

**Chairman**

THE HONORABLE CURTIS. M. LOFTIS, JR.  
*State Treasurer*

**Chairman Pro Tempore**

HOWARD H. WRIGHT, JR.



**Board Members**

HOWARD H. WRIGHT, JR. | *Rock Hill*  
W. DONALD PENNINGTON | *Simpsonville*  
F. JUSTIN STRICKLAND | *Lexington*  
J. DANIEL WALTERS | *Greenville*  
K. WAYNE WICKER | *Myrtle Beach*  
J. BARRY HAM | *Manning*  
CHARLES H. STUART | *Mount Pleasant*  
BILLY D. BYRD, II | *Hartsville*  
JENNY MICHAELS / *Sumter*  
THOMAS BOUCHETTE / *Florence*

SOUTH CAROLINA  
**STATE BOARD OF FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS**

**MINUTES**

**Wednesday, February 2, 2022**

**10:00 AM**

**Governor's Conference Room  
and via WebEx Virtual Conference Room**

Upon proper call and due notice to all its members and after having given required public notice, the State Board of Financial Institutions met on the 2<sup>nd</sup> day of February 2022 with Chairman Loftis presiding.

Members present: Ms. Michaels and Messrs. Pennington, Wright, Strickland, Walters, Wicker, Ham, Stuart, Byrd and Bouchette.

The Chairman stated that a quorum was present.

Staff present:

Consumer Finance Division: Commissioner Ron Bodvake.

Banking Division: Deputy Commissioner Kathy Bickham and Senior Review Examiner Janeen Hughes.

State Treasurer's Office: Chief of Staff Clarissa Adams, Deputy State Treasurer Cynthia Dannels, Deputy General Counsel Bill Condon, Deputy General Counsel Shawn Eubanks, Administration Director Brad Livingston, Communications Director Karen Ingram, Fiscal Analyst Cameron Larkin, and Executive Assistant Lisa Gibson.

**The Agenda for this meeting was approved by General Consent.**

**The January 5, 2022 Board Meeting Minutes were approved by General Consent.**

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No member identified a conflict of interest.

### **Presentation**

The Chairman presented a resolution honoring the former Board Administrator, Alicia Sharpe.

Mr. Condon read the resolution and Ms. Sharpe thanked the Board and the Chairman for their constant effort to support the citizens of South Carolina. She went on to say that the state is very fortunate to have the board members and chairman working for them.

***On motion of Mr. Strickland and duly seconded by Mr. Wicker, the Board voted unanimously to adopt the resolution honoring Ms. Alicia Sharpe.***

### **Committee Reports**

**Mr. Pennington** notified the Board that The **Budget & Operations Committee** met on January 20<sup>th</sup>. The Commissioners presented their respective Quarterly Financial Reports. Commissioner Bodvake provided an update on the hiring of two new employees as well as an IT update. Ms. Bickham provided an update on the new phone system and on the hiring efforts for new employees and the hiring of an intern. Ms. Dannels led a discussion on proposed administrative shared services. STO staff are currently having meetings with Commissioner Bodvake and Ms. Bickham and once completed BOFI and STO staff will report back to the Budget & Operations Committee. The next Budget and Operations Committee meeting is scheduled for April 14<sup>th</sup>.

**Mr. Ham** notified the Board that The **Legislative & Regulatory Committee** met on January 27<sup>th</sup>. The Commissioners presented their respective Legislation Tracking Spreadsheets. Ms. Bickham provided more detail on Senate Bill S612 referencing credit union acquisition of banks. She and other staff attended a Banking and Insurance Subcommittee hearing on January 26<sup>th</sup>. The Treasurer's legal counsel testified about technical concerns of language used in the bill. The Carolinas Credit Union League, South Carolina Bankers Association and Independent Banks of South Carolina also testified. Ms. Bickham reported that the subcommittee voted the bill to be carried over and requested that the interested parties attempt to reconcile their preferences for the legislation. The Committee accepted this report as information with no action recommended. The next Legislative and Regulatory Committee meeting is scheduled for February 24<sup>th</sup>.

**The Chairman** notified the Board that the Banking Commissioner Search Committee met on January 28<sup>th</sup> and that a full update would be provided in Executive Session.

**Commissioner of Consumer Finance, Ron Bodvake** provided the Board with an update on several division items. The Commissioner notified the Board of the hiring of an Administrative Coordinator and the hiring of a Licensing Specialist. The Commissioner stated that the House Ways and Means Transportation and Regulatory Subcommittee meeting was held January 12<sup>th</sup> and went well. Commissioner Bodvake provided an update on investigations. The first round of check cashing office investigations is complete. The field examiner team have begun investigating unlicensed activity in the Peedee region. The Commissioner updated the board on the CFPB "Buy Now, Pay Later" Credit Inquiry, Consumer Finance Division monthly statistics, the approved consumer licensees report, and the NMLS renewal report. The number of licensees increased significantly over the past year.

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Mr. Stuart commented that it is interesting that the number of originator licenses decreased along with the number of inactives. However, the number of applications increased. Commissioner Bodvake explained that this is because a number of the mortgage loan originators will hold off on renewing until November 1<sup>st</sup>.

Mr. Walters asked if all entities has transitioned over to NMLS now. Mr. Bodvake said all but four have. These four are restricted lenders.

**Deputy Commissioner of Banking Kathy Bickham** provided the Board with an update on external engagement. Chief Examiner Remonia Wright and Ms. Bickham met with the NCUA Associate Regional Director and Supervisory Examiner. This meeting usually takes place every year in January in-person but this year was virtual. The meeting went well. Ms. Bickham updated the Board that Assistant Examiner, Timaya Foreman resigned at the beginning of this month. Following Board approval in December, First Capital Bank from Laurinburg, North Carolina converted to a South Carolina state chartered bank on December 31<sup>st</sup>. Ms. Bickham notified the Board that she approved an extension of time to write down other real estate in St. George for the Bank of the Lowcountry.

Mr. Wicker asked how long of an extension the Bank of the Lowcountry asked for. Ms. Bickham stated that the most they could ask for is five years and that is what she approved for them. She does not anticipate it will take five years as they already have a potential buyer.

#### **Executive Session**

***The Board voted unanimously to adjourn into Executive Session.***

Deputy General Counsel Bill Condon stated that the Board will enter Executive Session to review a request for a trust company to conduct business by establishing a branch, to discuss personal information about a regulated person, to discuss agency head recruitment status, and to receive legal advice as needed.

**The Board voted unanimously to end Executive Session.**

#### **Actions following Executive Session:**

***On motion of Mr. Wright and duly seconded by Mr. Bouchette, the Board voted to approve the request of Baird Trust Company, Louisville, Kentucky, to conduct trust business in South Carolina by establishing a branch at 300 N. Main Street, Suite 400, Greenville, South Carolina.***

***On motion of Mr. Strickland and duly seconded by Mr. Bouchette, the Board voted to extend an offer of employment for the position of Commissioner of Banking to the candidate discussed in Executive Session.***

#### **Announcements:**

The Chairman reminded the Board that the 2022 Statement of Economic Interest Forms are due by noon on March 30<sup>th</sup>.

The Chairman announced that the next board meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2022.

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There being no objection, the meeting adjourned at 11:45 AM.