

# **MINUTES OF THE NORTHAMPTON COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION BOARD OF GOVERNORS MEETING**

**July 8, 2020**

The Board of Governors meeting was held on Wednesday, July 8, 2020, via a Zoom Meeting due to the COVID-19 stay at home orders. The meeting was called to order at 4:09 p.m. by President Eyer. An Agenda for the meeting was circulated to the Members of the Board of Governors prior to the meeting. Members of the Board of Governors in attendance at the meeting were as follows:

## **ATTENDEES (as marked):**

### **Officers:**

- X Robert Eyer, President
- X Maura Zajac McGuire, President-Elect
- X Paul J. Harak, Vice President
- X Steven B. Molder, Treasurer
- X Jeremy Clark, Secretary
- X Lisa Spitale, Past President

### **Board Members:**

- X David M. Backenstoe
- X Richard Santee
- X Scott Wilhelm
- X Douglas Tkacik
- X Erika Farkas
- X Jill McComsey
- X Joshua Fulmer

### **Executive Director:**

- X Mary Beth Leeson

## **I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Minutes of the previous meeting held on June 3, 2020 were circulated for review. Backenstoe made a motion to approve the minutes and Santee seconded. The

motion passed unanimously.

## **II. PRESIDENT'S REPORT/COMMUNICATIONS**

Robert Eyer, President, had no report.

## **III. TREASURER'S REPORT**

Steven Molder, Treasurer, reported on the balance as of June 30, 2020, as reflected on the previously circulated meeting documents, again shows a drop in the overall balance. However, a Morgan Stanley account and the Mutual Fund at Windsor II were both performing well. Also, in the first 5 months of 2020 we are under budget, likely due to not subsidizing events that have been cancelled. Reporter analysis shows COVID revenue declining but it is speculated that foreclosures will increase as these cases resume and COVID crisis continues to unfold. Molder stressed that a reliance upon foreclosure advertising is not sustainable long term.

## **IV. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Executive Director Leeson reported on the following matters:

- A. MBL is still attempting to find new CLE programs to bring income into the association.
- B. Queried the Board if we should conduct the next Board meeting in person or via Zoom. The Board wanted to plan on an in-person meeting for September but with the understanding that the situation will largely dictate this. There was then a discussion about several potential locations including the Kingfish which seemed to be the preference. MBL would look into potential venues.
- C. MBL announced the funeral services for Patti's husband and asked the Board if the Association should make a donation. It was unanimously agreed to contribute the same amount the Association donates for members to the designated charity.
- D. ARIS calls have been busy.
- E. Only one Sheriff sale for August.

## **V. PROGRAMS**

Vice President Paul Harak reported no programs are scheduled because it was uncertain if any meetings would be held. The meetings issue will be discussed

further in Old Business.

## **VI. OLD BUSINESS**

- A. Foundation update by MBL, no report.
- B. Bench Bar Conf. contract signed with the hotel does allow some protection to cancel for similar crisis. Sept 23-25 of 2021. A discussion was had about doing these conferences now on odd years rather than even it was agreed to change this event to odd years moving forward.
- C. COVID-19 rental assistance programs were discussed by Eyer. These will be provided by various charity and community organizations to help with the coming wave of evictions.
- D. Quarterly Meetings. Meetings are scheduled for September and November. Questions were raised on how to hold these (in person or virtually). Eyer has sent a question to Member Deschler as to whether a virtual meeting (i.e. Zoom) is permitted. It was decided to have one in-person meeting strictly to amend the by-laws to allow virtual meetings with no meal or program. If so, this would then allow the organization to hold a virtual meeting in November and onward as needed.
- E. Bulk Purchasing. Fulmer researched bulk purchasing and found the minimum amounts to be rather high for our purposes.
- F. Giordano is agreeable to not create a committee for ADR but rather to schedule CLEs on mediation/ADR going forward.

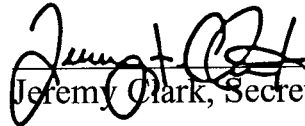
## **VII. NEW BUSINESS**

- A. District Attorney CLE Program. DA's office wants to do DA-limited CLE classes. MBL proposed the Association run these courses at a cost of \$20. No real requirements or costs for the Association other than authorizing for the credit and it would generate some revenue for the Association. There were no objections with allowing the DA's office to hold these programs. It was discussed that perhaps a similar offer should be made for the Public Defender staff.
- B. Clark requested use of the Association conference room for conducting Divorce Master hearings given the difficulty of reserving a courtroom. Clark discussed his request for the County to pay the room fee, but if the county demurred, would the Association be willing to waive the fee? Wilhelm made a motion that if the county would not pay the fee, then to allow either gratis use of the room or for Clark to assess an additional fee from the parties. Fulmer seconded. Clark abstained. All other members voted in favor.

## VIII ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Tkacik. The motion was seconded by Farkas. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted:

  
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Jeremy Clark, Secretary