

**LOUISIANA STATE BOARD OF
PRIVATE SECURITY EXAMINERS**
REGULAR QUARTERLY MEETING MINUTES

Date: July 8, 2021
Time: 10:30 AM
Location: LSBPSE Headquarters
15703 Old Hammond Hwy.
Baton Rouge, LA 70816

MINUTES

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Vice-Chairperson Robinson at 10:30 AM. Vice-Chairperson Robinson stated that he would be in charge of the meeting in the absence of former Chairperson Marian Pierre.

II. Roll Call

Vice-Chairperson Robinson asked Shanna Bourke to call the roll of the Board.

Ed Robinson, Vice-Chairperson	✓ Present
Lameika Washington	✓ Present
Chief Scott Ford	✓ Present
Ritchie Rivers	✓ Present
Dynette Burke	✓ Present
Mark Leto	✓ Present
Donny Pitts	✓ Present

A quorum of the Board was determined.

Also present were Interim Executive Director, Bridgette Hull; Board Attorney, Wayne "Ron" Crouch; and members of the agency staff: Administrative Coordinator; Shanna Bourke, Administrative Coordinator; Stephanie Richardson, Compliance Inspector; Wendy Aldridge, Compliance Inspector; Kim Hampton, Compliance Inspector; Cindy

Eidson, Compliance Inspector; and Khadijah Hamilton, Compliance Inspector.

Members of the public were also present.

Ms. Bourke recorded the meeting minutes.

Ms. Hull led the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. Approval of Previous Quarterly and Special Meeting Minutes

Board Attorney Crouch asked for a motion to waive the reading of the minutes.

A motion was made to waive the reading of previous minutes.

Motion by: Mr. Rivers
Seconded by: Chief Ford
Ayes: 7 Nays: 0

The motion was carried.

IV. Legal Update/Legislation

Board Attorney Crouch requested to amend the agenda to go into Executive Session to discuss a sensitive matter that had recently come to his attention. Mr. Crouch informed the Board that an amendment to the agenda would allow him to briefly explain the issue so the members could vote on whether they wanted to go into Executive Session to discuss further.

A motion was made to amend the agenda.

Motion by: Mr. Leto
Seconded by: Ms. Burke
Ayes: 7 Nays: 0

The motion was carried.

Board Attorney Crouch informed the Board that he wanted to discuss a sensitive legal matter that involved the Board members that had come to his attention late the previous day. The issue was attorney-client privileged and should not, per Mr. Crouch, be

discussed in an open meeting. He requested a motion be made to go into Executive Session.

A motion was made to go into Executive Session.

Motion by: Mr. Rivers
Seconded by: Ms. Burke
Ayes: 7 Nays: 0

The motion was carried.

Members of the public and agency staff, excluding Ms. Hull and Ms. Bourke, left the room.

- Executive (Closed) Session began at 10:34 AM
- Board Meeting (Open) reconvened at 11:13 AM

V. Budget

Vice-Chairperson Robinson referred to an email that had been sent by Ms. Hull the previous evening to all Board members indicating the budget would not be ready in time for the Board meeting due to the agency HR employee being out sick for an extended period. Ms. Bourke, who is training in the HR department, informed the Board that the budget would be ready and sent to all of them the following week.

A motion was made to table the budget in expectation of the coming email.

Motion by: Chief Ford
Seconded by: Mr. Ieto
Ayes: 7 Nays: 0

The motion was carried.

VI. Old Business

No old business.

VII. New Business

Board Attorney Crouch informed the board there were a few new legal matters to discuss:

i. Hearing on Motion for Protective Order by GGSG

GGSG applied as a security company in Louisiana. Executive Director Fabian Blache had received information that GGSG was operating in the state unlawfully. In conversations that ensued between Mr. Crouch and Mr. Blache, Mr. Crouch learned that Mr. Blache was in negotiations with the company's attorneys to license them in a probationary status for a year.

Mr. Crouch then received credible documentation from a company in Texas that indicated GGSG should not be licensed due to allegations that a chief officer in the company, who had formerly been employed with the Texas company, had forged documents to start their own company - GGSG.

After learning this, Mr. Blache informed GGSG that their license was being denied.

They requested a hearing before the Board, but their attorney asked for a stay in taking the deposition of the chief officer and then filed a protective order so that the deposition could not be taken at all. Mr. Crouch and Mr. Blunt agreed to stay the deposition until sometime in the future so their protective order can be properly argued before the Board at their next meeting.

The Board members had no questions. The matter was tabled.

ii. Hearing on The Preston Jones Matter

A few days prior, Mr. Crouch received a call from Preston Jones, who is licensed as an instructor, and the agency staff provided Mr. Crouch a Cease-and-Desist order from April 2021 for Mr. Jones which revoked his license as an instructor.

Mr. Jones was present and, under oath, took questions from the Board.

A motion was made to reinstate Mr. Jones's license. A discussion ensued about the procedures used to revoke Mr. Jones's license.

Motion by: Chief Ford
Seconded by: Mr. Pitts
Ayes: 7 Nays: 0

The motion was carried.

iii. Get Legal Opinion as To Whether Marian Pierre Was Qualified According to The Requirements of The Law to Be a Member of The Board

Board Attorney Crouch requested a motion to render his opinion on the situation but stated it will not be given immediately as he needs time to research the law before rendering back a formal opinion to the Board.

Vice-Chairperson Robinson read La. R.S. 37:3273(B) as it applies to appointments and re-appointments by the governor, stating that Board members serve at the privilege of the governor.

Mr. Crouch informed Mr. Robinson that Boards and Commissions, along with the governor, make a determination on documents presented to them that substantiate their qualifications. The qualifications are that one must be an active member/participant in the industry.

Mr. Crouch then indicated he would rather render an opinion, as he only recently learned of the issue, but indicated he would talk about the issue if they wanted him to do so. Chief Ford asked Mr. Crouch to continue. There were no objections.

Ms. Pierre's company, per the Secretary of State, is inactive. Her company license has been expired at least two years. She has not had the appropriate insurance. Mr. Crouch asked Mr. Blache, before he was aware of any of this, if Ms. Pierre still had her company. Mr. Blache informed him that, yes, Ms. Pierre was shutting her company down, but she could still be on the Board because she was registered as a guard to an active company. Mr. Crouch later learned that this was not correct. Ms. Pierre is only registered to her own company, which is inactive.

Mr. Robinson indicated that an investigation is done when they are appointed/re-appointed. Other board members responded that, to be appointed or re-appointed, they simply send documentation to Boards and Commissions. Ms. Hull informed the Board that Ms. Pierre's paperwork was sent to Mr. Blache to fill out and that he indicated he would help her fill it out.

Boards and Commissions will be notified that Ms. Pierre resigned.

Mr. Crouch requested a motion be made that he render a legal opinion on the matter.

A motion was made that a legal opinion be rendered on the issue for the Board.

Motion by: Mr. Rivers
Seconded by: Ms. Burke

Ms. Burke called for a roll call vote:

Ms. Washington	No
Chief Ford	Yes
Vicechair Robinson	No
Mr. Rivers	Yes
Ms. Burke	Yes
Mr. Leto	Yes
Mr. Pitts	No
Ayes: 4	Nays: 3

The motion was carried.

Mr. Crouch informed the Board he will have his legal opinion back to them within five working days.

iv. Discussion About Acquiring Board Compliance Field Inspectors

Ms. Burke is interested in creating a policy for hiring compliance inspectors to work for the agency in the field.

She inquired as to why we did not already have field inspectors and Ms. Hull informed her that Mr. Blache did not think we could afford them and decided to do inspections himself, with the help of Ms. Hull and Ms. Stephanie Richardson.

Ms. Washington asked about the van the agency previously had for field inspectors. Ms. Hull informed her that it was returned to the state after the Board gave Mr. Blache a \$500/month car allowance for him to do inspections.

Chief Ford recommended forming a committee, with Ms. Burke as Chair, to bring back a recommendation to the Board for creating a policy for hiring and handling (accountability) compliance field inspectors, including how this could be budgeted.

Vicechair Robinson requested a motion be made to form a committee.

Chief Ford made the motion to form a committee with Ms. Burke as Chair and a few members of the Board on the committee.

Motion by: Chief Ford

Chief Ford amended the motion to form a committee with Ms. Burke as Chair and two members of the Board. Mr. Rivers and Mr. Leto volunteered to be the two members. Chairperson Robinson added that he will be an ad-hoc member.

Motion by: Chief Ford

Seconded by: Mr. Rivers

Ayes: 7 Nays: 0

The motion was carried.

Ms. Hull informed the Board/committee that agency staff could provide them with reports before each meeting letting them know how many people/companies are being looked into that are not in compliance.

v. Determination of Next Meeting Date

The next regular quarterly Board meeting will take place on **Thursday, October 21, 2021**, at 9:30 am at the LSBPSE headquarters.

VIII. Public Comments/Questions

Public comment was given.

- Employee Stephanie Richardson wanted to publicly thank board member Lameika Washington, on behalf of all staff, for giving them a voice at the special meeting on Tuesday (July 6).
- Employee Shanna Bourke informed the Board that the HR department, with Ms. Hull's direction, was creating a new policy for employees to come and confidentially address problems, grievances, or concerns they may have so that they could be guided as to the proper procedures to have those issues addressed. The policy will be designed so that employees feel safe to come forward if they are having any issues. This will be part of a full policy and procedure manual that is being put together as the agency does not currently have an official one.

- Employee Shanna Bourke read a public statement for Employee Sharon Vallery, who was not present. Ms. Vallery reiterated that Ms. Hull was putting policies in place to help office employees feel safer and that plans for regular staff meetings were being made so that staff is kept abreast of changes. She commented that going forward with Ms. Hull as Interim Director was a good direction for the agency.

IX. Adjournment

Vicechair Robinson asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

A motion was made to adjourn.

Motion by: Mr. Rivers

Seconded by: Mr. Leto

Ayes: 7 Nays: 0

The motion was carried.

Vicechair Robinson adjourned the meeting at 12:12 pm.

MINUTES CERTIFICATION

Proposed minutes respectfully submitted,

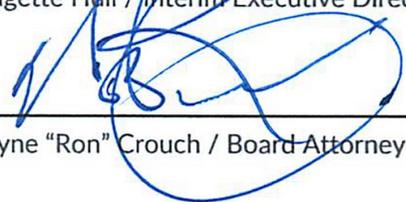

Secretary / Recording Secretary

7/14/21
Date

Reviewed & certified by,


Bridgette Hull / Interim Executive Director

7/14/21
Date


Wayne "Ron" Crouch / Board Attorney

7-14-21
Date