

*Arkansas State Board of Embalmers, Funeral Directors, Cemeteries, and Burial Services*

*Special Board Meeting Minutes*

Wednesday, April 22, 2020

1 Commerce Way  
Rebel Room, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Little Rock, AR  
10:02 – 10:39 AM

Chairman Bill Booker called the meeting to order. Member(s) present: Billy Curl, Professional Member, Chuck Dearman, Professional Member, Rausch Hodges, Professional Member, Commissioner, Alan McClain, Professional Member, Stephanie Neipling, Consumer Member, Josephine Perry, Senior Citizens Member, James Bruce Smithson, Professional Member, and Steve Whitwell, Professional Member and Vice-Chair.

Staff present, Robert Akers, Director, Funeral Services Division, Darriel Ezell, Inspector/Investigator, Amy Goode, Executive Secretary, Lorin Hillery, Auditor, Amelia Vestal, Senior Securities Examiner, and Amanda Gibson, Arkansas Insurance Department, Associate Counsel.

1. **Call to Order** – Introduction of Board members and staff.

Our new Commissioner, Alan McCain introduced himself and shared that he began his career in state government in 1992 at the Arkansas Insurance Department, so this was a bit of coming home for him.

2. **New Business**

a. **Proposed Hearing Methods. Powers and duties** [[A.C.A. §23-61-1103](#)] The Board needs to discuss whether to hold hearings via some remote method.

Ms. Gibson stated we potentially have access to a larger room in the building. The Board discussed several different options but opted to hold the meetings as normal. It was discussed to have meetings in the off months to conduct hearings only, to reduce the back log of cases. So, plans were discussed to meet in June for hearings, July as a regular meeting with hearings, August for hearings, and September, etc.

Board must have a quorum for meetings and hearings, so the members were polled to determine who could be present in person at the May meeting.

Motion made by Curl, to proceed with normal meetings for May, Rules Sub-Committee on May 18<sup>th</sup> and regular meeting May 19<sup>th</sup> as scheduled and to have up to three (3) hearings scheduled, seconded by Smithson, all in favor. Motion carried.

3. **Next Meeting Date(s)**

- a. **Monday, May 18, 2020 (1:00 p.m.) Rules Sub-Committee**
- b. **Tuesday, May 19, 2020 (9:00 a.m.)**

4. **Adjournment**

Motion made by Smithson, to adjourn at 10:39 AM, seconded by Curl, all in favor. Motion carried.