



ALABAMA BOARD OF FUNERAL SERVICES

Meeting Minutes

April 09, 2024

Prior Notice

Prior notice of the April 09, 2024, third quarterly board meeting of fiscal year 2024, was posted on the Secretary of State website January 17, 2024, and the information was distributed to licensees via the quarterly newsletter on March 22, 2024. The meeting was scheduled for 11:00 AM in the Board's office located at 4276 Lomac Street, Montgomery, Alabama. Due to the Joint Board meeting late adjournment, the preneed division meeting was called to order at 11:30 am.

Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation

Mr. Perine requested to abstain from the Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation as they have been previously done for the two meetings prior to this meeting.

Call to Order

Roll Call of the Board

Mrs. Collins, presiding officer, asked Mrs. Sullivan for a roll call to establish a quorum. The following members were present: Brian Shake, Michael Morrison, Bry'Onda Collins, and Jennifer Haskell.

Staff present: Charles Perine, Executive Director; E. Denise Grogan, Associate Executive Director – Funeral Division; Laura Sullivan, Associate Executive Director – Preneed Division, recording; Octavia Johnson, accountant; and Brenton Smith, Legal Counsel.

The following members were absent: Randall Anderson.

Welcome/Remarks by the Presiding Officer

With a quorum established, Mrs. Collins called to order the third quarterly business meeting of fiscal year 2024. Mrs. Collins welcomed all present.

Conflict of Interest/Motion to Set the Agenda

Mrs. Collins requested that the board members review the agenda for the April 09, 2024, meeting. Mrs. Collins asked if any member had a conflict of interest for any items on the agenda. Being none, Mr. Morrison made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Haskell to set the agenda as presented. Being no discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

Business

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Morrison moved to approve the minutes of the January 09, 2024, and March 12, 2024, board meetings, seconded by Mr. Shake. Being no discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

Old Business

Mr. Perine informed the board and all present that the proposed rule changes were approved at the March 12, 2024, public hearing. Those rule changes were published in the Administrative Monthly on

March 29, 2024, and will become effective May 13, 2024. Mr. Perine notified the board that he responded to public comments that were received before the approval of the rule changes and that he would work on other changes requested and be ready to propose changes in the July meeting for the comments that require further discussion.

Mr. Perine notified the board that about three weeks ago, he was able to deliver a secure jump drive that was password protected to the Alabama Department of Insurance and obtain records that we had not previously been able to obtain.

Mr. Perine informed the board that the new licensing system is finishing the data transfer for preneed exams. During the data transfer, a bug was discovered by the licensing system and has since been cleared. The examination piece as well as the reporting piece should both be available very soon. After a brief discussion, Mrs. Collins moved to the next item on the agenda.

Approval of Licenses

Having met the requirements for licensure and registration, Mr. Perine asks the board to consider the following individuals for licensure and registration of a Preneed Sales Agent: William Earl "Bill" Short, II, Christopher Devin Cantrell, Earkiyah Venise King, Anna Marie Bockhorn, Summer L. Stringfellow, Renea S. Henderson, Jason Allen McCrear, Sabina W. Gholston, Brenda Heningburg Smith, Jessica Lynn Coats, Quenteria Monique Grant, Stephanie Averette Turner, Teria Jenise McCrear, Marshall Scott Turner, Carol Shirley Eagleson, Bob Haynes, Jr., John Curtis Rodgers, Jimmy Lee Peavy, Jr., Kristy M. Jones, Allison Susette White, Robert C. Hendrich, Jr., Jacqueline Elaine Weatherly, Olivia Carly Harris, and Princess Vida Macias. A motion was made by Mrs. Haskell, seconded by Mr. Morrison to approve the licensure and registration of the individuals listed above as Preneed Sales Agents. Being no discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

Having not met the requirements for licensure and registration, Mr. Perine notified the board that the following individual has been denied for licensing and registration as a Preneed Sales Agent: James Keith "Jay" Norsworthy.

Having met the requirements for transfer of ownership of a Certificate of Authority, Mr. Perine asked the board to consider the following transfers of ownership of a Certificate of Authority: Radney's Funeral Home (Alexander City) transferred to Brian Cummings and East Lawrence Memorial Chapel dba Parkway Funeral Home transferred to Parkway Memorial, LLC (Scott Veal). Mr. Perine also asked the board to consider the following transfer of ownership of a Branch Registrant: Radney's Funeral Home, Inc. dba Langley Funeral Home (Camp Hill) transferred to Brian Cummings. A motion was made by Mrs. Haskell, seconded by Mr. Shake to approve the transfer of ownership of a Certificate of Authority and Branch Registrant. Being no discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Perine informed the board that 7 financial statement waivers have been received and the staff is requesting verification to prove 100% funding.

Executive Director Report

Mr. Perine reported the following for the 2nd quarter of the fiscal year 2024:

Active License Count as of April 01, 2024

Preneed		New	Canceled	Reports Filed
Certificate of Authority	241	0	0	172
Branches	115	0	0	82
Preneed Sales Agent	975	0	0	0
Cemeteries (ECC/COA)	184	0	0	111
Audits YTD	0			
	Total	1515		
Complaints		Funeral	Preneed	Cemetery
Received	28		7	11
No Action Taken	13		0	0
Reprimand/Consent	2		0	0
Pending	13		7	11

Hartselle Memory Gardens Cemetery

Mr. Perine notified the board that Mr. Geoff Halbrooks requested that the board approve him to take ownership of Hartselle Memory Gardens Cemetery as is and work towards having the Endowment Care fund funded according to the law. The owner of the cemetery passed away and the heir does not want the cemetery. Mr. Halbrooks doesn't know the financial condition of the cemetery, nor does he know the amount of preneed that exists for the cemetery, if any. Mr. Halbrooks assures the board that he will do his due diligence to make sure the cemetery is in compliance with the law from this day forward if he is approved to do so. After discussion, a motion was made by Mrs. Haskell, seconded by Mr. Morrison, to agree to have Mr. Halbrooks assume the cemetery to make it compliant with the law. Being no further discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

Law

Mr. Perine briefly discussed that a clean-up bill would be necessary to correct the contradicting wording that became when the Preneed Funeral and Cemetery Act of 2023 was added to the law. Mr. Perine also discussed the necessary action that needed to be taken in order to fund the regulation of preneed through the Alabama Board of Funeral Services. There needs to be a funding strategy put in place before fiscal year 2027.

Other Business

Questions, Comments, Concerns

Being no further discussion, Mrs. Collins moved to the next item on the agenda.

Adjournment

Mr. Morrison made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Haskell to adjourn the meeting, and reconvene on July 09, 2024, at 11:00 AM. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 12:23 PM.

Minutes submitted by: Laura Sullivan.

Bry'Onda Collins, presiding officer

Charles M. Perine, Executive Director