

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF LAW EXAMINERS**

OCTOBER 21, 2020

1. Call to order, determine quorum, and consider requests for excused absences.
The meeting was called to order at 9:04 AM by Chair Augustin Rivera, Jr. Rivera, Giltner, Mackenzie, Massey, McKim, Odom, Orr, and Soltero were present. Ellis joined at 9:10 AM. Odom left the meeting at 9:25 AM, and returned at 10:21 AM.
2. Consider approval of minutes and certified agenda of 9/16/2020.
Massey noted a misspelling of his name in the proposed minutes, that will be corrected. Massey made a motion to approve the minutes. Odom submitted a second to that motion. The motion was approved unanimously, with the exception of Ellis who was not present during the vote.
3. Consider communications from the public, if any.
Public Comments were offered by Dean Michael Barry.
4. Report of Executive Director – Henricks
 - a. General agency operations.
Staff continue to work from home, but Henricks has implemented weekly Zoom meetings that are required attendance by all staff. An analyst position has been posted to replace an existing analyst and Henricks anticipates hiring an additional analyst, as has been requested by BLE’s directors.
 - b. Report on the September and October 2020 Texas Bar Examinations.
Henricks presented a final number of 1,119 completed examinations in October, 2020. For September, 2020, 1,037 applicants completed the examination. A total of 2,156 applicants completed exams during September and October, 2020. Graders are currently progressing with grading of the September examination and are on schedule.
 - c. Review Complaint Log and Public Comments Report.
The Board was provided with copies of the Complaint Log and Public Comments prior to the meeting. No discussion was offered.
 - d. Report and Update on February 2021 Texas Bar Examination.
The February 2021 examination is currently set for three on-site locations. Staff anticipate the February 2021 examination will be larger than normal. Henricks said she feels strongly that in order to ensure a high-quality administration, an on-site exam would be preferred. As such, BLE plans to administer the examination in-person, but that is dependent on health conditions and local ordinances in place at

the time of exam administration. Henricks noted that NCBE will make a remote UBE available for the February 2021, but it is BLE's intention to host the exam in-person.

5. Report of Director of Character and Fitness – Drish
 - a. Consent agenda: Proposed Agreed Order(s) recommended by Informal Settlement Conference Panels. Deliberation may be conducted in executive session on motion approved by the Board pursuant to Rules Governing Admission to the Bar, Rule 7(b) and Texas Gov't Code, Sec 82.003(c).

Board Members were provided with a copy of the proposed order prior to the meeting. Odom submitted a motion to approve the order. Orr submitted a second to the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
6. Report of Director of Eligibility and Examination – Hoang
 - a. Discuss special reapplication deadline for unsuccessful October 2020 examinees.

Hoang noted that the special reapplication filing deadline for February exams is December 1st. However, October 2020 examinees will not receive grades until after that deadline. Hoang requested the Board approve a two-week extension to the February 2021 special filing deadline for October examinees. Soltero offered a motion to accept the proposal. McKim offered a second to the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
7. Consider issues arising from reports of Executive Director, Director of Eligibility & Examination, Director of Character & Fitness, and Staff Attorneys.

Rivera opened the floor to discussion and comments, but none were offered.

At 9:27 AM, the meeting was called to Executive Session by Rivera.

8. Executive Session for report of the Staff Attorneys, as authorized by Tex. Govt. Code Sec. 551.071.
9. Executive session for deliberation on evaluation and compensation of current Executive Director and appointment of new Executive Director, as authorized by Tex. Govt. Code Sec. 551.074(a)(1), with possible discussion and action in open session.

The meeting returned to open session at 10:34 AM. Mackenzie moved to increase the salary of Henricks effective as of the October 2020 pay period by 10% and that Henricks also receive a 7% annual bonus based on the adjusted salary at the earliest possible payment date for the bonus. Orr submitted a second on the motion. Ellis also offered support of the motion and for Henricks. Rivera conducted a roll call vote:

- Orr Aye
- Soltero Aye
- Mackenzie Aye

- Ellis Aye
- McKim Aye
- Massey Aye
- Odom Aye
- Giltner Aye
- Rivera Aye

The motion passed unanimously.

10. Adjourn.

Rivera adjourned the meeting at 10:41 AM.

Respectfully Submitted By,



Susan Henricks, Executive Director

Approved By:



Augustin Rivera, Jr., Chair