

**MINUTES**  
**South Carolina State Board of Funeral Service**  
**Board Meeting Via Web/Teleconference**

10:19 a.m., April 30, 2020  
Columbia, South Carolina

**Thursday, June 25, 2020**

**1. Meeting Called to Order**

Stephen L. McMillan Jr., President, of Myrtle Beach, called the regular meeting of the South Carolina State Board of Funeral Service to order on June 25, 2020 at 10:19 a.m. Other board members present for the meeting included: Darryl Dickerson, Vice-President, of Goose Creek; Michelle A. Cooper, of Moncks Corner; Charvis K. Gray, of Greenville; William B. Horton, Jr., of Kingstree; Eddie J. Nelson, of Blythewood; Jeffery K. Temples, of West Columbia; Landis D. Price, II of Leesville; Kenneth E. Baxter, Sr., of Greenville; and Dr. D'Michelle P. DuPre, of Chapin.

Staff members present for the meeting included: Donnell Jennings, Disciplinary Counsel, Office of Disciplinary Counsel; Robert Elam, Advice Counsel, Office of Advice Counsel; Mary League, Advice Counsel, Office of Advice Counsel; Amy Holleman, Administrator; Norma McAllister, Program Assistant; Eric Thompson, Chief Inspector, Office of Investigations and Enforcement; William Poole, Inspector, Office of Investigations and Enforcement; Matalie Mickens, Inspector, Office of Investigations and Enforcement; and Tracey Solet, Paralegal, Office of Disciplinary Counsel

Members of the public attending the meeting included: Rion Rampey, Executive Director, South Carolina Funeral Directors Association; Serena Canty-McCoy of Sumter Funeral Home; Eric Wilson of Wilson's Caskets; Kimberly Renee Formby Derienzo of Cooner Funeral Home, LLC; Lauren Thomas of The International Conference of Funeral Service Examining Boards; and Christopher Kohler of the South Carolina Department of Consumer Affairs.

**A. Public Notice**

Mr. McMillan announced that public notice of this meeting was properly posted at the South Carolina State Board of Funeral Service office, Synergy Business Park, Kingstree building, and provided to all requesting persons, organizations, and news media in compliance with Section 30-4-80 of the South Carolina Freedom of Information Act.

**2. Introduction of Board Members and Persons Attending the Meeting**

The board members, staff, and all other persons attending the meeting introduced themselves.

**3. Approval of Excused Absences**

Mr. Stephen R. Gantt was not in attendance.

**MOTION**

Mr. Price made a motion to approve the absence. Mr. Gray seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

**4. Approval of Excused Absences for IRC members**

Mr. Glen Crawford was not in attendance at the Investigative Review Committee meeting.

**MOTION**

Mr. Gray made a motion to approve his absence. Mr. Baxter seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

**5. Approval of Minutes from the April 30, 2020 meeting**

The Board reviewed the minutes.

**MOTION**

Mr. Baxter made a motion to approve the April 30, 2020 minutes with corrections to the next scheduled meeting date. Dr. DuPre seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

**6. President’s Remarks – Stephen L. McMillan, Jr.**

Mr. McMillan welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**7. Administrator’s Remarks – Amy Holleman**

**A. Financial Report**

Ms. Holleman reported that the Board’s cash balance at the end of May 2020 was -\$361,176.81. Ms. Holleman reminded the Board that renewals have been extended through September 2020.

**B. U. S. Census**

Ms. Holleman reminded everyone to complete and file their census form which provides a guidance for federal funding to the state.

**C. Updates – Funeral Establishments – Change of Managers**

FE#	Name of Funeral Establishment (FE) -location	Name of former Manager		Name of New Manager		Effective Date
769	McAlister-Smith Crematory	Stephanie Z. Mikulec	FDE.4060	Donald J. Miller	FDE.2588	06/12/2020
38	Gray Mortuary, Inc.	James Lee Gray, Jr.	FD.1622	Samuel Lance Gray	FDE.2143	05/14/2020
1047	Simplicity Lowcountry Cremation & Burial Services	Valeria S.Mayer	FD.3312	Sharon N. Stahl	FDE.2091	06/12/2020

**Funeral Establishments – New Branches**

FE#	Name of Funeral Establishment (Branch)	Name of Manager		Effective Date
1073	Palmetto Funeral and Cremation Services	Joshua Ross Heidenreich	FDE.3846	04/30/2020

**Funeral Establishments – Change of Name**

FE#	Former Name of Establishment	New Name of Establishment	Name of Manager	Effective Date
1047	Cremation Simplified	Simplicity Lowcountry Cremation & Burial Services	Sharon N. Stahl FDE. 2091	06/12/2020

**Funeral Establishments – Change of location**

FE #	Name of Funeral Establishment	Previous Location	New Location	Name of Manager	Effective Date
FE.921	BLUERIDGE CREMATION SOCIETY	10708 CLEMSON BLVD, SENECA	5547 WELLS HIGHWAY, SENECA SC 29678	Larry C Hendrix FDE.1455	05/01/2020

**8. Reports**

**A. Inspection Report – William Poole**

Mr. Poole informed the Board that he conducted 19 inspections between April 21, 2020 and June 15, 2020.

**B. Investigative Review Committee (IRC) Report**

Ms. Holleman presented the IRC recommendations to the Board, which are to dismiss cases 2019-21; 2019-43; 2019-48; 2019-53; and 2019-54; dismiss with a cease and desist order case 2020-212018-17; issue a letter of caution to cases 2020-1; 2020-3; and 2020-4; and file formal

complaints for cases 2019-42; 2019-51; 2019-61; 2019-62; 2019-64; 2019-65; 2019-69; 2019-70; 2020-20; 2020-28; 2020-29; 2020-23; and 2020-35.

Mr. McMillan called for a motion in this matter.

**MOTION**

Mr. Baxter made a motion to approve the IRC report, Dr. DuPre seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

C. **Office of Investigations and Enforcement (OIE) Report**

Ms. Holleman presented the OIE report to the Board as follows; there are 31 active investigations, 26 cases have been closed, 26 do not open cases, one case pending attorney review, 36 cases pending Board action, and one Complaint Analyst Review.

D. **Office of Disciplinary (ODC) Counsel – Donnell Jennings**

Mr. Jennings stated there are 27 open cases; 11 pending action, 10 pending Consent Agreements or Memorandum Of Agreements, five pending rescheduling of hearings, one pending final order, and two cases closed as of June 12, 2020.

**New Business**

**Application Hearings**

**9. A. Change of Ownership**

This proceeding was recorded by a court reporter in order to produce a verbatim transcript should one be necessary.

1. **Sumter Funeral Home – Serena Canty-McCoy**

Ms. Serena Canty-McCoy appeared before the Board on behalf of Sumter Funeral Home.

Ms. Holleman informed the Board that the application is complete; however, Ms. Canty-McCoy has not been able to secure her SLED report. Ms. Holleman asked that the Board approves the change of ownership with Ms. Canty-McCoy as the manager. Ms. Canty-McCoy license number FD.3694, initially licensed on December 20, 2012, resides 1.7 miles from the facility. Ms. Holleman informed the Board that Noah Funeral Systems LLC is the owner with shareholder, Ralph W. Canty, Sr.

The Board questioned Ms. Canty-McCoy regarding this matter. Ms. Canty-McCoy addressed the Board stating that she will continue employment with both of her employers if approved as the manager of Sumter Funeral Home. Ms. Canty-McCoy stated that her employment with Job's Mortuary is part-time and her other employment is full-time; however, the employer has submitted a statement indicating that Ms. Canty-McCoy would be allowed to leave in case of an emergency. Ms. Canty-McCoy presented her employment work schedules to the Board. Ms. Canty-McCoy explained that the Sumter Funeral Home will operate on extended hours.

The Board decided to go into executive session to receive legal advice.

**Executive Session**

**MOTION**

Mr. Horton made a motion to go into executive session to receive legal advice. Mr. Nelson seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

**Return to Public Session**

**MOTION**

Mr. Dickerson made a motion to come out of Executive Session. Mr. Temples seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Mr. McMillan noted, for the record, there were no votes taken during Executive Session.

Mr. McMillan called for a motion in this matter

**MOTION**

Ms. Cooper made a motion that the Board approve the change of ownership application and that the Board denied Ms. Canty-McCoy request to be the manager of record due to an incomplete application and that she does not meet the statute requirements for a manager. Mr. Baxter seconded the motion, which carried unanimously. Ms. Cooper amended the motion to include the facility passing final inspection, a favorable letter from the South Carolina Department of Consumer Affairs, and the business securing a qualified manager. Mr. Baxter seconded the amended motion, which carried unanimously.

**B. Retail Sales Outlet**

This proceeding was recorded by a court reporter in order to produce a verbatim transcript should one be necessary.

1. Wilson's Caskets – Eric Wilson

Mr. Eric Wilson appeared on behalf of Wilson's Caskets.

Ms. Holleman informed the Board that the applications are complete and that Mr. Wilson requests that the Board approve the retail sales outlet application.

The Board questioned Mr. Wilson regarding this matter. Mr. Wilson informed the Board that this would be an online business with his availability from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and a 24/7 answering service would cover all other unavailable times.

The Board decided to go into executive session to receive legal advice.

**Executive Session**

**MOTION**

Mr. Baxter made a motion to go into executive session to receive legal advice and asked that the Administrator attend the Executive Session. Ms. Cooper seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

**Return to Public Session**

**MOTION**

Mr. Horton made a motion to come out of Executive Session. Mr. Baxter seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Mr. McMillan noted, for the record, there were no votes taken during Executive Session.

Mr. McMillan called for a motion in this matter

**MOTION**

Ms. Cooper made motion that the Board approve the retail sales outlet application for the express purposes of selling caskets. In addition Mr. Wilson must publish his license; the cost of all items, and the physical address of the business on its' website. Mr. Gray seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

### **C. Request for Extension – Change of Manager**

This proceeding was recorded by a court reporter in order to produce a verbatim transcript should one be necessary.

#### **1. Cooner Funeral Home – Bamberg**

Ms. Holleman informed the Board that the application is complete and that Ms. Formby is requesting an extension to hire a manager for the funeral establishment.

Ms. Formby informed the Board that the manager resigned on March 1, 2020 and that she has been actively seeking a manager that qualifies according to statute and regulations. However, due to the current medical crisis, COVID-19, there have been limited responses. Also, the current situation has limited the ability to conduct interviews with prospective candidates. Ms. Formby stated that she has reached out to others in the profession for guidance and as of today, she has placed an ad in the State Newspaper which resulted in one reply from an unqualified candidate.

The Board questioned Ms. Formby regarding this matter.

#### **MOTION**

Mr. Horton made a motion that the Board grants the extension request through the next scheduled Board meeting on August 26-27, 2020. Mr. Baxter seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

### **10. Hearing Officer Appointment**

Ms. Holleman stated that after consulting with Mr. Stephen McMillan, Chairperson, and Mr. Robert Elam, Advise Attorney, she is asking the Board to consider appointing a hearing officer to address the current growing disciplinary caseload. Ms. Holleman stated that the elected Board Member would hear the Memorandum of Agreement(MOA) cases, then at the next scheduled Board meeting a copy of the transcript would be distributed to every Board member to review and render a disposition regarding the MOA.

#### **MOTION**

Mr. Horton made a motion that the Board elects Ms. Michelle Cooper, Board Member, as the Hearing Officer. Mr. Temples seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

#### **MOTION**

Mr. Horton made a motion that the Board elects Mr. Jeffery Temples, Board Member, as the alternate Hearing Officer. Mr. Baxter seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

### **11. Executive Session for Legal Advice, If Needed**

### **12. Public Comments (no votes taken)**

### **13. Adjournment**

Mr. McMillan called for a motion to adjourn.

#### **MOTION**

Mr. Dickerson made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Nelson seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Mr. McMillan, after ensuring there being no further business to discuss, adjourned the June 25, 2020 meeting for the South Carolina State Board of Funeral Service at 2:38 p.m.

The next scheduled Board meeting for the South Carolina State Board of Funeral Service is August 26-27, 2020 at 10:00 a.m.