

**Minutes of Board Meeting
February 10, 2010
Conyers Headquarters**

Present

Trummie Patrick, Chairman
Linda Evans, Vice Chair
Kelly Gay, Secretary
Lynda Coker
Virginia Galloway
David Connell
Hunter Hill

Not in Attendance

Doug Chalmers
Wilbur "T." Gamble

Also present at the meeting was Karla Dolby, Assistant Attorney General, Mr. Richard Wilson, petitioner for a board rule waiver, and numerous DDS staff members.

Establish Quorum / Call to Order

Chairman Patrick confirmed the presence of a quorum and called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m.

Approval of Minutes

Chairman Patrick called for a motion regarding the minutes from the January 13 board meeting. Linda Evans pointed out a few minor typographical errors. David Connell motioned to approve the minutes with the corrections; Linda Evans seconded the motion with unanimous approval by the remaining board members.

Commissioner's Report

Commissioner Dozier gave a brief update on the new Digital Driver's License System (DLS). He stated that the new system has been executed statewide and that he is very proud of the progress made, however dual systems are still being operated in the metro area in the busiest Customer Service Centers (CSCs). Until some operating errors that have come with the new system are eliminated, specifically the time to print the interim license, these centers will continue to use the dual process. Once these errors have been eliminated and the Examiners adjust to the new system, he expects to see performance increases.

Mr. Dozier stated that the Governor's recommended budget has been released and as of the FY 2010 amended budget, DDS experienced an 11.5% reduction in the operating budget which puts the total budget reduction for the year at 22%. He stated the agency is doing well in managing this budget reduction and is very proud of the staff and what is being accomplished. He went on to say that the budget for the current fiscal year came out of the subcommittee and has recommended to the full appropriations committee to approve the Governor's recommended budget.

Ray Higgins, Legislative Affairs Director, gave a brief update on several bills that DDS will be tracking during the legislative session. He stated that there are several "texting while driving" bills that have been introduced. Two of those bills were merged while in the House subcommittee and the result will soon be introduced as a draft to the Public Safety and Homeland Security committee meeting. Also being tracked is HB 396 which is DDS' bill carried over from last year. A conference committee report has been drafted and DDS staff is currently working with the author and others, but no movement is expected on it until later in the session. HB 1036 which asks DDS to complete a pilot program for on-line defensive driving recently came out of sub-committee. There is also HB 538 that passed in full committee early in the session, which states if the court requires defensive driving, that it be a course approved by DDS. He will keep the board informed on the status of these bills and any others that may come up that may directly affect DDS.

Petitions for Board Rule Waiver

Latoya Graham, Deputy General Counsel, reviewed the following petitions for board waiver from Administrative Rule # # 375-3-1-.02 – Documentation Required for initial Issuance:

Glen Dixon – He previous submitted a waiver to the board that was denied; however, he resubmitted a second petition with more documentation. He is unable to provide his birth certificate to prove his identity. In the second petition, he has provided copies of loan documents, mortgage documents, cemetery plot document, a copy of his Tennessee driver's license and a Social Security card. He also included a 1991 Georgia Motor Vehicle Report (MVR) and DDS was able to pull his photograph and driver's license information from when he was previously licensed in Georgia. That license expired on June 30, 1997 because he had moved to Tennessee.

David Connell asked the department's recommendation. Commissioner Dozier responded that the department is comfortable for the board to move forward with this petition for waiver since he has proved over time that this is his identity that he has always used. However, this will not help him when Real ID or Pass ID laws go into effect. At that point he will still need to continue to find a source document to prove his identity.

Virginia Galloway motioned to approve the request for waiver. David Connell seconded the motion with unanimous approval by the remaining board members. Linda Evans asked that in his response letter he be told that with Real ID or Pass ID coming he should try to obtain a passport.

Mary Beth Williams – She is unable to provide a birth certificate and there is documentation from Texas Vital Records that shows they were unable to find a birth certificate for her. Although she provided numerous documents (voter registration card, employment application,

etc.), there is nothing of substance to prove her identity. Kelly Gay asked the department's recommendation. Ms. Graham replied that the department has not received any documents that legally prove her identity and recommend denial of the waiver.

Linda Evans motioned to deny the request for waiver and suggested she be encouraged to apply for a passport; David Connell seconded the motion. The motion to deny the waiver was passed unanimously by the remaining board members.

Mark Lee Wade – He is trying to obtain a Georgia ID card in order to apply for Social Security. He is unable to provide his birth certificate. He provided certification from the Alabama Dept. of Public Health stating they were unable to locate a birth certificate for him; a copy of an old Texas driver's license; and his military discharge papers.

When asked the department's recommendation, Commissioner Dozier stated it is felt that he needs to provide more documentation, school records, baptismal, birth certificate for a child or some other more substantial documents that show his identity throughout his life.

Virginia Galloway motioned to deny the request for waiver; David Connell seconded the motion. The motion to deny the waiver passed with a vote of six to one. Ms. Evans suggested that he should also be encouraged to apply for a passport.

Etta Dahlgren – She wants to obtain a Georgia ID card; however she is unable to provide her birth certificate. Her son has applied on her behalf and has indicated in his letter that the records were destroyed sometime in the past. Documents provided are: a copy of her expired passport; census records; church records; Medicare card; voter registration card from Florida; copy of her Florida drivers' license; and a marriage certificate.

Virginia Galloway motioned to approve the request for waiver; Lynda Coker seconded the motion with unanimous approval by the remaining board members.

Jesse C. Hudson – He wants to obtain a Georgia DL; however he is unable to provide his birth certificate. He provided: certification from Georgia Department of Vital Records showing no birth certificate was found; his marriage certificate; certificate of baptism, DDS-214-military discharge papers; Letter of Award from Social Security; 2010 property tax bill from his home in Valdosta, GA; Georgia Motor Vehicle Registration; Georgia Insurance license and well as a New Jersey drivers license and other documents from when he lived there.

Virginia Galloway motioned to approve the request for waiver; David Connell seconded the motion with unanimous approval by the remaining board members.

Richard A. Wilson – He wants to obtain a Georgia DL; however, his British passport has expired and he has applied and was approved for renewal of his green card but there is a waiting period of 3-12 months before he will get the actual card. The United States Customs and Immigration Services (USCIS) stamped his expired passport on Nov. 13, 2009 showing that he is a legal resident; however the DDS Gainesville CSC would not accept it. The British Embassy stated it would take 6-8 month and \$800 for him to obtain a new passport and even then he would still need the valid green card.

Ms. Graham stated that DDS has verified through the Homeland Security Systematic Alien Verification for Entitlement (SAVE) database that he is legally present.

Virginia Galloway motioned to approve the request for waiver; Kelly Gay seconded with unanimous approval by the remaining board members. Linda Evans stated that Mr. Wilson should be informed in his letter that he needs to pursue renewal of his passport.

Vanessa Moon – She is requesting a board waiver from Administrative Rule # # 375-3-1-.02 as well as # 375-3-1-.24 - Name on License or Identification Card. Her letter states that she was born Vanessa Regina Moon on Dec. 28, 1967 in Manhattan, New York. However, her mother who was a drug addict was supposed to get married to Wilfred Babb, so she changed her birth certificate, along with her siblings, to the last name “Babb” and never told them; but then she never married Mr. Babb. Ms. Moon states she didn’t find this out until after losing her birth certificate when she tried to obtain a replacement and was told there was not a birth certificate in the name “Vanessa Moon.” She states she has always used that name and wants to continue to do so. Documents provided showing that name were: a letter dated 1/21/10 from Social Security Administration showing Supplemental Security Income benefits; a copy of her Social Security card and a copy of her North Carolina driver’s license.

Ms. Graham stated since there are no legal documents to support the name, it is felt she needs to pursue a legal name change.

Virginia Galloway motioned to deny the request for waiver; Hunter Hill seconded the motion. The motion to deny the waiver was passed unanimously by the remaining board members. Ms. Evans recommended the response letter refer her to Legal Aid for assistance in getting her name changed.

The following petitioners are requesting waivers from Administrative Rule #_375-3-1-.24 - Name on License or Identification Card:

Nicole V. Jackson – She has provided her birth certificate which shows her birth name is “Vernita Sims;” however, she states that she was raised by her grandmother, Bertha Jackson, under the name of “Nicole Jackson.” She provided a copy of the Application for Appointment of Guardianship of Minor from Montgomery County, Ohio that shows her listed as Nicole Jackson aka Vernita Sims. She maintains that she was registered in school, worked, and files all taxes under the name “Nicole Vernita Jackson,” and is requesting a Georgia drivers’ license in that name.

After much discussion by the board members, it was decided that she would need to petition the court for a legal name change and provide proof of completion of that process before DDS could issue a license in that name. Virginia Galloway motioned to deny the request for waiver; Hunter Hill seconded the motion. The motion to deny the waiver was passed unanimously by the remaining board members.

Marilyn Meadow – She recently moved to Georgia from New York State and is requesting a Georgia driver’s license. Her marriage license and certificate which she provided for review, shows her first name as “Lynn” which she stated is the nickname she went by as a young person. Her birth certificate, New York drivers’ license and Social Security card show her as “Marilyn.”

Virginia Galloway motioned to approve the request for waiver. David Connell seconded the motion with unanimous approval by the remaining board members.

Robert J. Kicklighter – Ms. Graham stated that Mr. Kicklighter had withdrawn his request for waiver.

Old/New Business and Adjournment

Chairman Patrick asked if there was any old or new business. As there was none, he reminded the board that the next meeting is scheduled for March 10, 2010, and called for a motion to adjourn.

Kelly Gay so motioned; David Connell seconded with unanimous approval by the remaining board members.