

Tennessee Highway Officials Certification Board Minutes of Meeting on June 9, 2021

The Tennessee Highway Officials Certification Board met telephonically June 9, 2021, at 1:00 p.m. Central Daylight Time.

Attending were the following members of the board:

Manny Belen (participated by phone/video)
Bryon Fortner (participated by phone/video)
Nicole Shaffer (participated by phone/video)
Bob Wormsley (participated by phone)
Jessica Lim (participated by phone/video)

Applicants Participating by Phone:

Melinda Jean Wood

Others Participating by Phone/Video:

Brett Howell – County Technical Assistance Services

Chairman Lim called the meeting to order at 1:02 p.m. Central Daylight Time.

A motion was made by Manny Belen, seconded by Bob Wormsley, and unanimously approved to accept the meeting minutes from February 17, 2021.

Chairman Lim, in accordance to Tenn. Code An. § 8-44-108(b), gave a statement of the necessity for conducting the Tennessee Highway Officials Certification Board meeting by phone and/or video due to a lack of a physical quorum. A telephonic/video meeting was determined a necessity to review the application for certification for the appointment of chief administrative officer of the highway department in Smith County.

Chairman Lim reviewed the statutory requirements and the board's guidelines for certifying applicants.

The board proceeded to examine affidavits submitted for certification. The status next to each applicant's name indicates the final action of the board. Motions for the board action were made and seconded by the members indicated. All votes were unanimous unless otherwise indicated.

Previously Certified Applicants

Smith County – Michael Anthony Kemp – Approval – (Fortner/Shaffer)

Smith County – Kenneth Allen Shores – Approval – (Fortner/Shaffer)

New Applicants

Smith County – Aaron Chase Preston – Denied – (Shaffer/Wormsley)

The board was unable to find a total of four years of supervisory experience in the construction or maintenance of highways as required by Tenn. Code Ann. § 54-7-104. Specifically, the board concluded that the experience listed in Mr. Preston's application was that of an "inspector" for third-party contractors, which did not necessarily qualify as "supervisory" experience over employees as required by the statute.

Smith County – Melinda Jean Wood – Denied – (Shaffer/Belen)

Yes – Votes – Belen, Shaffer, Wormsley and Lim

No – Votes – Fortner

The board was unable to find a total of four years of supervisory experience in the actual construction or maintenance of highways as required by Tenn. Code Ann. § 54-7-104. Specifically, the board was not able to conclude that the experience listed in Ms. Wood's application was solely in administration and office management, rather than in the construction or maintenance of highways.

The board discussed the expiration of their current terms on June 30, 2021. Chairman Lim her efforts with each board member's appointment authority and the status of appointment or re-appointment for the term beginning July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2025.

No new meeting date was set.

Because there was no other business before the board, Chairman Lim adjourned the meeting at 1:39 p.m. Central Daylight Time.

Submitted this 9th day of June, 2021.



Jessica Lim, Chairman