



State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF LAW AND PUBLIC SAFETY
DIVISION OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS
STATE BOARD OF VETERINARY MEDICAL EXAMINERS
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NEW JERSEY STATE BOARD OF
VETERINARY MEDICAL EXAMINERS
PUBLIC SESSION MINUTES
AUGUST 7, 2024

OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT NOTICE

The August 7, 2024 meeting of the New Jersey State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners was not at 124 Halsey Street, Newark, New Jersey, but remotely. The requirements of the Open Public Meetings Act were satisfied by transmitting notice of this meeting by mail (and by e-mail) to the Secretary of State, The Press of Atlantic City, Bergen Record, Courier-Post, Star Ledger, Trenton Times, and Asbury Park Press in the Board's written annual notice of its meeting schedule, all on the 1st day of December, 2023 and by posting electronic notice of the meeting on the Board's website on the 1st day of December, 2023. The meeting was held virtually as permitted by the Open Public Meetings Act and began at 10:05 A.M.

I. ROLL CALL

Table with 3 columns: Name, Present, Absent. Rows include Board President Mark Logan, Board Member Barry Adler, Board Member Neal Beeber, Board Member Donald Bruno, Board Member Steven Charnick, and Board Member David Croman.

Board Staff Present:

- Executive Director, Courtney Turner
Deputy Attorney General, Barbara Lopez
Deputy Attorney General, James Pham
Deputy Attorney General, Stacy-Ann Davy
Regulatory Analyst, Nicole Parelli
Board Staff, Rhonda Frobose
Court Reporter, Michelle Gruendel



Members of the Public:

Michael Azzarello, President, New Jersey Veterinary Technician Association
Aaron Lopez, Political Capital
Mike Yurkus, NJVMA

II. APPROVAL OF PUBLIC SESSION MINUTES:

i. Public Minutes – July 3, 2024

The Board reviewed the July 3, 2024 public minutes.

On a motion by Dr. Bruno, seconded by Dr. Beeber, the Board approved the July 3, 2024 public minutes as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

III. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

i. Status of Board Operations
(Courtney Turner, Executive Director)

Executive Director Turner reported that the Board is at the tail end of graduation season and, even with a significantly higher volume of veterinary license applications, there are no issues processing applications in a timely manner.

ED Turner also reminded Board delegates about the upcoming AAVSB Annual Conference, which will be held in San Diego from September 25-28. Registration is now open and available to voting delegates and AAVSB committee members. By Laws for the conference will be on the September 4, 2024 agenda.

Board elections will also be on the next agenda along with proposed 2025 meeting dates.

The Board offices remain open from 10AM to 2PM to members of the public.

Meetings continue to be conducted virtually.

IV. REGULATORY (Addendum):

i. Public Rule Change
(Nicole Parelli, Regulatory Analyst)

13:44-4.2 Rabies Clinics Rule Change to allow veterinary medical school staff to utilize mobile units to promote rabies clinics to underserved communities.

Motion by Dr. Beeber, seconded by Dr. Bruno, to approve the change.

ii. Notice for Readoption
(Nicole Parelli, Regulatory Analyst)
Taken as informational.

V. OLD BUSINESS:

None at this time.

VI. NEW BUSINESS:

None at this time.

VII. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

None at this time.

VIII. REGULATORY AFFAIRS:

None at this time.

IX. CORRESPONDENCE:

i. **Sally Larson – Question regarding ownership of a veterinary hospital.**

The Board directed Executive Director Turner to reiterate, in response to Ms. Larson, statute N.J.S.A. 45:16-9.6, Wherever the profession of veterinary medicine, surgery and dentistry is carried on by a partnership, corporation incorporated under Title 14A of the New Jersey Statutes or professional association, all partners or shareholders must be licensed veterinarians.

X. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

i. **Aaron Lopez, Political Capital** - provided a prepared statement to the Board regarding FDA announcement of a cure for feline infection peritonitis or FIP (corona virus).

More information can be provided by Aaron Lopez if requested.

New Jersey is the only state that has pharmacies that provide this medication.

The Board requested that Mr. Lopez forward information to Executive Director Turner for Board to review and have further discussion at the September meeting.

XI. PUBLIC HEARING:

i. **Public Hearing: Louis Grasso**
(Stacy Ann-Davy, Deputy Attorney General)

Dr. Logan began the hearing, on the record with court reporter, in the matter of Louis Grasso. 4 Board members are present, constituting a quorum. (Drs. Logan, Beeber, Charnick, and Bruno).

On June 10, 2024, the Attorney General filed a verified complaint and Order to proceed summarily. Stacy-Ann Davy is the Deputy Attorney General assigned to this case.

Dr. Grasso is in prison and unavailable to attend today's hearing due to an emergency at the prison.

Motion by Dr. Beeber, seconded by Dr. Bruno to go into executive session for advice of counsel and deliberation. Motion approved unanimously.

The Board entered executive session at 10:41am.

The Board returned to Public session at 10:54am.

While the Board members were in executive session, DAG Davey was able to make contact by cell phone with Dr. Louis Grasso, who joined the Hearing via phone.

DAG Davy explained to Dr. Grasso that this Hearing is for the Board to decide whether a summary proceeding will be held today. Dr. Grasso says he has no legal argument about if this should be a summary proceeding and wants the opportunity to make a statement which he assumes will be afforded at the hearing. DAG Davy affirmed Dr. Grasso will have an opportunity to make a statement at the hearing.

Motion by Dr. Beeber, seconded by Dr. Bruno to proceed summarily as there is no objection to proceed in summary fashion. Motion is unanimous.

The Board set a date for Dr. Grasso's Hearing at the Public session on October 30, 2024 at 10am.

DAG Davy asked Dr. Grasso if there is any conflict with this date and time. Dr. Grasso replied there is no conflict and that he has a statement of one hour in length to provide at the Hearing.

The Hearing ended at 11:05am.

XII. ADJOURNMENT:

The public portion of the meeting concluded at 11:07 A.M.

Dr. Beeber made a motion, seconded by Dr. Logan, for the Board to go into executive session to discuss matters exempt from the open public meetings act pursuant to N.J.S.A 10:4-12(b). The Board does not anticipate taking any public action today. The Board will not be returning to public session today. The next meeting is scheduled for September 4, 2024 at 10:00 A.M.

Motion passed unanimously