

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

Thursday, May 16, 2019
1200 West Third Street
1st Floor Hearing Room
Little Rock, AR
10:25 – 11:15 a.m.

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

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

Chairman Booker inquired if there was any desire to change or deviate from the proposed agenda. Hearing none, the Board preceded with the agenda as prepared by staff.

3. **New Business**
 - a. **Crematory Permit Application Approval** (*§17-29-313 Crematorium Construction*)
 - i. **Humphrey Funeral Service, Inc. - Crematory Permit Application** – Requests a Crematory Construction Permit and will be located at 2801 West Main Street, Russellville, Arkansas. Mr. Humphrey submitted required documentation on Tuesday, May 7, 2019. The board did receive a written protest to the proposed construction of the crematorium on the same day the application was received. *A. C. A. §17-29-313 (b) (1) states that upon receiving written protest to an application for the construction of a crematorium, the board shall: (A) Scheduled a public hearing on the application.*

Jim Bob Humphrey was present representing Humphrey Funeral Service. The Board did receive written protest to the construction of the crematorium. Mr. Humphrey informed the Board that the Chamber of Commerce would have a room available. Public hearing was set for 1:00 p.m., Monday, June 3, 2019 at the Chamber of Commerce in Russellville, AR.

b. Embalmers & Funeral Directors – Establishments Seeking Approval (*§17-29-304 Funeral Establishment – Requirements and §17-29-305 Examinations – Licenses*)

- i. Little Rock Cremations, Inc. – Board ID No. 25013.** Requests a **Type C** establishment license and is located at 8801 Knoedle Court, Little Rock, Arkansas. Inspector Stokes inspected the Type C Crematory establishment, owned by Brad Leggett., on **Tuesday, May 14, 2019**. The board granted the temporary operational certificate on Tuesday, May 7, 2019.

Motion made by Whitwell to issue the Type C license to Little Rock Cremations, Inc., seconded by Dearman, all in favor. Motion carried.

c. Embalmers & Funeral Directors – Consent Agreement (*§23-61-1103 Powers and duties.*)

- i. In the matter of: Davis-Strickland Funeral Home, Board ID No. 20397 and Matthew Strickland, Board ID No. 21027, Case No. 18-11**

Motion made by Hodges, to approve the consent agreement in accordance with staff's findings of fact against Davis-Strickland Funeral Home, seconded by Whitwell, all in favor. Motion carried.

4. Meeting/hearing Date(s)

- a. Tuesday, July 16, 2019 (9:00 a.m.)**
b. Tuesday, September 17, 2019 (9:00 a.m.)

5. Comments and Announcements

Mr. Akers informed board members, that on Monday, May 6, 2019, the department had received a request from Bureau of Legislative Research that was initiated by a state legislator. They requested proprietary financial data on all active burial associations operating in the State of Arkansas. Due to 90% of the data they are requesting being in hardcopy format and not in a computer or database format, it has been time intensive. Mr. Akers has worked exclusively on the request and Mr. Hillery is also working on their request today. We are working to compile the data for BLR for them to research.

6. Adjournment

Motion made by Hodges to adjourn the special meeting at 11:15 a.m., seconded by Whitwell, all in favor. Motion carried.