unclassified employees' performance review

Ducote presented an overview of the process that he and the performance review committee had undertaken to find a suitable review process for himself and Owens. Blich explained that the committee (comprised of himself, Brossett, and Kobila) decided to use a review and timeline based on the one that the Texas Board of Architectural Examiners uses for its executive director.

Review and discussion of the FY24 budget

Ducote discussed some key considerations of the FY24 budget and presented the budget for review and discussion. The board discussed increasing the proposed budget for the following items: printing, bookkeeping, and new licensee celebration to include an emeritus celebration. The board discussed reducing the salaries budgeted for the board consultants.


Ducote further advised that the proposed budget included mandated yearly salary increases for the board's two classified employees but did not include increases for the two unclassified employees. He provided impact scenarios for salary increases for the unclassified positions at the chair's request. Ducote and Owens left the meeting while the board deliberated the budget and then returned to the meeting. Brossett then left the meeting.

The Board unanimously approved the motion by Mr. Holly, seconded by Ms. Kobila, to approve the FY24 budget with the following amendments: increase bookkeeping by \$1,200; increase printing by \$10,000; increase new licensee celebration by \$9,000; increase salaries by 5% for unclassified employees, and decrease salaries to \$10,000 for consultants.

Adjournment

The board unanimously approved the motion by Mr. Singh, seconded by Ms. Kobila, to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,



Ronald B. Blich, Board President



Kevin J. Singh, Board Secretary