

The Guam Board of Registration for Professional Engineers, Architects and Land Surveyors

PEALS Regular Board Meeting

Wednesday January 22, 2020

PEALS Conference Room 718 N Marine Corps Dr., Ste. 208 Upper Tumon, GU 96913

Present :	BOARD MEMBERS	STAFF
	Paul L. Santos, PLS Maria Elizabeth V. Cristi, PE Philip Villanueva Public Member Cedric Q.T. Cruz, RA Atty. Thomas Keeler	Catherine S. Gutierrez, EBA Nixon N. Isaac, Board Investigator
Absent :	Vincent P. Arriola, DPW Director Masoud Teimoury, PE	
Visitors :	John Q. Cepeda, Retired Veteran Maria Paz A. Tison, PE GC Tison, Guest Inna Wiese, AIA/RIM Architects	

ITEM NO. 1 CALL TO ORDER

BC Cristi called the Board Meeting to order at 3:23pm. Introduction of attendees. BC Cristi confirmed a quorum. Mission Statement was announced.

ITEM NO. 2 NEW BUSINESS

A. Presentation and Oath for New Registrant Certificates

- i. Maria Paz Tison, PE (PE2071 – Mechanical)

BC Cristi administered the oath and presented Maria Paz A. Tison, PE her New Registrant Certificate.

(Audio recording of the Oath is available on our website at www.guam-peals.org.)

- ii. Akashi Joseph Rouse, EIT (EIT 325)

Akashi Joseph Rouse, EIT was not present for presentation.

B. Announcement of EBA hire effective 12/19/19

BC Cristi announced the recent hiring of Executive Board Administrator Catherine Sablan Gutierrez effective December 19, 2019.

BC Cristi extended her thanks to the PEAS Board staff Marie Villanueva, Administrative Assistant, Nixon Isaac, Board Investigator and Atty. Thomas Keeler who were an integral part of ensuring the PEALS Board followed all the guidelines of the Government of Guam recruitment process. BC Cristi added her thanks to the board member who participated in the interview process.

C. Election of Officers

BC Cristi opened discussions on elections of officers stating with it being a new year the board is required to hold an elections and vote for board Chairperson, Vice Chair and Secretary Treasurer. She continued in asking, with the absence of PE BM Masoud K. Teimoury and DPW Director Mr. Vincent P. Arriola how the board as a whole felt about elections at this time.

BVC Santos made a motion to defer elections and voting until all board members are present. BM Villanueva seconded the motion and BST Cruz concurred. BC Cristi called for a vote.

Motioned : BVC Santos
2nd : BM Villanueva
All In Favor : 4/0 Motion Carried

ITEM NO. 3 APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

A. Meeting minutes from November 21, 2019

BC Cristi thanked the staff of providing advance copies of meeting minutes with ample time for review and called for comments on minutes from the board.

BC Cristi, BVC Santos and BM Villanueva stated there are a few minor typographical errors in need of correction as well as additional comments regarding the University of Guam's engineering program.

BC Crist called for a motion. BVC Santos moved to approve minutes with the minor corrections. BST Cruz seconded the motion. BC Cristi called for a vote.

(Audio details of specific corrections and changes required are available on our website at www.guam-peals.org.)

Motion : BVC Santos
2nd : BST Cruz
All In Favor : 4/0 Motioned Carried

ITEM NO. 4 COMPLAINTS SUMMARY

A. Complaint No. 2019-008- Cepeda vs. John M. Benavente, ME508 | Joven G. Acosta EE1179 | Vincent J. Sablan EE1181

BC Cristi acknowledged the presence of the complainant Mr. John Q. Cepeda. BC Cristi announced that because the complaint against GPA personnel was still under investigation the board will not be able to discuss the matter during this meeting. BC Cristi added that it was her understanding is that Mr. Cepeda's presence was to explain his position.

Mr. John Q. Cepeda stated he was not familiar with the government process of the handling of complaints. Mr. John Q. Cepeda stated that he was confused by BC Cristi's statement that "the complaint against GPA is still under investigation" and clarified that the complaint was not against GPA but the registered professional engineers named in the complaint.

Atty. Keeler stated that the compliant documents submitted mentioned GPA and acknowledged it was clear the complaint was against the registered professional engineers.

BC Cristi explained the handling process to Mr. John Q. Cepeda and reminded him that because the complaint was still under investigation the board is not able to speak on the matter at this meeting.

Mr. John Q. Cepeda made a full statement of his concerns before the board and asked that he be kept abreast of the progress of the board's investigation by way of email or phone call.

BC Cristi acknowledged Mr. John Q. Cepeda's concerns and stated that the board has documented his statement at this board meeting. BC Cristi added that the board will ensure we follow all procedures and the law as mandated by the government. BC Cristi stated again that the complaint is under advisement and thanked Mr. John Q. Cepeda for his time.

(Audio details of statements/comments are available on our website at www.guam-peals.org)

ITEM NO. 5 OLD BUSINESS

A. Rules and Regulations

BC Cristi stated based on the previous approved meeting minutes, January 30, 2020 is the cutoff date to receive comments from professional organization regarding the proposed Rules and Regulations. BC Cristi added that a draft Rules and Regulations working session is scheduled for February 25, 2020 at 3:00 pm in the PEALS Board conference room.

BC Cristi called for comments from other board members. Comments were not provided by those present.

ITEM NO. 6 EBA REPORT

A. Board Administrative Activities

EBA Gutierrez reported on first quarter summary, expense report and summary of monthly revenues. EBA Gutierrez stated revenues reported for the month of January were only up to the 17th, she added revenues were down due to delays in COA's securing GRT Tax clearances. BC Cristi commented that February, March and April should see increase in revenues with the renewal of licenses. EBA Gutierrez continued with report on revenue breakdown per month showing the number of registrants per discipline renewing. EBA Gutierrez reported on the listing of COA who are still pending renewal.

BVC Santos cautioned the board to ensure those COA with expired licenses are not reviewing or stamping plans but rather by a registered professional with a valid registration. BM Villanueva concurred with BVC Santos's comments.

B. Bank of Hawaii Account

EBA Gutierrez reported on the status of the Bank of Hawaii account. EBA Gutierrez stated that the board has not received bank statements from Bank of Hawaii since the previous EBA's retirement last June. BC Cristi stated she went to Bank of Hawaii and was advised by the bank representative that they would not release any information without the board's updated minutes of the newly elected officers.

EBA Gutierrez requested the board's consideration of closing out the Bank of Hawaii account and for convenience, open an account with the Bank of Guam which conveniently has a branch on the first floor of the same building.

BVC Santos moved to close the Bank of Hawaii account and transfer the funds to a new Bank of Guam Account and that the authorized signatories would be the board's current officers and the EBA until the next election of officers. BM Villanueva seconded the motion.

BC Cristi inquired from EBA Gutierrez if the revenues for permit review fees are what we are going to be depositing into the revolving fund account. EBA Gutierrez confirmed it would be the permit fees to be deposit into the account. EBA Gutierrez also confirmed notice of the board's intent was sent to the Office of Public Accountability (OPA) and that the board is acting within our law as well as the board's rules and regulations.

BC Cristi added an amendment to the motion on the floor to include that a letter be written to OPA advising that the Bank of Hawaii account would be closed and a Bank of Guam account would be opened in lieu of that for their guidance.

BM Villanueva inquired if the board would have to get approval from the Department of Administration. BVC Santos responded that the board was already given guidance by OPA to open the account and that it is recorded in the audit of the board.

ITEM NO. 6 EBA REPORT (cont.)

B. Bank of Hawaii Account (cont.)

BM Villanueva inquired how many signatures would be required. Discussions on the number of signatures resulted in an amendment to the motion that two signatures be required at all times.

BC Cristi called for a vote.

Motioned : BVC Santos

2nd : BM Villanueva

All In Favor : 4/0 Motion Carried

ITEM NO. 7 OPEN DISCUSSIONS

PNJ Facilities LLC

EBA Gutierrez reported PNJ Facilities LLC submitted an application but recently withdrew their application due to some changes in the organization. No further discussion or action was need on this matter.

Upcoming Conferences / Visits

BC Cristi opened discussions on **NCARB - Board Member & Executive Orientation** in Washington DC from February 12-14, 2020. BC Cristi wanted to open this invitation to board members especially the new members and EBA for their attendance. BC Cristi asked BST Cruz if he would be able to attend. BST Cruz responded he would not be able to attend due to his hectic work schedule.

BC Cristi called for a motion on the floor and moved that the board be represented by EBA and any other board member who may be interested in attending. BM Villanueva inquired about associate members to attend. BC Cristi advised it is open to all members and staff. EBA Gutierrez clarified that the meeting was specifically for board members and executive new to serving on boards that regulate engineers, architects and land surveyors. BVC Santos added an amendment to the motion to allow for new members to attend.

BC Cristi called for a vote for motioned as amended.

Motioned : BST Cruz

2nd : BVC Santos

All In Favor : 4/0 Motion Carried

BC Cristi opened the floor to discussion on the **WCARB 2020 Regional Summit Registration** in Cambridge Massachusetts March 6, 2020. BVC Santos inquired what WCARB summit was for. EBA Gutierrez responded that it was the equivalent to the NCEES Wester Zone meetings and that it was opened and to be funded by WCARB for board members, member board administrators including associate / public members.

ITEM NO. 7 OPEN DISCUSSIONS (cont.)

WCARB 2020 Regional Summit Registration cont.

BC Cristi moved that the registration be opened to interested board members EBA and or staff to attend. BVC Santos stated that is appropriate that the registration be open to the Public Member and Architect Member as well as our Attorney so that we are well represented.

BC Cristi called for vote.

Motioned : BC Cristi

2nd : BVC Santos

All In Favor : 4/0 Motioned Carried

BC Cristi opened discussion on the **NCEES Zone Interim Meeting** in Houston Texas from April 23 – 25, 2020. BC Cristi instructed EBA to send the reminder out to all board members who may be interested in attending.

BC Cristi announced upcoming visit of National Council of Architects Registration Board (NCARB) CEO Mike Armstrong from September 14 – 20, 2020.

ITEM NO. 8 PUBLIC COMMENT

BC Cristi introduced Mrs. Inna Wiese representing AIA / RIM Architects. Mrs. Inna Wiese stated she was attending the board meeting to find out when the deadline for comments on Rules and Regulations which she noted was announced during discussions in Old Business. Mrs. Inna Wiese inquired if the working session for Rules and Regulations scheduled for February 25, 2020 would be open to the public or just the board members. BC Cristi explained the working sessions was just for the board members. Mrs. Inna Weise stated the AIA are interested in meeting up with the NCARB CEO Mike Armstrong during his upcoming visit in September. BC Cristi responded to Mrs. Inna Wiese to coordinate with EBA Gutierrez who will be assisting in coordination of meetings and activities. Mrs. Inna Wiese commented the AIA hosted a meeting during their last visit to Guam.

Before moving to the next item no. on the agenda BC Cristi asked for a quick follow up on the status of Complaint No. 2017-002- Lorette T. Guerrero vs. Blas Cruz Atalig as she noted it was not listed on the complaint summary as closed. Atty. Keeler provided an update stating the case is with the Superior Court of Guam for collection. He added Mr. Blas Atalig is contesting. Atty Monte May was handling the case before he retired in December 2019. Atty Keeler continued the case may be turned over by Attorney General Office to Deputy Litigator Jamie Canto. Atty Keeler advised the next formal item is a status hearing maybe in first week of February. Atty Keeler added that Mr. Blas Atalig is represented by counsel.

(Audio details of comments are available on our website at www.guam-peals.org)

BM Villanueva left the meeting at 4:13 p.m. due to a prior commitment.

BC Cristi called for further comment. No further comments.

ITEM NO. 9 DPW & DLM SURVEY MAP REVIEW

A. Department of Land Management Survey Map Review.

BC Cristi called for any comment or concerns. BC Cristi inquired from BI Isaac if the only report available was from October and that November and December are not included. BVC Santos confirmed that the report included reports from October to December. EBA confirmed the report was in fact complete.

BC Cristi reminded the board of the next board meeting scheduled for March 12, 2020 and the Working Session on Rules and Regulations on February 25, 2020 adding she greatly appreciates the presence of the professional members.

B. DPW Building permits – November & December 2019

No comments / discussions.

ITEM NO. 10 ADJOURNMENT

BC Cristi called for a motioned to adjourn. BVC Santos moved to adjourn the meeting at 4:15 pm on January 22, 2020. BC Cristi called for a second.

Motioned : BVC Santos

2nd : BST Cruz

All In Favor : 3/0 Motioned Carried

Approved by : _____


Maria Elizabeth V. Cristi, PE
Board Chairperson

Date : _____

