

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

10:00 a.m., February 21, 2018  
Synergy Business Park  
110 Centerview Drive, Kingtree Building Room 108  
Columbia, South Carolina

**Wednesday, February 21, 2018**

**1. Meeting Called to Order**

Jeffrey K. Temples, President, of Columbia, called the regular meeting of the South Carolina State Board of Funeral Service to order on February 21, 2018, at 10:01 a.m. Other board members present for the meeting included: Charvis K. Gray, Vice President, of Piedmont; Stephen Lee McMillan, Jr., Secretary, of Myrtle Beach; William B. Horton, Jr., of Kingtree; Michelle A. Cooper, of Moncks Corner; Stephen R. Gantt, of Greenwood; Dr. D'Michelle P. DuPre, of Chapin; Landis D. Price II, of Leesville; Kenneth E. Baxter, Sr., of Greenville; and Darryl Dickerson of Goose Creek.

Staff members participating in the meeting included: Mary League, Advice Counsel, Office of Advice Counsel; Erin Baldwin, Disciplinary Counsel, Office of Disciplinary Counsel; Amy Holleman, Administrator; Norma McAllister, Program Assistant; Eric Thompson, Chief Inspector, Office of Investigations and Enforcement; Ernest Adams, Inspector, Office of Investigators and Enforcement; and William Poole, Inspector, Office of Investigations and Enforcement.

Members of the public attending the meeting included: Elizabeth Simmons, South Carolina Morticians Association; Jacob Flowers, South Carolina Department of Consumer Affairs; Rion P. Rampey, Executive Director, South Carolina Funeral Directors Association; Ernest W. Avinger, Sr. and Marvin M. Smith of Avinger Funeral Home; Gregory D. Arnold and Curtis W. Stoots of Bass Cauthen Funeral Home and Cremation Center; Robert B. Cooper, Sr. and Robert Benjamin Cooper, Jr. of Green-Cooper-Gaskins, LLC; Christopher Horace Daniels and Joe Williams of Leitner Funeral Home, LLC; Kennard Nero Williams and Darrick Jackson of Pamplico Funeral Parlor, LLC; Brian Anthony Allen of Sandifer Funeral Home, Inc. and Oconee Crematory Services; Frederick Davis; and Kerri Lynn Thein.

**A. Public Notice**

Mr. Temples 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. 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. John L. Petty III was not in attendance.

**MOTION**

Mr. Gray made a motion to approve Mr. Petty's absent. Mr. McMillan seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

**4. Approval of Minutes for the December 7, 2017 board meeting**

Mr. Temples called for a motion to approve the minutes for the January 30, 2018.

**MOTION**

Mr. Baxter made a motion to approve the February 21, 2018 minutes. Ms. Cooper seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

**5. President's Remarks – Jeffrey K. Temples**

Mr. Temples thanked everyone for attending and welcomed Mr. Darryl Dickerson, the new Board member.

**6. Administrator's Remarks – Amy Holleman**

Ms. Holleman reported that the Board's cash balance at the end of January 2018 was -\$611,137.21.

Ms. Holleman informed the Board that:

- 1) She will be attending the International Conference annual meeting on February 27-March 2, 2018 in New Orleans, LA. The conference will provide exam updates and legal updates by State. In addition, as a part of the Executor Directors' forum, Mr. Charles M. Perine of Alabama will provide an update on the Alabama Cremation Act. There will be a discussion pertaining to combining Cemetery and Funeral Boards in some states.
- 2) As a reminder, per the Director's directive, all Boards/Commissions are required to submit a travel budget. Ms. Holleman will provide a budget for discussion during the April meeting.
- 3) As an agenda item for the April 2018 meeting, the Board will discuss the remainder of the 2018 Board meeting schedule. (i.e. monthly one day meetings, alternating disciplinary, and regular board and licensing business; or every other month two day meetings, with one day for disciplinary and the other regular board and licensing business.)
- 4) Licensee renewals will begin in April 2018.

Ms. Baldwin assured the Board that currently the disciplinary caseload is manageable and that the schedule includes disciplinary cases for the upcoming disciplinary dates.

Ms. Holleman reported the following changes:

Funeral Establishment Change of Managers:

FE#	Name of Funeral Establishment (FE)	Name of former Manager	Name of New Manager	Effective Date
144	Cain-Calcutt-Stephens Funeral Home	Milton Bennett Stephens	Randall Lee Calcutt, Jr.	02/02/2018
704	Palmetto Crematory	Milton Bennett Stephens	Randall Lee Calcutt, Jr.	02/02/2018
241	Samuels Funeral Home LLC	Hayes F Samuel, Jr.	Charles H. Jackson	02/20/2018

## 7. Reports

### A. Inspection Report

Mr. Adams informed the Board that he and Mr. Poole conducted 22 inspections between January 22, 2018 and February 12, 2018.

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

Ms. Holleman presented the IRC recommendations to the Board to dismiss cases 2017-43, 2017-44, and 2017-45; formal complaint for case number 2017-36; and a letter of caution for case 2017-41.

Mr. Temples called for a motion in this matter.

#### **MOTION**

Mr. Horton made a motion that the Board accepts the Investigative Review Committee recommendations. Mr. McMillan seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

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

Ms. Holleman presented the OIE report to the Board: In cases received between January 1, 2017 and December 31, 2017, there were eight active investigations, 18 closed, 12 do not open, and nine pending action for a total of 49.

In cases closed between January 1, 2017 and December 31, 2017 there were 41 closed and 11 do not open, totaling 52 cases.

Between January 1, 2018 and February 12, 2018 for cases received and closed there were eight active investigations, two closed; and five do not open.

### D. Office of Disciplinary (ODC) Counsel – Erin Baldwin

Ms. Baldwin reported eight open cases, two pending actions, and six pending rescheduling of hearings as of February 12, 2018.

## New Business

### Application Hearings

#### 8. **New Funeral Home/Change of Ownership/New Crematory**

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

##### 1. Avinger Funeral Home – Ernest W. Avinger, Sr.

Ms. Michelle Cooper recused herself.

Mr. Ernest W. Avinger, Sr. and Mr. Marvin M. Smith appeared before the Board on behalf of Avinger Funeral Home.

Ms. Holleman informed the Board that the application is complete and that Mr. Avinger requests that the Board approve the change of ownership with him as the manager. Mr. Avinger, #FDE 1036, initially licensed on August 14, 1963, resides 1.5 miles from the facility, and does not have a criminal background. Ms. Holleman informed the Board that Marvin M. Smith is the sole shareholder, and that McAllister-Smith Funeral Home, Inc. is the parent company.

Mr. Smith informed the Board that Friday, March 2, 2018 is the planned date for the finalization of the business sales transactions. Mr. Smith stated Mr. Avinger has agreed to temporarily serve as manager until the company hires a new manager

Mr. Avinger informed the Board that due to a life altering occurrence, he sold the funeral establishment and agreed to continue as the intern manager.

Mr. Avinger informed the Board that he has read and understands the state laws.

Mr. Temples called for a motion in this matter.

**MOTION**

Mr. McMillan made a motion to approve the change of ownership application pending receipt of documentation of the final sale, final inspection, and a South Carolina Department of Consumer Affairs favorable preneed letter. Mr. Horton seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Mr. Temples called for a recess. Ms. Cooper returned to the meeting after the recess.

2. Bass Cauthen Funeral Home and Cremation Center – Gregory Dale Arnold

Mr. Gregory Dale Arnold and Mr. Curtis W. Stoots appeared before the Board on behalf of Bass Cauthen Funeral Home and Cremation Center.

Ms. Holleman informed the Board that the application is complete and that Mr. Arnold requests that the Board approve the new facility/crematory with him as the manager. Mr. Arnold, #FDE 3744, initially licensed on June 30, 2013, resides 14.6 miles from the facility, and does not have a criminal background. Ms. Holleman informed the Board that Mr. Curtis W. Stoots is the sole member, and that Bass Cauthen Funeral Home of Rock Hill, LLC is the parent company/owner.

Mr. Stoots informed the Board that the retort is installed and ready for operation. Mr. Arnold confirmed that he read, and understands the state laws.

**MOTION**

Mr. Horton made a motion to approve the new facility application with Mr. Gregory Dale Arnold as the manager, pending the final inspection. Dr. DuPre seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

3. Green-Cooper-Gaskins, LLC – Robert Benjamin Cooper, Jr.

Mr. Robert Benjamin Cooper, Sr. and Mr. Robert Benjamin Cooper, Jr appeared before the Board on behalf of Green-Cooper-Gaskins, LLC.

Ms. Holleman informed the Board that the application is complete and that Mr. Robert B. Cooper, Jr. requests that the Board approve the new facility with him as the manager. Mr. Cooper, #FDE 2007, initially licensed on January 24, 1989, resides 0.6 miles from the facility. Mr. Cooper does have a criminal background. Ms. Holleman informed the Board that the facility owners are Robert B. Cooper, Sr., Linwood Cooper, and Peter L. Gaskins, and that Green-Cooper-Gaskins, LLC, formerly Green Funeral Home, is the parent company/owner.

The Board questioned Mr. Cooper. Mr. Cooper concurred with the information presented by Ms. Holleman. Mr. Cooper explained his incident with law enforcement. Mr. Cooper confirmed that he read and understands the state laws.

**MOTION**

Mr. Gray made a motion to approve the change of ownership with Mr. Robert Benjamin Cooper, Jr. as the manager pending final inspection and a South Carolina Department of Consumer Affairs favorable preneed letter. Mr. Baxter seconded, the motion, which carried unanimously.

4. Leitner Funeral Home

Mr. Christopher Horace Daniels and Mr. Joe Williams appeared before the Board on behalf of Leitner Funeral Home.

Ms. Holleman informed the Board that the application is complete and that Mr. Daniels requests that the Board approve the new facility with him as the manager. Mr. Daniels, #FD 3966, initially licensed on December 5, 2016, resides at the facility and does not have a criminal background. Ms. Holleman informed the Board that Joe Williams is the sole member, and Leitner Funeral Home, LLC is the parent company/owner.

The Board questioned Mr. Daniels regarding the application. Mr. Daniels agreed with the information provided by Ms. Holleman. Mr. Daniels informed the Board that the new facility is located in a building currently under renovation and anticipates completion by June 1, 2018. Mr. Daniels informed the Board that he read and understands the state laws.

**MOTION**

Mr. Horton made a motion to approve the new facility with Mr. Christopher Horace Daniels as the manager pending final inspection. Mr. McMillan seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

5. Pamplico Funeral Parlor, LLC

Mr. Kennard Nero Williams and Mr. Darrick Jackson appeared on behalf of Pamplico Funeral Parlor, LLC.

Ms. Holleman informed the Board that the application is complete and that Mr. Williams requests that the Board approve the new facility with him as the manager. Mr. Williams, #FD 3774, initially licensed on December 17, 2013, resides 22 miles from the facility and does not have a criminal background. Ms. Holleman informed the Board that the owners of the facility are Isaiah James Myers, President; Darrick Jackson, Business Manager; Bobby Graham, member; Andrew Wilson, member; and John C. Cusack, member. Pamplico Funeral Parlor, LLC is the parent company/owner.

The Board questioned Mr. Williams regarding the matter. Mr. Williams agreed with information provided by Ms. Holleman. Mr. Williams informed the Board that this is a new facility in a renovated building, and he anticipates completion within the next six months. Mr. Williams informed the Board that he read and understands the state laws.

**MOTION**

Mr. Horton made a motion to approve the new facility with Mr. Kennard Nero Williams as the manager pending final inspection. Mr. Baxter seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Ms. Holleman informed the Board that Sandifer Funeral Home, Inc. and Oconee Crematory Services dba – Sandifer Funeral Home, Inc. have the same owner. The Board agreed to hear the applications jointly.

6. Sandifer Funeral Home, Inc. – Brian Anthony Allen

Mr. Brian Anthony Allen appeared before the Board on behalf of Sandifer Funeral Home, Inc.

7. Oconee Crematory Services dba Sandifer Funeral Home, Inc. – Brian Anthony Allen

Mr. Brian Anthony Allen appeared before the Board on behalf of Oconee Crematory Services dba Sandifer Funeral Home, Inc.

Ms. Holleman informed the Board that the applications are complete and that Mr. Allen requests that the Board approve the new funeral home with him as the manager. Mr. Allen, #FDE 2561, initially licensed on August 6, 1999, resides 7 miles from the facility and does not have a criminal background. Mr. Allen is currently the manager for both, Sandifer Funeral Home, Inc., and Oconee Crematory Services dba Sandifer Funeral Home, Inc. Ms. Holleman informed the Board that Brian A. Allen purchased 100 percent of the shares, which makes him the sole shareholder of Sandifer Funeral Home, Inc. the parent company/owner.

The Board questioned Mr. Allen regarding the applications. Mr. Allen asked the Board to approve his application. Mr. Allen informed the Board that he read and understands the State laws.

**MOTION**

Mr. McMillan made a motion to approve the application pending a final inspection, a South Carolina Department of Consumer Affairs favorable preneed letter; and that Sandifer Funeral Home, Inc. and Oconee Crematory Services dba Sandifer Funeral Home, Inc. will retain the current license number, respectively. Mr. Horton seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

**9. Licensure by Endorsement**

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

1. Frederick Davis - Kentucky

Mr. Frederick Davis appeared on his own behalf.

Ms. Holleman informed the Board that Mr. Davis applied for a South Carolina Funeral Director/Embalmer's license by endorsement. Mr. Davis currently resides in North Carolina. He initially licensed as a Funeral Director/Embalmer in Kentucky on June 8, 2017, and he currently holds that license in good standing. Mr. Davis' criminal background check for Kentucky shows no criminal history.

Ms. Holleman informed the board that within the past five years, Mr. Davis has lived in Kentucky, Georgia, and North Carolina. Off those states, a criminal background check is outstanding for Georgia and North Carolina.

Ms. Holleman informed the Board staff provided a copy of the statute and laws for Kentucky's apprenticeship requirements to the Board, and that Mr. Davis is requesting that the South Carolina State Board of Funeral Service approve his application for licensure by endorsement.

The Board questioned Mr. Davis regarding this matter. Mr. Davis informed the Board that he served a one year apprenticeship in Georgia, but he did not complete that apprenticeship due to relocation to Kentucky. According to Mr. Davis, Kentucky did not accept his time served as an apprentice in Georgia; therefore, he began a new apprenticeship.

Mr. Davis informed the Board that he completed a two year apprenticeship with the state of Kentucky serving six months with the completion of 25 cases under direct supervision and the remainder as a Level II Apprentice with indirect supervision. Mr. Davis asked that the Board approve his application for licensure by endorsement/reciprocity.

### **Executive Session**

#### **MOTION**

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

### **Return to Public Session**

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

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

#### **MOTION**

Ms. Cooper made a motion to accept Mr. Fredrick Davis' application for licensure by endorsement pending that he take and pass the state law exam. Mr. Gray seconded the motion. Ms. Cooper then amended the motion to include in addition, acceptance pending Mr. Davis provide the necessary background checks to staff. Mr. Gray seconded the motion and the amendment, which carried unanimously.

### **2. Kerri Lynn Thein – Iowa**

Ms. Kerri Lynn Thein appeared on her own behalf.

Ms. Holleman informed the Board that Ms. Thein applied for a South Carolina Funeral Director/Embalmer's license by endorsement. Ms. Thein, initially licensed as a Funeral Director/Embalmer in Iowa on August 15, 2014, currently holds that license in good standing.

Ms. Holleman informed the Board staff provided a copy of the statute and laws for Iowa's apprenticeship requirements to the Board, and that Ms. Thein is requesting that the South Carolina State Board of Funeral Service approve his application for licensure by endorsement.

The Board questioned Ms. Thein regarding this matter. Ms. Thein informed the Board that she completed a twelve month apprenticeship with the state of Iowa, and thereafter employed in the funeral service industry prior to recently relocating to South Carolina, where she has continued employment within the industry. Ms. Thein asked that the Board approve her application for licensure by endorsement/reciprocity.

#### **MOTION**

Mr. Horton made a motion to accept Ms. Kerri Lynn Thein's application for licensure by endorsement pending that she take and pass the state law exam. Mr. McMillan seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

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

### **Executive Session**

#### **MOTION**

Ms. Cooper made a motion to go into executive session to receive legal advice. Mr. Gray seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

### **Return to Public Session**

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

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

## **11. Discussion: Crematory Operator Task Force**

Mr. Temples stated the April 2018 agenda would include a discussion for Crematory Operator Task Force.

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

## **13. Adjournment**

Mr. Temples called for a motion to adjourn.

#### **MOTION**

Mr. Horton made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Gray seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Mr. Temples, after ensuring there being no further business to discuss, adjourned the February 21, 2018 meeting for the South Carolina State Board of Funeral Service at 12:31 p.m.

The next scheduled Board meeting for the South Carolina State Board of Funeral Service is April 25-26, 2018 at 10:00 a. m., at Synergy Business Park, 110 Centerview Drive, Kingstree Building, Room