



State of Nevada
Certified Court Reporters Board

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LORI JUDD – Chairperson
PEGGY ELIAS – Vice Chairperson
HEIDI KONSTEN – Board Member
CHRISTINE ALAIMO – Board Member
DAN WAITE, ESQ. – Board Member

OPEN MEETING MINUTES

Date: Monday, September 26, 2016
Start Time: 5:32pm
End Time: 6:52pm (Break 6:30pm – 6:40pm)

Location: Litigation Services, LLC
3770 Howard Hughes Parkway, Suite 300
Las Vegas, Nevada 89169

Present: Lori Judd Peggy Elias Heidi Konsten Christine Alaimo
Peter Hellman Clara Casey Chris Eccles, Esq. Kim Farkas
Robert Surowiec

Via TelCon: Severin Carlson, Esq. Sophia Long, Esq. Stephanie Elkington
Carrie Hewerdine Janice David Deborah Arnaud Michel Loomis
Elizabeth Van Fleet

ITEM #1: **Meeting Called to Order:** The meeting was called to order by Chairperson, Lori Judd.

Board Members:

Lori Judd – Present
Peggy Elias – Present
Heidi Konsten – Present
Christine Alaimo – Present
Severin Carlson – Present

ITEM #2: **Public Comments:** Peter Hellman inquired what steps the Board will be taking in regards to agenda items #5, #6 and #8 to increase court reporters in the state of Nevada. In a typical month, he stated, 30% of his court reporting jobs need to be re-scheduled due to the lack of available court reporters and of these jobs that are re-scheduled, they are often sub-contracted out. He also receives daily phone calls from other agencies in search of court reporters. Mr. Hellman stated NRCP provides other alternative means for court reporting besides stenographic and asked how the Board will address the surplus of depositions when there are not enough court reporters. No further comments.

ITEM #3: **Approval of Agenda:**

MOTION by Peggy Elias: That the Board approve the agenda in its entirety. Motion seconded by Heidi Konsten, all in favor, motion moves forward.

ITEM #4: **Approval of Meeting Minutes:**

MOTION by Peggy Elias: That the Board approve the May 25, 2016 open meeting minutes in its entirety. Motion seconded by Heidi Konsten, all in favor, motion moves forward.

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ITEM #5: **Obtaining a Sponsor for the 2017 Legislative Session:** The Board will continue their search to obtain a sponsor for the 2017 Legislative Session to represent the Board’s bill draft requests. No further comments. No action taken.

Agenda items taken out of order.

ITEM #7: **Discussion to Seek Outside Legal Counsel:** A discussion ensued to seek outside legal counsel for Board matters. Since NAC 656.460(1) requires the Attorney General who represents the Board be present at disciplinary hearings; the Board will continue to utilize the legal services of the Attorney General’s office for disciplinary matters and/or until the Board amends their current regulations. Mr. Christopher Eccles, Esq. of Hawkins Melendrez Attorneys at Law, shared a brief introduction and background of his firm (a copy is attached and will be kept on file). Mr. Eccles also provided a rate structure and acknowledged he would share the Board’s legal budget with his firm to ensure the legal allowance would be feasible for his firm. This item will be moved to the next scheduled open meeting for finalization. Public comment made by Peter Hellman requesting a copy of the Board’s fiscal budget and that he would delay further comments until the end of the meeting at item #13. Debbie Uehara presented Mr. Hellman with a copy of the fiscal budget. No further comments. No action taken.

ITEM #8: **Discussion of Jurisdictional Matters on Notaries and Videographers Serving as Officers:** Peggy Elias presented examples of videographers and notaries who served as officers to take depositions, certify transcripts and alter tapes and transcripts. Ms. Elias referred to excerpts from Nevada Revised Statutes and Regulations Chapter 656 Certified Court Reporters, NRS Chapter 240 Notaries Public and Nevada Rules of Civil Procedure and points out that videographers and notaries do not have the authorization to serve as a court reporter and certify transcripts. Ms. Elias requested to create a committee to research and determine the correct means to protect the public and present their findings to the Supreme Court Rules Committee for their review and input. No further comments.

MOTION by Peggy Elias: That the Board form a committee immediately and take their findings to the Supreme Court Rules Committee. Motion seconded by Heidi Konsten, all in favor, motion moves forward.

ITEM #6: **Discussion to Provide a Definition of an Officer, Specifically NRS 656.030:** Peggy Elias presented proposed language that defines an officer (a copy is attached and will be kept on file). Based on the discussion resulting from agenda item #8, it became evident that clarification of an officer is needed. No further comments.

MOTION by Peggy Elias: That the Board approve the proposed language that defines an officer and submit as a bill draft request for the 2017 legislative session. Motion seconded by Heidi Konsten, all in favor, motion moves forward.

ITEM #9: **Approval of 16/17 Fiscal Budget:**
MOTION by Severin Carlson: That the Board approve the 16/17 fiscal budget with the amendment that Board members will not receive a per diem for special committee meetings. Motion seconded by Christine Alaimo, all in favor, motion moves forward.

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- ITEM #10:** **Executive Secretary's Report:** Debbie Uehara presented the Board's financial report; a copy is attached and will be kept on file. Ms. Uehara reported there are 2 on-going investigations and no written comments were received at the Board's office. No further comments.
- ITEM #11:** **Board Member Comments:** Severin Carlson shared his appreciation after serving the Board for 9 years and expressed his enjoyment working with Board members, former Board members, court reporters and members from the public. Mr. Carlson will not seek a 4th term. Lori Judd expressed her gratitude to Mr. Carlson for his experience in law and legislative matters and the benefits he brought to the State of Nevada and the Board with his guidance and wisdom. Heidi Konsten expressed her appreciation to Mr. Carlson for his services. No further comments.
- ITEM #12:** **Next Scheduled Open Meeting and Agenda Items:** Heidi Konsten requested to add NVCRA's 2017 convention program to earn Nevada law credits to the agenda. Other agenda items and meeting date will be determined at a later date. No further comments.
- ITEM #13:** **Public Comments:** Robert Surowiec commended the Board for their efforts in creating new regulations. Mr. Surowiec expressed the importance of getting more young people interested to ensure the advancement of the court reporting profession. No further comments.

Adjournment:

MOTION by Heidi Konsten: That the Board adjourn the open meeting at 6:52pm. Motion seconded by Christine Alaimo, all in favor, motion moves forward.