

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

Wednesday, August 28, 2024 at 10:00 am
110 Centerview Dr., Kingstree Building, Lowcountry Conference Room
Columbia, South Carolina 29210

1. Meeting Called to Order

Gregory Evans, Vice President, called the meeting of the South Carolina State Board of Funeral Service to order on August 28, 2024, at 10:03am.

Public Notice

Public notice of this meeting was properly posted at the S.C. State Board of Funeral Service office, Synergy Business Park, Kingstree Building, Commission website, 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. Pledge of Allegiance

All present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Approval of the Agenda

Motion: To approve the agenda. Motion made by Mr. Dickerson and seconded by Mr. Hodge. The motion passed.

4. Introductions of Board Members and Persons Attending the Meeting: Board

Members Present

Gregory E. Evans, Vice President, of Newberry
Thomas Wright, IV Secretary of Beaufort
Wayne Pratt, Sr. of Newberry
Darryl Dickerson, of Goose Creek
James P. Hodge, of Anderson
Douglas Hawkins, of Florence
Stoney W. Bachman, of Norway
Timothy Cox, of Williamston

SCLLR Staff Present:

Emily Farr, Director
Brittany Hammond, Chief Financial Officer
Kyle Tennis, Esq., Office of Advice Counsel
Alexis Bell, Disciplinary Counsel, Office of Disciplinary Counsel
Robert Dean, Lead Investigator, Office of Investigations
Jennifer Stillwell, Office of Inspections
Matalie Mickens, Board Executive
Robert Dean, Lead Investigator, Office of Investigations
Donnell Jennings, Program Manager
Todd Bond, Program Manager
Virginia Wetzel, Government Affairs
Shamone Breazeale, Administrative Assistant
Tori Smith, Office of Investigations

Byron Ray, Investigator
Rosa McKay, Investigator
Clayton Summerton, Inspector

Public Present:

Tina Behles, Court Reporter
Wayne T. Mohrlein
Adam Birr
Jacob Edwards
Tracey Pearlman
Greg Edwards
Keith Mann
John Halloran
Rion Rampey
Chris Hamiel
Richard Copeland
Abigail Neil
Lance Wimberly
Jason Publasky
Jeff Temples

5. Approval of Excused Absences

Motion: To approve the absences of Mr. Price and Mr. Taylor. Motion was made by Mr. Dickerson and seconded by Mr. Pratt. The motion passed.

6. Approval of Excused Absences of IRC Members

All IRC members were present.

7. Discussion regarding Licensure Fees – Emily Farr, Agency Director and Brittany Hammond Chief Financial Office

Director Emily Farr presented an overview of current and projected financials. She presented the Board with increased fee recommendations for each funeral license type. Two additional application fees types were recommended, Change of Manager and Change of Location. The Board asked questions and there was discussion.

Motion: To approve licensure fee increase as recommended. Motion was made by Mr. Pratt and seconded by Mr. Hodge. The motion passed.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

- a. June 26, 2024 Board Meeting
- b. June 27, 2024 Board Meeting

Motion: To approve the June 26 & June 27, 2024 meeting minutes. Motion was made by Mr. Hodge and seconded by Mr. Dickerson. The motion passed.

8. President's Remarks – Gregory Evans Vice President

Mr. Evans welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced new Board Members

9. Staff Reports

a. Board Executive Report- Matalie Mickens

Ms. Mickens advised the Board that the renewal period for all funeral licenses ended on June 30, 2024. She also gave a breakdown of current funeral licensee totals. Ms. Mickens advised the Board that moving forward there will be a change to the order of business on Board meeting days. She reminded the Board that administrative and application matters will take place on the first meeting day and disciplinary matters will take place on the second meeting day.

Financial Report: The cash balance is \$32,427.97.

b. Office of Inspections Report-Jennifer Stillwell, Chief Inspector

Mrs. Stillwell presented the Inspection Report for informational purposes. Between June 18, 2024 and August 22, 2024, 138 inspections have been completed. Between January 1, 2024 and August 22, 2024, a total of 280 inspections were performed.

c. Office of Investigations and Enforcement (OIE) Report- Robert Dean

Mr. Dean presented the Office of Investigations and Enforcement (OIE) Report for informational purposes only. The total complaints received from January 1, 2024, to August 16, 2024, is 61. There are a total of 28 active investigations, and 79 cases have been closed.

d. Investigative Review Conference (IRC) Report – Robert Dean

Mr. Dickerson and Mr. Price recused themselves.

Mr. Dean presented the IRC Report for the Board's review. There were 9 cases for dismissal, 1 for formal complaint, and 2 for letters of caution.

Motion: To approve the IRC Report. Motion was made by Mr. Hodge and seconded by Mr. Pratt. The motion passed.

Mr. Dickerson and Mr. Price returned.

e. Office of Disciplinary Counsel (ODC) Report-Alexis Bell, Esq.

Ms. Bell presented the Office of Disciplinary report and provided that currently there are 28 open cases, 20 cases pending hearings and agreements, and 16 cases have been closed since January 1, 2024.

11. Application Hearings

a. Change of Ownership & Change of Name Application

1. Bush River Cremation and Funeral Services – Columbia – Jeffrey K. Temples

Tracy Pearlman, attorney for Jeff Temples and John Halloran requested to withdraw the application.

Motion: To go into Executive Session for legal advice. Motion made by Mr. Dickerson and seconded by Mr. Hawkins. The motion passed.

Motion: To come out of Executive Session. Motion made by Mr. Dickerson and seconded by Mr. Hawkins. The motion passed.

Motion: To grant the withdrawal of the application. Motion made by Mr. Hodge and seconded by Mr. Wright. The motion passed.

12. Funeral Director and/or Embalmer Applications

a. Licensure by Endorsement

1. Richard Eugene Copeland

Motion: To go into Executive Session to seek legal advice. Motion was made by Mr. Hawkins and seconded by Mr. Dickerson to go into executive session for legal advice. The motion passed.

Motion: To come out of Executive Session. Motion was made by Mr. Wright and seconded by Mr. Cox. The motion passed.

Motion: To approve the application pending the passing of the National Arts Exam and the South Carolina Law Exam by Mr. Copeland. Motion was made by Mr. Hodge and seconded by Mr. Hawkins. The motion passed.

2. Wayne T. Mohrlein

Motion: To close this application hearing in compliance with state and federal confidentiality laws. Motion was made by Mr. Wright and seconded by Mr. Dickerson. The motion passed.

The application for endorsement licensure was denied due to applicant's probation status with his current license. He may reapply with a new application once his license probation in the other state ends.

Motion: To come out of closed session. Motion was made by Mr. Dickerson and seconded by Mr. Wright. The motion passed.

3. Abigail A. Neil

Motion: To approve application for endorsement. Motion was made by Mr. Hodge and seconded by Mr. Wright. The motion passed.

13. Application Hearing – Crematory Operator Registration

a. Keith K. Mann

Motion: To go into Executive Session for legal advice. Motion was made by Mr. Hawkins and seconded by Mr. Cox. The motion passed.

Motion: To come out of Executive Session. Motion was made by Mr. Wright and seconded by Mr. Hawkins. The motion passed.

Motion: To approve the application for Crematory Operator Registration. Motion was made by Mr. Hodge and seconded by Mr. Pratt. The motion passed.

14. New Business

a. CE Audit Plan-According to the audit, 336 showing as non-compliant

Motion: To go into Executive Session for legal advice with Ms. Mickens included. Motion was made by Mr. Hawkins and seconded by Mr. Dickerson. The motion passed.

Motion: To come out of Executive Session. Motion was made by Mr. Hawkins and seconded by Mr. Wright. The motion passed.

b. Registered Crematory Operators

Motion: To discuss in the October meeting. Motion was made by Mr. Hodge and seconded by Mr. Bachman. The motion passed.

c. Approval of additional Crematory Operator Training Courses

Motion: To table the discussion of additional Crematory Operator training courses until the October Board meeting. Motion was made by Mr. Hawkins and seconded by Mr. Wright. The motion passed

14. d. Regulations -H4116

Motion: To go into Executive Session for legal advice with Ms. Mickens included. Motion was made by Mr. Pratt and seconded by Mr. Wright. The motion passed.

Motion: To come out of Executive Session. Motion was made by Mr. Hodge and seconded by Mr. Dickerson. The motion passed.

15. Board Member Training

The Board Members Training was tabled until the October Board meeting.

16. Election of Officers

Mr. Evans called for nominations for officers of The South Carolina State Board of Funeral Service.

Mr. Wright nominated Gregory Evans for President of the Funeral Board.

Motion: Mr. Wright made a motion, seconded by Mr. Cox which carried unanimously that the Board approves Mr. Gregory Evans as President.

Mr. Pratt nominated Thomas Wright for Vice-President of the Funeral Board.

Motion: Mr. Pratt made a motion, seconded by Mr. Dickerson which carried unanimously that the Board approves Mr. Thomas Wright as Vice-President.

Mr. Dickerson nominated Mr. Wayne Pratt for Secretary/Treasurer of the Funeral Board.

Motion: Mr. Dickerson made a motion, seconded by Mr. Wright which carried unanimously that the Board approves Mr. Wayne Pratt as Secretary/Treasurer.

17. Agenda Topics for Future Meetings

18. Public Comments

Lance Wimberly, Vice President of the South Carolina Funeral Directors Association and Rion Rampy, Executive Director of the South Carolina Funeral Directors Association addressed the Board. They are seeking additional information regarding Crematory Operator Registration and additional approved courses being added. They were advised that Board should have additional information at the next Board meeting to be held October 16, 2024.

19. Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn the meeting. The motion was made by Mr. Cox and seconded by Mr. Dickerson. The motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 3:58 p.m.

The next scheduled meeting for the Board of Funeral Service is August 29, 2024