

MINUTES OF MEETING
OF
LOUISIANA REAL ESTATE APPRAISERS BOARD

July 21, 2014

The Louisiana Real Estate Appraisers Board held its regular business meeting on Monday, June 21, 2014, at 9:00 a.m., at 9071 Interline Avenue, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, according to regular call, of which all members of the board were duly notified, at which meeting the following members were present:

BOARD

Roland M. Hall, Sr., Chairman
Gayle A. Boudousquie, Secretary
Newton J. "Butch" Landry
Clay F. Lipscomb
Gary S. Littlefield

STAFF

Bruce Unangst, Executive Director
Arlene Edwards, Legal Counsel
Tad Bolton
Anne Brassett
Debbie DeFrates
Mark Gremillion
Robert Maynor
Summer Mire
Stacy Sharpe
Marsha Stafford
Sara Wheeler
Jenny Yu

GUESTS

Kim Calloway, House Legislative Services
Rebecca Smith, Adams and Reese, LLP

Board members Mike Graham, Tommie McMorris, and Pete Pauley were unable to attend the meeting.

Call to Order

Chairman Hall called the meeting to order and led the Invocation. Mr. Littlefield led the Pledge of Allegiance. On motion made by Mr. Littlefield and seconded by Mr. Landry, the minutes of the May 19, 2014 meeting were unanimously approved as written and circulated.

Personal Appearance

Ms. Wheeler introduced Ravi Shetye, who appeared before the Board to request authorization to proceed with his application for an appraiser trainee license (*See Attachment A*). Prior to his convictions, Mr. Shetye was licensed as a real estate salesperson and appraiser trainee. He completed inpatient treatment at the Palmetto Addiction and Recovery Center in Rayville, LA and is active in Alcoholics Anonymous' Twelve Step Program. He has since married and had a baby girl, and was granted early termination of probation on January 12, 2014. Mr. Shetye accepts full responsibility for his past mistakes and was approved by the Commission at their meeting last week to move forward with obtaining his real estate salesperson's license again. Mr. Littlefield made motion, seconded by Mr. Lipscomb, to approve Mr. Shetye's request. Motion passed by a roll call vote of 4-1, with Ms. Boudousquie voting against the motion.

Budget Report

Ms. Yu provided the budget report for the period ending June 30, 2014 (*See Attachment B*). She noted that the projected budget reflects the fee increase for temporary practice permits from \$50.00 to \$150.00 per assignment, effective August 1, 2014. On motion made by Ms. Boudousquie and seconded by Mr. Littlefield, the Board voted unanimously to open the agenda to include approval of the revised and projected budgets.

Ms. Boudousquie made motion, seconded by Mr. Littlefield, to approve the revised 2013-2014 budget, as well as the projected 2014-2015 and 2015-2016 budgets. Motion passed without opposition.

Director's Report

Director Unangst began his report with mixed news; the Board has been blessed to have Tad Bolton on staff for the past two years. However, he was offered and accepted a position with the Louisiana Tax Commission and will be leaving in two weeks. Although he and the Board hate to lose Mr. Bolton, all wish him the best in his new endeavor. Ms. Mire will be posting the vacancy and notification will be emailed to all licensed appraisers in the state.

Noting that incoming questions relative to AMCs are geared more toward technical and legal issues, Director Unangst envisions educating one of our investigators on Dodd-Frank and AMC laws and regulations. He advised that the agency would likely enter into a Professional Services Contract with an administrative hearing officer should an AMC ever have to appear before the Board.

Director Unangst introduced Stacy Sharpe to the Board. Ms. Sharpe previously worked with the Louisiana Legislature and the Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms Board. She joins the Education Division and has a good skill set to assist with all departmental duties and field audits.

Director Unangst introduced Kim Calloway, staff attorney for the House Commerce Committee. He thanked Ms. Calloway for her assistance in citing technical issues with House Bill 1018, and advised the Board that with all pending legislation taken care of, Louisiana received a formal rating of "Good" from the federal Appraisal Subcommittee (ASC). This makes us one of a handful of states to receive a "Good" rating.

Lastly, Director Unangst touched on the ASC's mandatory implementation of background checks and fingerprinting, noting that the mandatory date has been pushed back from January 1, 2015 to January 1, 2017. Currently, the National Mortgage Lending Service (NMLS) has such a module as part of its software. If they would allow states to tap into their program for a fee, this would be ideal. Legal counsel will review the statutes and advise what needs to be done to prepare for this mandate.

Unfinished Business

The Board discussed the proposal of a mandatory continuing education topic, such as the Commission has had in place for at least 14 years. It has worked well with real estate licensees and should be very effective for appraisers also. Members questioned whether the class should be "live" or "internet-based", and agreed that live classes offer good interaction amongst peers. Chairman Hall scheduled a meeting of the Education Committee for 9:00 a.m., Monday, August 21, 2014. The committee meeting will be immediately followed by the regular business meeting at 10:00 a.m. Director Unangst will draft a letter to the Education Committee advising that the topic(s) must be decided at next month's meeting.

There being no additional items to discuss, the meeting was adjourned on motion made by Ms. Boudousquie and seconded by Mr. Littlefield.

Roland M. Hall, Sr., Chairman

Gayle A. Boudousquie, Secretary