

MINUTES

NORTH CAROLINA AUCTIONEER LICENSING BOARD

February 8, 2021

The North Carolina Auctioneer Licensing Board met on Monday, February 8, 2021 by video conference due to Executive Orders limiting mass gatherings, which were issued to address the COVID-19 pandemic.

The meeting was called to order at 8:37 a.m. Members participating were Chairman Lisa D. York, Vice Chairman Buck Lattimore, Willie A. Johnson, Allison H. Pant, and Dan DeVane. Also participating were Executive Director Charles F. Diehl, Administrative Officer Becky Stewart, and Special Deputy Attorney General Anne Brown with the NC Department of Justice.

Chairman York inquired of each member if there were any known conflicts of interest or any appearance of conflicts with respect to any matters coming before the Board during this meeting. Member Johnson recused himself from consideration of the Probable Cause recommendations due to his participation in the Probable Cause Subcommittee meeting. Vice Chairman Lattimore recused himself from the Administrative Hearings regarding Jason Paul Steward, Jennifer Kiser Williams, and Gina Cannon Vandiford. Other members stated there were none.

Minutes of the meeting held on January 11, 2021 were reviewed. **Member Pant made a motion to approve the minutes. Vice Chairman Lattimore seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.**

Then, Director Diehl reported on the staff investigations and ad violations for the month of January.

Next, the Board considered the Probable Cause Report. **Member Pant made a motion to approve the Probable Cause Report. Vice Chairman Lattimore seconded the motion, which**

carried unanimously. Prior to the motion or any discussion, Member Johnson had recused himself from consideration of the Probable Cause Report due to his participation in the Probable Cause Subcommittee meeting.

At this time, Director Diehl presented the financial report. **Member DeVane made a motion to approve the financial report for the month of January. Vice Chairman Lattimore seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.**

Then, Executive Director Diehl presented for the Board's consideration a new continuing education course and instructor for the Auctioneers Association of North Carolina (AANC): "*Marketing & Branding: Cutting Through the Noise – Daniel Lyles.*" **Vice Chairman Lattimore made a motion to approve the new continuing education course and instructor for the AANC. Member Johnson seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.**

At this time, Director Diehl provided the results of the February 4, 2021 auctioneer examination, which were as follows: three (3) examinees with three (3) passing and zero (0) failing.

Next, Chairman York acknowledged the applicants Richard Lee Barton, Jeremy Elsworth Henthorn, and Donald Ray Fletcher for auctioneer licenses, and Walnut Grove Auction & Realty, Inc. and B & G Discounts for auction firm licenses. **Member Johnson made a motion to approve the applicants for auctioneer licenses and auction firm licenses. Member Pant seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.** Then, Chairman York acknowledged applicants Christopher Wayne Thigpen's for an auctioneer license and Bright Star Realty & Auctions, LLC's for an auction firm license, which both applicants had been listed on the Probable Cause Report. Member Johnson had recused himself prior to any discussion or vote on the applicants referenced in the Probable Cause Report due to his participation in the Probable Cause Subcommittee

meeting. **Member Pant made a motion to approve the applicants for an auctioneer license and auction firm license. Member DeVane seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.**

At this time, Chairman York provided the Administrative Hearing procedures as follows: The first hearing will be the case of Mr. Jason Paul Steward, followed by Ms. Jennifer Kiser Williams, and then Ms. Gina Cannon Vandiford. At the conclusion of the presentations of evidence and arguments in the first case, the hearing panel will open the second hearing, and then the third hearing. Following the presentations of evidence and arguments in all three cases, the Board meeting will go into recess. The Hearing Panel will go into closed session to deliberate, then return to open session and announce their final decisions.

The Administrative Hearing for Jason Paul Steward began at 8:52 a.m. Chairman York recognized Special Deputy Attorney General Anne Brown, Counsel for the Board. The Respondent, Jason Paul Steward elected to proceed *pro se*. The presentations of evidence and arguments portion of the Administrative Hearing concluded at 9:30 a.m.

The Administrative Hearing for Jennifer Kiser Williams began at 9:30 a.m. Chairman York recognized Special Deputy Attorney General Anne Brown, Counsel for the Board. The Respondent, Jennifer Kiser Williams elected to proceed *pro se*. The presentations of evidence and arguments portion of the Administrative Hearing concluded at 10:00 a.m.

The Administrative Hearing for Gina Cannon Vandiford began at 10:00 a.m. Chairman York recognized Special Deputy Attorney General Anne Brown, Counsel for the Board. The Respondent, Gina Cannon Vandiford elected to proceed *pro se*. The presentations of evidence and arguments portion of the Administrative Hearing concluded at 10:30 a.m., and the Hearing Panel when into recess.

Member DeVane made a motion for the Board to go into closed session for the Hearing Panel to consider the evidence presented and to render their decisions from the Administrative Hearings. Member Pant seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

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The Board went into closed session at 10:31 a.m.

Member DeVane made a motion to return to open session. Member Pant seconded the motion, which carried unanimously. The Board returned to open session at 10:57 a.m. to render its Final Agency Decisions. Chairman York reported that the Hearing Panel's decisions were as follows: In the case before the Board *Jason Paul Steward*, the Board directed that the license be issued. In the case before the Board *Jennifer Kiser Williams*, the Board directed that the license be issued. In the Case *Gina Cannon Vandiford*, the Board directed that the license be issued. Vice Chairman Lattimore had earlier recused himself because he had served as the Probable Cause Subcommittee Member in each of these cases, and did not participate in the hearings or any deliberations. Chairman York thanked each participant and invited them to attend future Board meetings.

The Board confirmed the next regular meeting on Monday, March 8, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. The meeting will be held by video conference. **Vice Chairman Lattimore made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Member Pant seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.**

The meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Becky J. Stewart
Administrative Officer