

**MINUTES**  
**South Carolina State Board of Funeral Service**  
**Board Meeting**

10:00 a.m., August 30, 2023  
Synergy Business Park  
110 Centerview Drive, Kingtree Building  
Lowcountry Conference Room  
Columbia, South Carolina

**Wednesday, August 30, 2023**

**1. Meeting Called to Order**

James P. Hodge, President, of Anderson, called the meeting of the South Carolina State Board of Funeral Service to order on August 30, 2023 at 10:02 a.m.

**A. Public Notice**

Mr. Hodge announced that public notice of this meeting was properly posted at the South Carolina State Board of Funeral Service office, Synergy Business Park, Kingtree 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.

**B. Pledge of Allegiance**

All present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

**2. Approval of Agenda**

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

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

**3. Introduction of Board Members and Staff Attending the Meeting**

The board members and staff introduced themselves.

**Board Members Present:**

James P. Hodge, President, of Anderson  
Gregory E. Evans, Secretary/Treasurer, of Newberry  
Michele A. Cooper, of Moncks Corner  
Darryl Dickerson, of Goose Creek  
Dr. D'Michelle P. DuPre, Chapin  
Wayne K. Pratt, Sr., of Newberry  
Landis D. Price, II, of Leesville  
Thomas J. Wright, of Beaufort

**SCDLLR Staff Present:**

Alexis Bell, Disciplinary Counsel, Office of Disciplinary Counsel  
Kyle Tennis, Advice Counsel, Office of Advice Counsel  
Amy Holleman, Board Executive  
Norma McAllister, Program Coordinator  
Shamone Breazeale, Administrative Assistant

**Members of the Public:**

Cal Land, Esq., of Land Parker Welch, LLC  
Wes Jackson, Esq., of Mann Blake & Jackson  
Jason Johnson, of Summerton Funeral Home  
Felicia B. Woods  
Lester Woods

**4. Approval of Excused Absences**

Mr. William E. Taylor and Ms. Thoma Williams were not in attendance.

**MOTION:** Mr. Price made a motion, seconded by Dr. DuPre, which carried unanimously that the Board approves the absences.

**Disciplinary Hearings**

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

**5. A. Memorandum of Agreement (MOA)**

1. Case Nos: 2021-63, 2021-64, 2021-71, & 2021-73

Ms. Alexis Bell, Disciplinary Counsel, representing the State, presented the Memorandum of Agreement. The Respondents appeared before the Board and were represented by Cal Land, Esq.

The Respondents’ attorney addressed the Board and the Board questioned the Respondent regarding this matter. The State and the Respondents’ attorney gave closing statements. Mr. Hodge called for a motion to go into executive session to seek legal advice.

**Executive Session**

**Motion:** Dr. DuPre made a motion to go into Executive Session to receive legal advice. Mr. Pratt seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

**Return to Public Session**

**Motion:** Mr. Price made a motion that the Board come out of Executive Session. Mr. Pratt seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

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

**MOTION:** Ms. Cooper made a motion, seconded by Dr. DuPre, which carried unanimously, that the Memorandum of Agreement be accepted and that the charges against the Respondent in Case Nos. 2021-64 and 2021-72 be dismissed because the Respondent was not the manager of record at the time the violations occurred.

With respect to Case Nos. 2021-63 and 2021-73, the State has proven the violations charged against the Respondent. Therefore, according to section 32-7-50(A1), the State Board of Funeral Service must revoke the license of a funeral home or funeral director, or both, if the funeral home or funeral director accepts funds for a preneed funeral contract or other prepayment of funeral expenses without a license to sell preneed funeral contracts. Therefore, the license of Summerton Funeral Home is permanently revoked effective as the date of the signed Final Order.

The Board recessed for 15 minutes.

## **B. Stipulation of Facts**

### **1. Case No.: 2022-93**

Ms. Alexis Bell, Disciplinary Counsel, representing the State, presented the Stipulation of Facts. The Respondent's attorney, Wes Johnson, and respondent appeared before the Board. Mr. Pratt was recused.

The Respondent's attorney addressed the Board and the Board questioned the Respondent regarding this matter. The State and the Respondent's attorney gave closing statements. Mr. Hodge called for a motion to go into executive session to seek legal advice.

#### **Executive Session**

**Motion:** Mr. Dickerson made a motion to go into Executive Session to receive legal advice. Mr. Price seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

#### **Return to Public Session**

**Motion:** Mr. Wright made a motion that the Board come out of Executive Session. Mr. Dickerson seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

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

**MOTION:** Ms. Cooper made a motion, seconded by Mr. Price and read by Advice Counsel, which carried unanimously, that provided that the State has not proven the alleged violation; however, the Board finds that it is appropriate to issue a non-disciplinary letter of caution reminding the Respondent that as a manager the Respondent is responsible for and has the binding authority from the owner for the day-to-day management of the funeral establishment including complying with all applicable laws. Thus, the Board dismissed the charges and issued a non-disciplinary letter of caution.

## **6. Adjournment**

Mr. Hodge called for a motion to adjourn the August 30, 2023 Funeral Board meeting.

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

Mr. Hodge, after ensuring there being no further business to discuss, adjourned the August 30, 2023 meeting for the South Carolina State Board of Funeral Service at 1:36 p.m.

The next scheduled Board meeting for the South Carolina State Board of Funeral Service is August 31, 2023, at 10:00 a.m.