

**Tennessee Highway Officials Certification Board**  
**Minutes of Meeting on February 17, 2021**

The Tennessee Highway Officials Certification Board met telephonically February 17, 2021, 2:30 p.m. Central Standard Time.

**Attending were the following members of the board:**

Manny Belen (participated by phone)  
Bryon Fortner (participated by phone)  
Nicole Shaffer (participated by phone)  
Bob Wormsley (participated by phone)  
Jessica Lim (participated by phone)

**Applicants Participating by Phone:**

Stephen Baker  
Michael B. Hopper  
James McDonald Hyde, III

**Others Participating by Phone:**

Rodney Carmical – Tennessee Highway Officials Association  
Brett Howell – County Technical Assistance Services  
Donna Moore – Lake County Highway Department

Chairman Lim called the meeting to order at 2:30 p.m. Central Standard Time.

A motion was made by Nicole Shaffer, seconded by Manny Belen, and unanimously approved to accept the meeting minutes from January 6, 2021.

Chairman Lim, in accordance to Tenn. Code An. § 8-44-108(b), gave a statement of the necessity for conducting the Tennessee Highway Officials Certification Board meeting by phone due to a lack of a physical quorum and due to Governor Lee's Executive Order Number 71. A telephonic meeting was determined a necessity to review the application for certification for the appointment of chief administrative officer of the highway department in Lake County.

Chairman Lim reviewed the statutory requirements and the board's guidelines for certifying applicants.

The board proceeded to examine affidavits submitted for certification. The status next to each applicant's name indicates the final action of the board. Motions for the board action were made and seconded by the members indicated. All votes were unanimous unless otherwise indicated.

**Previously Certified Applicants**

NONE

**New Applicants**

**Lake County – Stephen Baker – Approval – (Fortner/Wormsley)**

**Lake County – Michael B. Hopper – Denied – (Belen/Wormsley)**

**Yes – Votes – Belen, Shaffer and Wormsley**

**No – Votes – Fortner and Lim**

The board was unable to find a total of five years of supervisory experience in the actual construction or maintenance of highways as required by Tenn. Code Ann. § 54-7-104 and Lake County Private Acts of

1980, Chapter 262, Section 9. Specifically, the board concluded the experience listed in Mr. Hopper's application was in equipment maintenance and management, rather than in the construction or maintenance of highways, and his role was that of a "support team member" for most projects and did not demonstrate the five years of "supervisory" experience required in highway construction or maintenance.

**Lake County – James McDonald Hyde, III – Denied – (Fortner/Shaffer)**

The board was unable to find a total of five years of supervisory experience in the actual construction or maintenance of highways as required by Tenn. Code Ann. § 54-7-104 and Lake County Private Acts of 1980, Chapter 262, Section 9. Specifically, the board concluded that the projects and experience listed in Mr. Hyde's application related to parking lots, railroads, golf courses, cleaning hazardous materials, etc. and do not meet the definition of "highway construction or maintenance." Further, Mr. Hyde's application did not demonstrate the five years of "supervisory" experience required in highway construction or maintenance.

**Lake County – Nicholas Logan Naifeh – Denied – (Belen/Fortner)**

The board determined Mr. Naifeh did not meet the age of twenty-five (25) years old as required by Lake County Private Acts of 1980, Chapter 262, Section 9.

No new meeting date was set.

Because there was no other business before the board, Chairman Lim adjourned the meeting at 2:55 p.m. Central Standard Time.

Submitted this 17<sup>th</sup> day of February 2021.

  
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Jessica Lim, Chairman