BEFORE THE OKLAHOMA STATE BOARD OF LICENSURE FOR PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS AND LAND SURVEYORS

STATE OF OKLAHOMA ex rel. OKLAHOMA)
STATE BOARD OF LICENSURE FOR)
PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS AND LAND)
SURVEYORS,	į
Complainant,)
vs.) Case No. 2024-005
Name: Sandlin Surveying, P.C.)
Certificate of Authorization No.: 3169(I))
Address: P.O. Box 1241)
Henryetta, OK 74437)
Name: Bryan Sandlin)
Certificate of Licensure No.: P.L.S. 1483(I))
Address: P.O. Box 1241)
Henryetta, OK 74437)
Respondents.)

CONSENT ORDER

COMES NOW the Complainant, Oklahoma State Board of Licensure for Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors (the "Board") and, Sandlin Surveying, (the Firm) and Bryan Sandlin, (Sandlin) (collectively the "Respondents").

FINDINGS OF FACT

For the purposes of the entry of this Consent Order, the following facts are hereby stipulated to by the parties and adopted by the Board:

- 1. On June 23, 1998, the Board issued Sandlin Professional Land Surveyor (PLS) Certificate of Licensure No. 1483 to offer and/or practice land surveying in the State of Oklahoma.
- 2. This license was put on hold on January 31, 2023, due to an Oklahoma Tax Commission hold pursuant to O.S. 68 § 238.1 et seq.

- 3. The application of O.S. 68 § 238.1 et seq. served to prohibit the Board from renewing Sandlin's PLS license. As of November 1, 2023, O.S. 68 § 238.1 was revised to no longer prevent license renewal for licensed professionals who are in non-compliance with the Oklahoma Tax Commission.
- 4. Despite this change in the applicable Oklahoma Tax laws, Sandlin made no effort to renew his PLS license with the Board.
- 5. Sandlin was sent certified mail on February 15, 2023, notifying him of the action that his PLS license with the Board was no longer active.
- 6. At present, Sandlin is eligible to renew his PLS with the Board and has submitted a re-licensure application for his PLS license on June 25, 2024, which is currently pending.
- 7. On July 29, 1998, the Board issued the Firm Certificate of Authorization (CA) No. 2351 to offer and/or practice land surveying in the State of Oklahoma.
- 8. The Firm's CA became inactive on June 30, 2023, pursuant to the tax hold on its managing agent and responsible charge PLS, Sandlin.
- 9. On January 12, 2024, Ronald McGill called in a complaint alleging that Bryan Sandlin/Sandlin Surveying, P.C. were practicing surveying at the Addison Creek Addition with an expired PLS License and CA.
- 10. On February 5, 2024, a Request for Information was sent to Sandlin and the Firm via regular mail and email, but no response was received.
- 11. On June 12, 2024, after having no contact with either Respondent, a message was sent to Sandlin and the Firm via their LinkedIn page. The following day, Kim Sandlin responded, via email, "I received your message. I need to get a release from the Oklahoma Tax Commission and get this resolved." It should be noted that the email message came from the same email address the Board Staff used to deliver the February 24, 2024, email.

- 12. On July 19, 2024, another request for information was sent by the Board Staff to the Respondents via regular mail and email.
- 13. Evidence obtained on August 8, 2024, from the Respondents demonstrates they provided unlicensed professional surveying services in Oklahoma on approximately seventy-five (75) occasions during their period of license inactivity.

COUNT I

The Allegations contained in the Statement of Allegation/Charges Against Respondents above are incorporated herein by reference.

- 14. At the time the surveying services were performed, the Firm did not have an active CA to offer to practice and/or practice land surveying in the State of Oklahoma.
- 15. The Firm is, therefore, guilty of violating the provisions of 59 O.S. § 475.21(A)(2) and OAC § 245:15-23-1(a) by offering to practice and/or practicing land surveying in the State of Oklahoma as defined by 59 O.S. § 475.1 et seq., without a Certificate of Authorization, and is, therefore, subject to and should be assessed the Administrative Penalties set forth in 59 O.S. § 475.20(B) and OAC § 245:15-23-3 and 18.

COUNT II

The Allegations contained in the Statement of Allegation/Charges Against Respondents and Count I above are incorporated herein by reference.

- 16. At the time the surveying services were performed, Sandlin did not hold an active Professional Land Surveying Certificate of Licensure in the State of Oklahoma.
- 17. Sandlin is, therefore, guilty of violating the provisions of 59 O.S. § 475.1 and OAC § 245:15-23-1(a) by offering to practice and/or practicing land surveying services in the State of Oklahoma without a Professional Land Surveying Certificate of Licensure, and is, therefore,

subject to and should be assessed the Administrative Penalties set forth in 59 O.S. § 475.20(B) and OAC § 245:15-23-3 and 18.

CONSENT

Sandlin Surveying and Bryan Sandlin, by affixing their signatures hereto, acknowledge that:

- 18. Respondents understand this Consent Order is subject to the approval of the Board and has no force and effect until a final decision based upon it is rendered by the Board.
- 19. Respondents have been specifically advised to seek the advice of counsel prior to signing this Consent Order, and
 - 20. Respondents acknowledge that they have the following rights, among others:
 - a. The right to a formal fact-finding hearing before the Board;
 - b. The right to reasonable notice of said hearing;
 - c. The right to compel the testimony of witnesses;
 - d. The right to cross-examine witnesses against themselves;
 - e. The right to obtain judicial review of the Board's decisions; and,
 - f. The right to counsel.
- 21. Respondents waive all such rights to a formal hearing as set forth above in paragraph twenty (20).
- 22. Respondents understand in order to make a decision relative to approving this Consent Order discussions must take place between Board members, Board Staff and Board Counsel. These discussions may include the Board's review of any and all previously enumerated exhibits or referenced project materials. Respondents understand that these discussions will take place at the Board's next regularly scheduled meeting in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. Respondents

understand they have the right to be present when this matter is discussed, but hereby waive that right.

- 23. Respondents, for the purpose of avoiding further administrative action with respect to this cause, execute this Consent Order. Should the Consent Order not be accepted by the Board, it is agreed that presentation to and consideration of the Consent Order by the Board shall not unfairly or illegally prejudice the Board or any of its members from further participation in or resolution of these proceedings. Likewise, if this Consent Order is not accepted, the Board shall not take into consideration the contents of this Order as evidence of an admission.
- 24. Respondents expressly waive all further procedural steps, and expressly waive all rights to seek judicial review or to other challenge or contest the validity of the Consent Order, the stipulated facts, conclusions of law and imposition of administrative action contained herein, and the final decision of the board incorporating said Consent Order.
- 25. This Consent Order contains the entire agreement between the parties. Respondents are not relying on any other agreement or representations of any kind, verbal or otherwise.
- 26. The parties understand and agree that Portable Document Format (PDF) and facsimile copies of this Consent Order, including PDF and facsimile signatures thereto, shall have the same force and effect as the originals.
- 27. This Consent Order is intended by the parties to be an integrated writing representing the complete, final, and exclusive embodiment of their agreement. It supersedes any and all prior or contemporaneous agreements, understanding, discussions, negotiations, and commitments (written or oral). This Consent Order may not be altered, amended, modified, supplemented or otherwise changed except by a writing executed by an authorized representative of each of the parties.

28. Respondents consent to the entry of this Consent Order.

<u>ORDER</u>

In accordance with the foregoing findings of facts and conclusions of law, and the agreement and consent of the Respondents, it is hereby ordered as follows:

- 29. The Firm should be and hereby is found guilty of the charges set forth in Count I of the Formal Notice of Charges, because at the time services were provided, the Firm did not have an active CA to offer to practice and/or practice land surveying in the State of Oklahoma in violation of the provisions of 59 O.S. § 475.21(A)(2) and OAC § 245:15-23-1(a) 45.
- 30. In accordance with 59 O.S. § 475.20(B) and OAC § 245:15-23-3 and 18, the Firm is hereby assessed an administrative penalty in the total amount of Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00) as and for the violations set forth in Count I above, which shall be paid within sixty (60) days from the date of the entry of this Consent Order.
- 31. The Firm is hereby ordered to **CEASE AND DESIST** from practicing and/or offering to practice land surveying in the State of Oklahoma until such time as it has been issued a Certificate of Authorization to practice land surveying in accordance with the laws of the State of Oklahoma.
- 32. Sandlin should be and hereby is found guilty of the charges set forth in Count II of the Formal Notice of Charges, because at the time services were provided, Sandlin did not hold an active Professional Land Surveying Certificate of Licensure in the State of Oklahoma in violation of the provisions of 59 O.S. § 475.1 and OAC § 245:15-23-1(a) 48.33. Sandlin is hereby assessed an administrative penalty in the total amount Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00) as and for the violations set forth in Count II above, which shall be paid within sixty (60) days from the date of the entry of this Consent Order.

- 34. Robertson is hereby ordered to **CEASE AND DESIST** from practicing and/or offering to practice land surveying in the State of Oklahoma until such time as it has been issued a Certificate of Authorization to practice land surveying in accordance with the laws of the State of Oklahoma.
- 35. Respondents agree that within forty-five (45) days of the filed date of this Order, the Respondents shall give written notice to all clients to whom they provided professional land surveying work during the period of license inactivity. Such notice is to consist of a brief statement of the matter and include a link to the Board's website so clients may review this Order. Respondents agree to carbon copy ("cc") the Board on all communications. Failure to fulfill this obligation may result in further action from the Board.

DISCLOSURE

Pursuant to the Oklahoma Open Records Act, 51 O.S. § 24-A.1 through 24-A.21, the signed original of this Consent Order shall remain in the custody of the Board as a public record and shall be made available for public inspection, publication, and copying upon request.

Sandlin Surveying

By: (Title)

Name: Bruan C. Sandlin

Date: August 26,2024

By: Bryan Sandlin

Date: August 26, 2024

CERTIFICATION OF BOARD ATTORNEY

I believe this Consent Order to be in the best interests of the Oklahoma State Board of Licensure for Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors and the State of Oklahoma for the violations as alleged in the Formal Notice of Charges.

Dated this day of September, 2024.

ROBERT A. MANCHESTER, IV, OBA #19518 4308 North Meridian Avenue Oklahoma City, OK 73112 (405) 525-6710 (405) 528-5366 (Fax)

Attorney for Oklahoma State Board of Licensure for Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors

ORDER OF THE BOARD

NOW on this	day of September, 2024, Respondents have admitted voluntarily,
with knowledge of the	eir rights under law, the allegations contained in Counts I and II of the Formal
Notice of Charges.	It further appears that the foregoing Consent Order is just and equitable in
order to safeguard lif	fe, health, and property, and to promote the public welfare in the State of
Oklahoma.	
IT IS THER	EFORE ORDERED that the Respondents' stipulation to the violations
contained in Counts l	and II of the Formal Notice of Charges is accepted and the above Consent
Order incorporated h	nerein shall be the order of the Oklahoma State Board of Licensure for
Professional Engineer	rs and Land Surveyors.
Dated this	day of September, 2024.
	OKLAHOMA STATE BOARD OF LICENSURE FOR PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS AND LAND SURVEYORS
	Ву: