

**MINUTES**  
**UTAH BOARD OF ACCOUNTANCY**  
**April 02, 2025**  
**Hybrid Meeting with anchor location in Room 474**

**CONVENED:** 1:31 p.m.

**ADJOURNED:** 3:56 p.m.

**Bureau Manager:**  
**Board Secretary:**

Tracy Taylor  
Katie Corak

**Board Members Present:**

Robert Anderson, Chairperson  
Peter Mann, Vice Chair  
Brian Deppe  
Geri Douglas  
David Young

**Guests:**

Susan Speirs, UACPA  
Dustin Wood, UACPA  
Shawn Noble Frost  
Natalie Murphy

**DOPL Staff Present:**

Pamela Bennett, Investigator  
Bernice Palama, Compliance Specialist

**TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION**  
**ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS:**

**DECISIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

Approve Minutes:

Ms. Douglas made a motion to approve the minutes from the January 08, 2025 meeting. Mr. Mann seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Compliance Update:

Ms. Palama provided the Board with a Compliance update. Item noted with no action taken.

Investigations Update:

Ms. Bennett stated there was nothing to report at this time.

Licensing and Exam Statistics:

The Board reviewed CPA exam statistics for national and Utah exam candidates from the 4th quarter of 2024. Item noted with no action taken.

## APPOINTMENTS:

Shawn Noble Frost:

Mr. Frost met with the Board to discuss his application for licensure as a CPA by endorsement from Virginia. Mr. Frost is meeting with the Board because he disclosed the presence of pending criminal charges on his application. Mr. Frost currently has serious felony charges pending in the state of Florida. The Board is being asked to review Mr. Frost's application to determine if Mr. Frost should be granted a license and if so, whether it should be placed on probation, or issued conditionally until the case is fully adjudicated. Mr. Anderson asked for how the Board has handled cases such as these historically, as well as the options available to the Board. Ms. Taylor explained because there are so few cases such as this that come before the Board there is no precedent; but in other professions many applications with pending charges are denied and the applicant can reapply after the case is adjudicated, however sometimes the license is conditionally issued until the charges are adjudicated and then a full review takes place. In cases where there are similar charges and they have been adjudicated with the applicant being found guilty, the license is issued on probation as a notice to the public. Mr. Frost addressed the Board stressing that he has entered a plea of not guilty; and in the American judicial system, defendants are innocent until proven guilty. Additionally, Mr. Frost stated he has been licensed as a CPA in Virginia since 1996 with no disciplinary action. Mr. Frost then answered questions from the Board regarding his Virginia license and the status of the criminal case in Florida (including all of the delays). Mr. Frost stated the Virginia Board of Accountancy does not require pending charges to be disclosed at the time of renewal or application (Ms. Taylor confirmed this with the Virginia Board of Accountancy during the meeting) and, therefore, the Virginia Board of Accountancy is not aware of the pending charges. Due to the charges being pending and the fact that Mr. Frost has not been convicted of a crime, the Board discussed issuing Mr. Frost's license conditionally and what that would entail. After some discussion, Mr. Anderson made a motion to recommend that Mr. Frost's application for licensure be conditionally approved pending the outcome of the criminal case, and require Mr. Frost to notify the Board of any applicable court action related to his criminal



case. Mr. Mann seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-1 with Mr. Anderson, Ms. Douglas, Mr. Mann, and Mr. Young voting yes and Mr. Deppe voting no.

Natalie Murphy:

Ms. Murphy met with the Board regarding the renewal of her license. At the time of renewal, Ms. Murphy reported she was sanctioned and entered into a settlement with the PCAOB. As part of the PCAOB disciplinary proceedings, Ms. Murphy was censured, barred from being associated with a registered public accounting firm, and the imposition of a \$50,000 civil money. Also, Ms. Murphy was required to complete 40 hours of continuing professional education in addition to the hours required for license renewal, and cannot apply to associate with a public accounting firm for a period of 5 years. Ms. Taylor then reviewed the allegations in the PCAOB settlement that led to the sanctions. Ms. Taylor explained that in the last few years there was a change in leadership at the PCAOB and a new strategic plan was issued that has placed a higher priority on compliance which has led to an increase in fines and penalties being assessed in these types of settlements. Because of the PCAOB settlement and sanctions, there was enough cause for the Division to offer Ms. Murphy a chance to voluntarily surrender her license, and, if she refused, the Division would file a notice of agency action to revoke her license. This is standard procedure in these types of cases. Ms. Murphy would then be allowed to reapply for the license in five years. When presented with these options, Ms. Murphy asked for an opportunity to meet with the Board to make a request to keep her license. After a brief explanation of what the PCAOB is and their function by Ms. Taylor, Ms. Murphy addressed the Board regarding the PCAOB settlement, her experience with the PCAOB investigators, and explained that she wants the opportunity to keep her license because even though she is prohibited from associating with a registered public accountancy firm and practicing public accountancy, Ms. Murphy would like the opportunity to keep her license so she is able to prepare financial statements for private companies or be a CFO. Ms. Murphy stated she has no intention to work in public accounting again. The Board generally agreed that revocation would be punitive and Ms. Murphy should be

allowed to keep her license but on probation with additional conditions. After some discussion regarding the terms of probation and considering requirements for additional ethics CPE, Mr. Mann made a motion to renew Ms. Murphy's license on probation for a term of five years. (coinciding with the PCAOB order) and require Ms. Murphy to submit quarterly employer reports and complete two additional hours of ethics CPE in addition to the 80 hours of CPE required for renewal. Mr. Young seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **DISCUSSION and ACTION ITEMS:**

##### **Update from UACPA:**

Dustin Wood, a representative from UACPA, provided an update to the Board highlighting the passage of Senate Bill 15 which added an alternative pathway to licensure for CPAs who hold a bachelor's degree in accounting and have two years of accountancy experience working under a licensed CPA. Since this change was made to the statute, therefore necessitating changes to the administrative rule. Susan Speirs, CEO of UACPA, will attend meetings of the CPA Education Advisory Committee when they begin the rule writing process later this spring. The changes to statute will take effect July 1, 2026, giving the Committee plenty of time to make changes to the administrative rules. Ms. Speirs will also be attending a meeting with the Division and the NASBA CPE Audit Service to discuss how Utah's first renewal cycle using the NASBA Audit Service went. The Board asked that as soon as the Committee has any draft language written, that they be able to review it and provide feedback. Items noted with no action taken.

##### **Legislative Updates:**

This agenda item was covered during the Update from UACPA.

##### **NASBA Conference Update:**

Ms. Taylor provided the Board with a summary of her attendance at the NASBA Executive Directors Conference from March 25-27, 2025. Ms. Taylor attended informative seminars with the SEC, PCAOB, and the IRS. Education requirements for licensure were also heavily discussed as many states weigh changes to their education requirements for licensure. The biggest



concern for states right now is private equity investment firms purchasing CPA firms and creating alternative practice structures which can create issues for insurance and who can be held liable if there are sanctions levied against the firm after an audit. Item noted with no action taken.

**ADJOURN:**

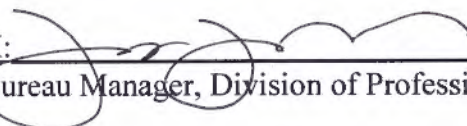
Adjourned at 3:56 p.m.

*Note: These minutes are not intended to be a verbatim transcript but are intended to record the significant features of the business conducted in this meeting. Discussed items are not necessarily shown in the chronological order they occurred.*

Date: 6/4/2025

X:   
Chairperson, Utah Board of Accountancy

Date: 06/04/2025

X:   
Bureau Manager, Division of Professional Licensing