

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

Wednesday, March 20, 2019
1200 West Third Street
1st Floor Hearing Room
Little Rock, AR
9:30 a.m.

Chairman Bill Booker called the meeting to order. Members present: Billy Curl, Professional Member, Chuck Dearman, Professional Member, Rausch Hodges, Professional Member, Commissioner Kerr, Stephanie Neipling, Consumer Member, Bruce Smithson, Professional Member, and Steve Whitwell, Professional Member and Vice-Chair. Member(s) absent: Josephine Perry, Senior Citizens Member. Staff present: Robert Akers, Director, Funeral Services Division, Amy Goode, Executive Secretary, Lorin Hillery, Auditor, and Amelia Vestal, Senior Securities Examiner. Staff absent: Leslie Stokes, Inspector and Amanda Gibson, Arkansas Insurance Department, Associate Counsel.

1. Call to Order

Booker proposed Commissioner Kerr to serve as chair of the meeting, since he was physically present in the room with staff. He inquired if he had any objections the Vice Chair or members, hearing none Commissioner Kerr served as Chair of the meeting.

2. New Business

a. Embalmers & Funeral Directors – Establishments Seeking Approval ([§17-29-304 \(k\) Funeral Establishment – Requirements](#))

- i. Williams Funeral Home, Arkadelphia and Roland Gosey, owner and manager.** Williams Funeral Home was destroyed by fire on Monday, March 11, 2019. It appears at this time that the facility was a total loss. Mr. Gosey owns a second location in Camden and would like to temporarily operate Williams Funeral Home, Arkadelphia out of their Camden location. Additionally, Welch Funeral Home in Arkadelphia has offered the use of their facility for embalming, visitations, and services, for up to one year during the rebuilding process. A local church, the Greater Pleasant Hill is also offering use of their facilities.

Rick Medlock did confirm that Mr. Gosey is meeting with some families in their homes and is doing all that he can to maintain the level of service he always provided. The community has been very supportive, Greater Pleasant Hill Church has agreed to help as well as Tim Welch at Welch Funeral Home. In addition to that, Mr. Gosey really needs to find a place he can have a temporary location. He is actively looking for rental place to set-up his operation until recovery is complete.

Booker inquired as far as casket selection that might be offered to the families, would that be done through photographs or lithographs? Or would that part of your business be done through Welch as well? Mr. Gosey indicated he accesses Batesville's website through his tablet and shows caskets through that device.

Motion made by Booker to offer a waiver of the physical casket requirement to Williams Funeral Home, Arkadelphia, to allow them to continue operating as a Type A establishment under the conditions they have set forth in their proposal and that they provide a report on a quarterly basis on their situation, seconded by Curl, all in favor. Motion carried.

Booker stated they had experienced the same type of loss and certainly understands how difficult it is, further mentioned that he hopes Mr. Gosey can find an alternative physical space to purchase, lease, or rent as soon as possible.

Motion made by Booker to waive the re-inspection fee for a new location, seconded by Hodges, all in favor. Motion carried.

3. **Next Rules Committee Meeting**
 - a. **Friday, April 5, 2019 (1:00 p.m.)**
4. **Next Meeting Date**
 - a. **Tuesday, May 7, 2019 (9:00 a.m.)**
5. **Potential Future Meeting Date(s)**
 - a. **Tuesday, July 9, 2019 (9:00 a.m.)**
6. **Comments and Announcements**
7. **Adjournment**

Motion made by Kerr to adjourn at approximately 9:55 a.m., seconded by Booker, all in favor. Motion carried.