

Tennessee Highway Officials Certification Board
Minutes of Meeting on January 11, 2022

The Tennessee Highway Officials Certification Board met in the Nashville Conference Room, on the 3rd Floor of the William R. Snodgrass – Tennessee Tower Building in Nashville on January 11, 2022, at 1:00 p.m. Central Standard Time.

Attending were the following members of the board:

Manny Belen (participated by phone)
Bryon Fortner (participated by phone)
Randy Helton
Bob Wormsley
Jessica Lim

Applicants Participating in Person:

Ronald Allen Wade

Applicants Participating by Phone:

Robby Brian Roberson
Benny Tobe Smith
Roger Lee Colbaugh
Kevin Doyle Music
Kevin Brent Swatsell
Joseph Allen Parrott
Billy Joe Pickel
Christopher Michael Beaty
Eric Daniel Higgins
Brian Edward Hutson
Michael Todd Brown
Ricky Timothy McGaha
Neeley Bob Luna
Mickey Glenn Barrett
Brock Burmeister
Terry Allen Odle
Robert Howard Austin
Gaylen Wade Barlow
Charles A. Hutson

Others Participating In Person:

Brett Howell – Tennessee Highway Officials Association, Director

Others Participating by Phone/Video:

Judy McAllister – Administrator of Elections, Meigs County
Don Walker – Blount County

Chairman Lim called the meeting to order at 1:08 p.m. Central Standard Time.

A motion to accept the meeting minutes from December 15, 2021 was made by Bob Wormsley, seconded by Randy Helton, and unanimously approved by all board members.

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

- Bledsoe County – Robby Brian Roberson – Approved – (Fortner/Wormsley)**
- Bledsoe County – Benny Tobe Smith – Approved – (Fortner/Wormsley)**
- Blount County – Jeffrey Thomas Headrick – Approved – (Fortner/Wormsley)**
- Bradley County – Sandra Norton Knight – Approved – (Fortner/Wormsley)**
- Carroll County – James Ricky Scott – Approved – (Fortner/Wormsley)**
- Carter County – Roger Lee Colbaugh – Approved – (Fortner/Wormsley)**
- Cocke County – Charles Dwayne McCallister – Approved – (Fortner/Wormsley)**
- Coffee County – Scott Edward Hansert – Approved – (Fortner/Wormsley)**
- Cumberland County – Scott Lee Blaylock – Approved – (Fortner/Wormsley)**
- Cumberland County – Kevin Doyle Music – Approved – (Fortner/Wormsley)**
- Decatur County – Randy Glen Gordon – Approved – (Fortner/Wormsley)**
- DeKalb County – Isaac Wayne Shehane – Approved – (Fortner/Wormsley)**
- Greene County – Kevin Brent Swatsell – Approved – (Fortner/Wormsley)**
- Hardeman County – Casey Leo Swift – Approved – (Fortner/Wormsley)**
- Hawkins County – Joseph Allen Parrott – Approved – (Fortner/Wormsley)**
- Lawrence County – Donnie Joe Brown – Approved – (Fortner/Wormsley)**
- Lawrence County – Thomas Eric Brown – Approved – (Fortner/Wormsley)**
- Lawrence County – Ryan Keith Krick – Approved – (Fortner/Wormsley)**
- Loudon County – Billy Joe Pickel – Approved – (Fortner/Wormsley)**
- McMinn County – Dan P. Evans – Approved – (Fortner/Wormsley)**
- Meigs County – Jimmy Doyle Nelson – Approved – (Fortner/Wormsley)**
- Monroe County – Steve D. Teague – Approved – (Fortner/Wormsley)**
- Pickett County – Christopher Michael Beaty – Approved – (Fortner/Wormsley)**
- Pickett County – Jimmy R. Cope – Approved – (Fortner/Wormsley)**
- Putnam County – Randy Jones – Approved – (Fortner/Wormsley)**

Sequatchie County – Eric Daniel Higgins – Approved – (Fortner/Wormsley)

Smith County – Kenneth Allen Shores – Approved – (Fortner/Wormsley)

Sumner County – Toby Ray Ellis – Approved – (Fortner/Wormsley)

Sumner County – Richard Wayne Morris – Approved – (Fortner/Wormsley)

Unicoi County – Terry Lee Haynes – Approved – (Fortner/Wormsley)

Van Buren County – Randy David Oakes – Approved – (Fortner/Wormsley)

Warren County – Levie Grey Glenn – Approved – (Fortner/Wormsley)

New Applicants

Anderson County – Brian Edward Hutson – Approved – (Helton/Wormsley)

Carroll County – Mike Lynn Kyle – Approved – (Fortner/Wormsley)

Carroll County – Ronald Allen Wade – Approved – (Fortner/Belen)

Chester County – Michael Todd Brown – Approved – (Helton/Fortner)

Yes – Votes – Fortner, Helton, Wormsley, Lim

No – Votes – Belen

Cocke County – Ricky Timothy McGaha – Approved – (Fortner/Wormsley)

Cumberland County – Richard “Scott” Griffin – Denied – (Belen/Wormsley)

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 from the employment history listed in Mr. Burke’s application – in which Section 5 for listing specific experience and projects was left completely blank – demonstrated the required supervisory experience in the actual construction or maintenance of highways.

Lawrence County – Neeley Bob Luna – Approved – (Fortner/Wormsley)

Meigs County – Steven Ross Miller – Approved – (Helton/Fortner)

Smith County – Mickey Glenn Barrett – Approved – (Fortner/Wormsley)

Sullivan County – Calvin Dean Clifton – Approved – (Wormsley/Helton)

Sumner County – Brock Burmeister – Approved – (Fortner/Belen)

Weakley County – Terry Allen Odle – Approved – (Fortner/Helton)

Weakley County – Bruce Anthony Slusser – Denied – (Fortner/Belen)

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 employment history listed in Section 4 failed to demonstrate the necessary four (4) years of supervisory experience in highway construction or maintenance. Mr. Slusser's employment at Griffith's Landscaping from 2003 to 2012, although appearing to be in a supervisory capacity, was in landscape design, not highway construction or maintenance. Mr. Slusser's employment at Roach's Paving Company and Weakley County Highway Department since 2009, although appearing to be in highway construction or maintenance, did not appear to be in a "supervisory" capacity. Likewise, the specific experience and projects listed in Section 5 failed to demonstrate the necessary four (4) years of supervisory experience in highway construction or maintenance.

White County – Robert Howard Austin – Denied – (Belen/Helton)

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, Mr. Austin's experience as owner and CEO of Austin's Machine Shop since 1998 did not appear to include any experience in highway construction or maintenance as required by statute.

White County – Gaylen Wade Barlow – Deferred – (Fortner/Wormsley)

The board seeks clarification and additional information showing that Mr. Barlow has 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, based on his employment history listed in Section 4 of his application, Mr. Barlow's only supervisory experience in highway construction or maintenance appeared to be as a crew leader for the City of Sparta for three (3) years, for all or a portion of 2008 to 2011. However, in Section 5 Mr. Barlow appeared to serve in the role of project foreman in the construction or maintenance of highways during a portion of his employment for the White County Highway Department from 1992 to 2005, although he listed his title as "heavy equipment operator" during his employment there. To determine whether Mr. Barlow meets the necessary four (4) years of supervisory experience in highway construction or maintenance, the board seeks additional information on (i) Mr. Barlow's exact dates of employment as crew leader for City of Sparta and his role and duties during that time, and (ii) any projects or duties while employed at the White County Highway Department that qualify as supervisory experience in highway construction or maintenance.

White County – Kenneth Prince Cotton – Denied – (Wormsley/Helton)

The board was unable to find that Mr. Cotton met the requirements of Tenn. Code Ann. § 54-7-104. Section 2 of the application did not indicate under which part of the statute Mr. Cotton was seeking qualification. The majority of the application was blank and did not demonstrate that Mr. Cotton met the necessary qualifications under any option for qualification.

White County – Charles A. Hutson – Denied – (Belen/Helton)

Yes – Votes – Belen, Helton, Lim

No – Votes – Fortner, Wormsley

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 employment history and specific experience listed in Sections 4 and 5 of the application did not demonstrate that Mr. Hutson's experience since January 18, 2018 is in a supervisory capacity in "highway construction or maintenance."

The board discussed setting the next meeting for the week of January 24, 2022.

Because there was no other business before the board, Chairman Lim adjourned the meeting at 2:08 p.m. Central Standard Time.

Submitted this 11th day of January, 2022.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'JL', is written over a horizontal line. The signature is stylized and cursive.

Jessica Lim, Chairman