

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

Tuesday, September 15, 2020

1 Commerce Way  
Diamond Mine Room – 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Little Rock, AR  
9:00 A.M. – 12:26 P.M.

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

Member(s) Absent: Chuck Dearman, Professional Member and James Bruce Smithson, Professional Member.

Staff present: Robert Akers, Director, Funeral Services Division, Eddie Davis, Ins Amy Goode, Executive Secretary, Amelia Vestal, Senior Securities Examiner, Amanda Gibson, Arkansas Insurance Department, Associate Counsel. Special guests: Jennifer Bruce, Public Information Officer.

1. **Call to Order** – Introduction of Board members and staff.
2. **Approval of the 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. **Administrative**
  - a. **Approval of the August 18, 2020, meeting minutes.**

Motion made by Curl to approve the August 18, 2020 meeting minutes as submitted by Staff, seconded by Hodges, all in favor. Motion carried.

4. **Complaints - To consider the complaint(s) on-file with the State Board**  
[[A.C.A. §23-61-1111 Duties of the State Insurance Department](#)]

Ms. Gibson stated she had two embalmer and funeral director complaints to present to the board.

**Case No. 20-16.** Previously the Board authorized counsel to enter a consent to revoke the establishment license. The establishment did not renew for 2020 and had not

notified the Board they had closed. We since found out the owner had a stroke and was in assisted living. Staff now recommends closing the case.

**Case No. 20-13.** We were going to set this for a hearing. The Respondent was untruthful about completing continuing education hours, he was offered a consent agreement in lieu of a hearing. He agreed to the terms of the agreement.

Motion made by Whitwell to accept recommendation by staff, seconded by Neipling, all in favor. Motion carried.

Ms. Vestal stated she had one cemetery complaint that staff recommends closing.

**Case No. PCC20-045.** Staff recommendations closing.

Motion made by Curl to accept staff's recommendation, seconded by Whitwell, all in favor. Motion carried.

## 5. **New Business**

### **a. Embalmers and Funeral Directors Proposed Rules Discussion.**

Mr. Curl indicated the committee had worked on this document for quite some time and that he had a few things he wanted to discuss but wanted to give other members an opportunity first. Once the board finalizes these rules, then we can move forward with starting the process of rule promulgation.

The Board discussed the proposed rules at length and wanted to add specific language about pet crematories and differentiate between the two in the rules.

## 6. **Adjournment**

Motion made by Hodges to adjourn at 12:03 PM, seconded by Neipling, all in favor. Motion carried.