

MINUTES
South Carolina State Board of Funeral Service
Board Meeting

10:00 a.m., April 28, 2022
Synergy Business Park
110 Centerview Drive, Kingstree Building Room 108
Columbia, South Carolina

Thursday, April 28, 2022

1. Meeting Called to Order

Landis Price, II, President, of Leesville, presiding, called the regular meeting of the South Carolina State Board of Funeral Service to order on April 28, 2022 at 10:02 a.m. Other board members present for the meeting included; Kenneth E. Baxter, Sr., Vice-President, of Greenville; James P. Hodge, Secretary/Treasurer, of Anderson; Michelle A. Cooper, of Moncks Corner; Darryl Dickerson, of Goose Creek; Stephen L. McMillan, Jr., of Myrtle Beach; Eddie J. Nelson, of Blythewood; William E. Taylor, of Chesterfield and Thoma L. Williams, of Sumter.

Staff members present for the meeting included: Alexis Bell, Disciplinary Counsel, Office of Disciplinary Counsel; Kyle Tennis, Advice Counsel, Office of Advice Counsel; Amy Holleman, Administrator; Norma McAllister, Program Assistant; Kristina Zepp, Administrative Assistant; Rodney Pigford, Chief Investigator, Office of Investigations and Enforcement; Matalie Mickens, Inspector, Office of Investigations and Enforcement; William Poole, Inspector, Office of Investigations and Enforcement; Michael Smith, Investigator, Office of Investigations and Enforcement; and Rosa Campbell, Investigator, Office of Investigations and Enforcement.

Members of the public attending the meeting included: Don Alan Turner and Gary Weston Hiott, Jr., of Golden Corner Cremation Services; Joshua Adam Gordon and Floyd Scott Gordon, of Gordon Mortuary Cremation Center; Brian W. Myers, of Midlands Cremations; Patrick Gary Goodwin, Gregory K. Rollings, and Anthony Sorrells, of Floyd Funeral Home; Duane Wills, of Simplicity Lowcountry Cremation and Burial Services; Gage S. Cooper; Carolyn A. Johnson; and William P. Dunbar.

A. Public Notice

Mr. Price 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. Members of the public who wish to attend may do so by live streaming at <https://lfr.sc.gov/fs/videos.aspx>.

B. Pledge of Allegiance

All present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Approval of the Agenda

Mr. Price called for a motion to approve the agenda.

MOTION: Mr. McMillan made a motion that the Board approves today's agenda. Mr. Dickerson seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

3. Introduction of Board Members and Staff Attending the Meeting

The board members and staff attending the meeting introduced themselves.

4. Approval of Excused Absences

Dr. DuPre and Mr. Evans were not in attendance.

Executive Session

Motion: Mr. Nelson made the motion, seconded by Mr. Baxter, to go into Executive Session to receive legal advice. The motion carried unanimously.

Return to Public Session

Motion: Mr. Dickerson made the motion, seconded by Mr. Hodge, that the Board comes out of Executive Session. The motion carried unanimously.

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

MOTION: Ms. Cooper made a motion, seconded by Mr. Baxter, to approve Dr. DuPre’s absence. The motion carried unanimously.

5. Approval of Minutes from the February 17, 2022 meeting.

The Board reviewed the minutes.

MOTION: Mr. Baxter made a motion, seconded by Mr. Nelson, to approve the minutes with corrections to page 7, 10D’s motion. The motion carried unanimously.

6. President’s Remarks – Landis D. Price, II

Mr. Price welcomed everyone in attendance. Mr. Price gave special mention to his father, Landis D. Price, in recognition of his 50 years of service in the funeral industry.

7. Administrator’s Remarks – Amy Holleman

A. Financial Report

Ms. Holleman reported that the Board’s cash balance at the end of March 31, 2022 was \$-370,569.54.

B. Updates – Funeral Establishments

Change of Managers

FE#	Name of Funeral Establishment (FE) – location	Name of Former Manager	Name of New Manager	Effective Date
1084	JP HOLLEY FUNERAL HOME NEW	JOHNATHAN HOLLEY FD.3517	RONALD E MORRISON FDE.1924	03/04/2022
1004	DILLARD FUNERALS & CREMATIONS	MICHELLE NICOLE HELT FDE.3759	RICHARD HARRISON TOMPLINSON FDE.3847	03/08/2022
1005	PALMETTO CREMATION SERVICE	MICHELLE NICOLE HELT FDE.3759	RICHAARD HARRISON TOMPLINSON FDE.3847	03/08/2022
600	CHRIS KING MEMORIAL CHAPEL	MARGIE B KING FD.1361	JOHN RICHARD CHRISTOPER KING FD.2500	02/18/2022
902	A SIMPLE SERVICE BURIAL CREMATION	MARGARET B HORTON FD.2115	WILLIAM JACOB MCLEAN FDE.2817	03/16/2022
156	NAPIER FUNERALHOME INC	WILLIAM S NAPIER FD.1484	CLINTON DOUGLAS JACKSON FDE.3885	03/21/2022
1104	PRISTIGE PROFESSIONAL FUNERAL HOME	POIETTE M BROMELL FDE.2074	GLORIA A WADE OUTLAW FD.3883	03/23/2022
588	DUCKETT-ROBINSON FUNERAL HOME	ALTON B CUMBIE III FD.1353	GREGORY ALAN RICE FDE.3482	03/28/2022

1002	CAROLINA MEMORIAL PARK FUNERAL AND CREMATIONS	DANIEL K DRIGGERS	FDE.3216	FRANK M WAY III	FDE.2032	04/14/2022
902	A SIMPLE SERVICE BURIAL AND CREMATION	WILLIAM J MCLEAN III	FDE.2817	JACQULYN ELAYNE DUNCAN	FDE.2036	04/19/2022
1030	BASS CAUTHEN FUNERAL HOME	CHRISTOPHER HENRY BIECKER	FDE.4219	DAVID LEE HARRIS	FDE.4140	04/20/2022

Funeral Establishment – New Branch

FE#	Name of Funeral Establishment (Branch)	Parent Facility	Branch Location	Name of Manager		Effective Date
1121	ANDERSON SIMPLE CREMATIONS	THE MCDOUGALD FUNERAL HOME INC	2331 HWY 81 N. ANDERSON SC	JESSE FRETWELL MCDOUGALD	FDE.2328	03/15/2022

Ms. Holleman informed the Board that since the last Board meeting, February 17, 2022, staff issued:

Apprentice Certificates			Student Certificates			License		
FDE	FD	EMB	FDE	FD	EMB	FDE	FD	EMB
18	12	2	3	1	8	4	1	0

Ms. Holleman informed the Board that all licensees are currently in renewal.

8. Reports

A. Inspection Report – William “Buddy” Poole

Mr. Poole informed the Board that he and Ms. Mickens conducted 162 inspections between February 2, 2022 and April 19, 2022.

B. Investigative Review Committee (IRC) Report – Rodney Pigford

Mr. Pigford presented the April 14, 2022 IRC recommendations to the Board, which are to dismiss cases 2019-11, 2019-62, 2019-68, 2021-52, 2021-76, 2021-77, 2021-78, 2021-79, 2021-80, 2022-1, 2022-9, 2022-24, 2022-25, 2022-27, 2022-28, and 2022-29; issue letters of caution for cases 2022-13, 2022-14, 2022-19, 2021-73, 2021-74, and 2021-75; and for the following cases to move forward with formal complaints: 2021-62, 2021-63, 2021-64, 2021-67, 2021-68, 2021-70, 2021-71, and 2021-72.

Mr. Price called for a motion in this matter.

MOTION: Mr. Nelson made a motion that the Board approves the IRC recommendations. Ms. Cooper seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

C. Office of Investigations and Enforcement (OIE) Report – Rodney Pigford

Mr. Pigford stated that the Office of Investigation and Enforcement received 54 complaints between January 1, 2022 and April 19, 2022. There were 18 active investigations and 0 closed cases.

D. Office of Disciplinary Counsel (ODC) Report – Alexis Bell

Ms. Bell presented the ODC report to the Board stating that as of April 11, 2022, there were 41 open cases; 19 pending hearings and agreements; and 13 closed since February 9, 2022.

Applications

Application Hearings

9. Funeral Establishment

These proceedings were recorded by a court reporter in order to produce a verbatim transcript should one be necessary.

A. New Crematory

1. Golden Corner Cremation Services – Seneca – Don Alan Turner

Mr. Don Allen Turner and Mr. Gary Weston Hiott, Jr. appeared before the Board on behalf of Golden Corner Cremation Services.

Ms. Holleman informed the Board that the application is complete and that Mr. Turner requests that the Board approve the new crematory with him as the manager. Mr. Turner, license number FDE.2086, initially licensed on July 10, 1991, resides 24.34 miles from the facility, and does not have a criminal background. Ms. Holleman informed the Board that Mountain View Funerals & Cremations, LLC is the owner.

The Board questioned Mr. Turner regarding this matter. After concluding there were no other statements and/or questions, Mr. Price called for a disposition in this matter.

MOTION: Ms. Cooper made the motion, seconded by Mr. Nelson, that the Board approves the new crematory with Mr. Don Allen Turner as the manager of record, pending the crematory passing the final inspection. The motion carried unanimously.

2. Gordon Mortuary Cremation Center – Blacksburg – Joshua Adam Gordon

Mr. Joshua Adam Gordon and Mr. Floyd Scott Gordon appeared before the Board on behalf of Gordon Mortuary Cremation Center.

Ms. Holleman informed the Board that the application is complete and that Mr. Gordon requests that the Board approve the new crematory with him as the manager. Mr. Gordon, license number FDE.3282, initially licensed on August 29, 2003, resides 12 miles from the facility, and does not have a criminal background. Ms. Holleman informed the Board that Gordon Mortuary, Inc. with shareholders, Joshua Adam Gordon and Floyd Scott Gordon. Gordon Mortuary is the parent facility.

The Board questioned Mr. Gordon regarding this matter. After concluding there were no other statements and/or questions, Mr. Price called for a disposition in this matter.

MOTION: Mr. McMillan made the motion, seconded by Ms. Cooper, that the Board approves the new crematory with Mr. Joshua Adam Gordon as the manager of record, pending the crematory passing the final inspection. The motion carried unanimously.

3. Midlands Cremations – Columbia – Brian Walter Myers

Mr. Brian Walter Myers appeared on before the Board on behalf of Midlands Cremations.

Ms. Holleman informed the Board that the application is complete and that Mr. Myers requests that the Board approve the new crematory with him as the manager. Mr. Myers, license number FDE.2517, initially licensed on April 9, 1999, resides 6.4 miles from the facility, and does not have a criminal background. Ms. Holleman informed the Board that Myers Mortuary & Crematory Service, LLC is the owner of the facility.

The Board questioned Mr. Myers regarding this matter. After concluding there were no other statements and/or questions, Mr. Price called for a disposition in this matter.

MOTION: Mr. Dickerson made the motion, seconded by Mr. McMillan, that the Board approves the new facility with Mr. Brian Walter Myers as the manager of record, pending the facility passing the final inspection. The motion carried unanimously.

The Board recessed for 10 minutes.

B. Change of Ownership

1. Floyd Funeral Home – Turbeville – Patrick Adam Goodwin

Mr. Patrick Adam Goodwin and Mr. Gregory Rollings appeared before the Board on behalf of Floyd Funeral Home.

Ms. Holleman informed the Board that the application is complete and that Mr. Goodwin is asking that the Board approve the change of ownership with him as the manager. Mr. Goodwin, license number FD. 3220, initially licensed on October 6, 2005 resides 8 miles from the crematory. He does not have a criminal background. Ms. Holleman informed the Board that Rollings Funeral Service, Inc., with shareholders, Gregory K. Rollings and Debra A. Rollings.

The Board questioned Mr. Goodwin regarding this matter. After concluding there were no other statements and/or questions, Mr. Price called for a disposition in this matter.

MOTION: Ms. Cooper made a motion, seconded by Mr. Nelson, that the Board approves the change of ownership with Mr. Patrick Adam Goodwin as the manager of record pending the facility passing the final inspection. The motion carried unanimously.

C. Change of Manager and/or Extension Request

1. Simplicity Lowcountry Cremation and Burial Services – Bluffton – Bryan Kenworthy

Mr. Dwane Wills appeared before the Board on behalf of Simplicity Lowcountry Cremation and Burial Services.

Ms. Holleman informed the Board that Mr. Wills is requesting that the Board approve an extension to obtain a manager for Simplicity Lowcountry's Bluffton location.

Mr. Wills addressed the Board and stated that the company has actively searched for a manager that meets the Funeral Service's statutory requirements; however, they have not been able to secure a qualified candidate. He stated that the facility continues to receive customers with the assistance from other Funeral Directors within the company's network.

The Board questioned Mr. Wills regarding this matter. After concluding there were no others statements and/or questions, Mr. Price called for a disposition in this matter.

Executive Session

Motion: Mr. Dickerson made the motion, seconded by Mr. McMillan, to go into Executive Session to receive legal advice. The motion carried unanimously.

Return to Public Session

Motion: Mr. Hodge made the motion, seconded by Mr. Taylor that the Board comes out of Executive Session. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Price noted, for the record, there were no votes taken during Executive Session and called for A disposition in this matter.

MOTION: Ms. Cooper made the motion, seconded by Mr. McMillan, that the Board denies the request for a 180 day extension, but grants an extension until the June 2022 meeting to obtain a manager who meets all legal requirements. Until such time, Simplicity has ten business days to submit an application for a temporary manager for the funeral establishment. If it fails to comply with the stated conditions/requirements, Simplicity must appear before the next scheduled Board meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

10. Funeral Director and/or Embalmer

These proceedings were recorded by a court reporter in order to produce a verbatim transcript should one be necessary.

A. Embalmer's Application

1. Gage Steven Cooper

Ms. Michelle Cooper recused herself. Mr. Gage Steven Cooper and Ms. Michelle Cooper appeared before the Board on his behalf.

Ms. Holleman informed the Board that the application is complete. Mr. Cooper, whose apprenticeship will expire as of May 29, 2022, is asking that the Board accepts the late October 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021 quarterly report and approves his embalmer's application.

The Board questioned Mr. Cooper regarding this matter. After concluding there were no other statements and/or questions, Mr. Price called for a disposition in this matter.

MOTION: Mr. McMillan made a motion, seconded by Mr. Nelson, that the Board accepts the late quarterly report and approves Mr. Cooper's embalmer's application pending Mr. Cooper timely submitting his remaining quarterly report and taking and passing the state law examination. The motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Michelle Cooper rejoined the meeting as a Board member.

B. Funeral Director's Application

1. Carolyn A. Johnson

Ms. Carolyn A. Johnson appeared before the Board on her own behalf.

Ms. Holleman informed the Board that the application is complete. Ms. Cooper is asking that the Board accepts the late January 1, 2021 through March 31, 2021 quarterly report and approve her funeral director's application.

The Board questioned Ms. Johnson regarding this matter. After concluding there were no other statements and/or questions, Mr. Price called for a disposition in this matter.

MOTION: Ms. Cooper made a motion, seconded by Mr. Dickerson, that the Board accepts the late quarterly report and approves her application, pending Ms. Johnson taking and passing the arts and state law examinations. The motion passed unanimously.

C. Funeral Director and Embalmer's Application

1. William Pate Dunbar

Mr. William Pate Dunbar appeared before the Board on his own behalf.

Ms. Holleman informed the Board that the application is complete. Mr. Dunbar is asking that the Board accepts the late January 1, 2020 through March 31, 2020 quarterly report and approve his Funeral Director and Embalmer's application.

The Board questioned Mr. Dunbar regarding this matter. After concluding there were no other statements and/or questions, Mr. Price called for a disposition in this matter.

MOTION: Mr. Dickerson made a motion, seconded by Mr. Nelson, that the Board accepts the late quarterly report and approves his Funeral Director and Embalming application pending him taking and passing the state law examination. The motion carried unanimously.

11. Executive Session for Legal Advice, If Needed

12. Public Comments (no votes taken)

There were no public comments.

13. Adjournment

Mr. Price called for a motion to adjourn.

MOTION: Mr. Dickerson made a motion, seconded by Mr. Baxter, to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Price, after ensuring there being no further business to discuss, adjourned the April 28, 2022 meeting for the South Carolina State Board of Funeral Service at 12:20 p.m.

The next scheduled Board meeting for the South Carolina State Board of Funeral Service is June 22-23, 2022 at 10:00 a.m.