

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

*Special Board Meeting Minutes*

Tuesday, February 9, 2021

1 Commerce Way  
Diamond Mine Conference Room  
Little Rock, AR  
10:00 AM

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

Staff present: Darriel Ezell, Inspector/Investigator, Amy Goode, Executive Secretary, and Amelia Vestal, Senior Securities Examiner.

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

2) **Approval of Agenda**

Motion made by Curl to follow and approve agenda as presented, seconded by Hodges, all in favor. Motion carried.

3) **New Business**

**a) Embalmers & Funeral Directors – Establishments Seeking Approval**

[[A.C.A. §17-29-304 Funeral Establishment – Requirements, §17-29-305 Examinations – Licenses](#)]

- i) **R & B Transport Service – Board ID No. 25356.** Requests a **Type D** establishment license and is located at 600 East 5<sup>th</sup> Ave, Pine Bluff, Arkansas. Inspector Ezell inspected the Type D Transport establishment owned by Roderick Bailey, Sr. on **Thursday, January 14, 2021**. Mr. Bailey has an acceptable driving record and received his blood borne pathogen training 12/22/2020. All required documentation submitted is pending Board approval.

Roderick Bailey, Sr. was present representing R & B Transport Service. Mr. Curl recommended he seek guidance on transporting from the CDC, especially with the current COVID situation.

Motion made by Curl to approve the Type D establishment license, seconded by Hodges, all in favor. Motion carried.

- ii) **Faithful Funeral Home and Cremation – Board ID No. 25368.** Requests a **Type A** establishment license and is located at 7727 Colonel Glenn Road, Little Rock, Arkansas. Inspector Ezell inspected the Type A Full-Service establishment owned by Edward and Danny Shelton on **Friday, February 5, 2021**. The manager of record will be Edward Shelton, Board ID No. 22275 and embalming will be done under the direction of Blake Ruff, Board ID No. 22137 and Ruff Mortuary Service, Board ID No.20489, North Little Rock, Arkansas. The establishment will use Bishop-Crites Crematory, Board ID No. 20558, in Greenbrier, Arkansas for their cremations. All required documentation submitted is pending Board approval

Edward Shelton was present representing Faithful Funeral Home. Mr. Shelton has been a licensed funeral director for approximately 30 years. It was noted by Executive Secretary, Amy Goode, that the application and price lists did have a discrepancy. The law requires publications, price lists, and advertisements to accurately reflect the name on file with the Board.

Motion made by Curl to approve the Type A establishment license with amendment to the name of the establishment to be clarified within three (3) business days, seconded by Hodges, all in favor. Motion carried.

4) **Administrative**

a) **Approval of the December 8, 2020, special meeting minutes.**

Motion made by Hodges to approve the December 8, 2020 special meeting minutes as presented, seconded by Smithson, all in favor. Motion carried.

5) **Complaints**

Ms. Vestal had three (3) perpetual care cemetery complaints to present to the Board.

**PCC 20-062.** Recommend to close by staff and counsel.

Complaint is with the maintenance of the grounds, where the consumer felt “her” tree and “her” fence were damaged. Additionally, consumer requested the Board to direct cemetery owner to allow replacement of her fence. After reviewing it was deemed that her fence did not comply with the rules of the cemetery. Additionally, her fence was affixed to the property owner behind.

**PCC 21-001.** Recommend to close by staff and counsel.

Complaint was concerning a runoff of the cemetery doing damage to his yard and growing of moss. It does not violate any rule or regulation of the Act.

**PCC 21-002.** Recommend to close by staff and counsel.

Complainant was being charged and required to purchase a half a plot for interment of cremains, which she felt was unfair since she had previously bought plot, however there was already a full internment there. The requirement is consistent with the rules and regulations of the cemetery.

Motion made by Curl to accept staff's recommendation to close the complaints, seconded by Hodges, all in favor. Motion carried.

6) **Next Meeting Date(s)**

- a) **Tuesday, February 16, 2021 (9:00 a.m.)**
- b) **Monday, March 15, 2021 (1:00 p.m.) Rules Sub-Committee**
- c) **Tuesday, March 16, 2021 (9:00 a.m.) Board Meeting and Hearings**

7) **Future Meeting Date(s):**

- a) **Monday, April 19, 2021 (1:00 p.m.) Rules Sub-Committee**
- b) **Tuesday, April 20, 2021 (9:00 a.m.) Board Meeting and Hearings**

8) **Comments and Announcements**

9) **Adjournment**

Motion made by Hodges to adjourn at 10:20 AM, seconded by Curl, all in favor. Motion carried.