

# Oregon State Board of Tax Practitioners Telephone Board Meeting Minutes

**Meeting Date:** January 29, 2009

**Time:** 8:03 a.m. – 8:44 a.m.

**Location:** Morrow Crane Building, Salem, Oregon

**Attendees:** Marilyn Johnston (Board Chair)  
Alan Twombly (Vice-Chair)  
Merry VanAtta  
Toni Ellsworth  
Jess Gutierrez  
Dorothy Hudson  
Janis Salisbury

**Staff:** Ron A. Wagner, Executive Director  
Jane A. Billings, Exam & Education Coordinator  
Marika B. Dwyer, Licensing Specialist

| ITEM  | ACTION / DISCUSSION   |
|---|---|
| Johnston called the meeting to order at 8:03 a.m. |   |
| Roll called                                       | Board members present: Twombly, Ellsworth, VanAtta, Gutierrez, Salisbury, Hudson, and Johnston.   |
| Hearing Update                                    | Johnston shared that the hearing for the legislative concept went very well. This is to extend the authority of the Board over corporations, partnerships, and estates and trusts. Wagner, Twombly and Johnston attended the hearing at the Capitol. She expects there will be more questions, but it looks good.   |
| <b>Rulemaking Approval</b>                        |   |
| Billings  | <p>No public comments were given, either in writing or in person.</p> <p>VanAtta suggested minor wording changes to two rules.<br/>Under 800-025-0027, Eligibility, she doesn't think the (2) is appropriate.<br/>Under 800-025-0060, Consultants in Residence, (2) after the word twice, should be removed.</p> <p><b>Motion:</b> VanAtta made a motion to adopt the entire rule change as the Board has corrected it. Motion passed. Ayes: Salisbury, Gutierrez, VanAtta, Hudson, Ellsworth, Twombly, and Johnston.</p> |
| <b>Waiver Requests</b>                            |   |
| License Waiver for Charles Forrer                 | <p>His Oregon insurance license was suspended in February 2005 for failure to submit required CE. Billings has verified Forrer is in good standing, and his license is active.</p> <p><b>Motion:</b> Gutierrez moved that the Board grant the waiver. Motion passed. Ayes: Ellsworth, Hudson, VanAtta, Gutierrez, Salisbury, Twombly, and Johnston.</p>   |
| License Waiver for                                | Gutierrez explained the issues he saw involved. The DC would not be available to  |

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| <p>Tammy Wilcox /<br/>Robert Kottke</p>                                     | <p>oversee any kind of questioning, and this seems to be a “branch office” case. The Board agreed, and Wagner stated that staff would follow up on whether there had been any violations in the past.</p> <p><b>Motion:</b> Gutierrez moved that the Board deny the waiver. Motion passed. Ayes: VanAtta, Salisbury, Ellsworth, Hudson, Gutierrez, Twombly, and Johnston.</p>  |
| <p><b>Other Business</b></p>  |  |
| <p>Continuing Education</p>   | <p>Billings reminded Board members about the CE review distributed at the last meeting, and asked those that were still outstanding to complete and return to her as soon as possible.</p> <p>Salisbury reviewed CE submitted by CPE Depot - Taxation Circles, titled “Dealing With Debt and Interest.” It did not discuss issue of home mortgage debt exclusion of two million dollars, and there was misinformation on home mortgage debt. She encouraged denying.</p> <p>Johnston reviewed three from CCH. One on sales and use tax did not cover acceptable material, and she would deny. 1040 Preparation and Planning Part 9 Tax Practice was good information all on tax law, but because there were only ten final exam questions, she proposes granting two hours. The other CE she reviewed was acceptable.</p> <p><b>Motion:</b> Salisbury moved that the Board accept continuing education as presented. Motion passed. Ayes: Hudson, Ellsworth, Gutierrez, Salisbury, Twombly, and Johnston. Nays: VanAtta.</p> |
| <p>Public Awareness</p>   | <p>Gutierrez asked what is being done for public awareness. Wagner has made contacts with the television stations, but the charges are large, \$20,000-35,000. There are no funds in our budget that have been approved for this. <i>Oregon.gov</i> Web page has a feature article, where the Tax Board will be the topic twice during this tax season. The Department of Revenue will include reminders about using licensed tax preparers in their four featured articles. KEX radio plans to run some stories as well.</p> <p>Ellsworth suggested that the Board hire a specialist to get the word out because the staff is already stretched to the limit.</p> <p>Salisbury explained how this expense was not planned for previously and that the wheels in government turn a little slower than in business. Twombly reminded the group that the Board is not viewed as “non-profit,” and may be less apt to be promoted by the media as a government agency.</p>  |
| <p>Forrer Waiver</p>  | <p>Copies of his paperwork show credit card information, so be sure to shred this.</p>   |
| <p><b>Adjournment</b> Johnston adjourned the Board meeting at 8:44 a.m.</p> |  |

**Next meeting:**

May 14, 2009

Morrow Crane Building, Salem, Oregon