

North Dakota State Board of Funeral Service
Minutes of Meeting July 8, 2026

The North Dakota State Board of Funeral Service met electronically on July 8, 2026 at 1:00 P.M.

Those present were: Michael Williams, James Ladbury, Austin T. Lafferty, Sherry Adams, and Seth Coughlin. Brittany Martinez was also present.

Chairman Williams called the meeting to order at 1:15 P.M.

The minutes of the June 9, 2026 meeting were approved by a motion from Ladbury and seconded by Adams. The motion was carried.

Election of Officers:

Mr. Williams opened the floor for nominations. Mr. Ladbury nominated Mr. Williams, for the position of Chairman 2nd by Coughlin. No other nomination; Adams nominated Mr. Ladbury for Treasurer, 2nd by Coughlin. No other nominations; Ladbury nominated Mr. Coughlin as Secretary, seconded by Adams. No other nominations. Nominations ceased and a unanimous ballot was cast. A roll call vote with all members voting positive.

The Board discussed hiring Mr. Dale Niewoehner as the Executive Secretary of the ND State Board of Funeral Service. Ladbury moved, 2nd by Adams that Mr. Niewoehner be hired on a yearly contract basis with a monthly salary of \$3,000.00, continuing with the same duties as years past with the development of job duties for an eventual successor. Roll call vote was taken with members Adams, Ladbury and Williams voting positive for the motion and Coughlin, voting negative for the motion. Motion carried.

Old Business:

The Board discussed the complaint against David R. Wise # 1209. Attorney Lafferty updated the Board that Mr. Wise has satisfied the terms of the Settlement Agreement the Board has set forth. However Mr. Wise signed a death record while under suspension. After discussion, Mr. Ladbury moved, 2nd by Adams, that Mr. Wise be placed under probation by the Board until January 31, 2028. The motion was carried with all members voting positive. Attorney Lafferty will alert Mr. Wise of the conditions of the probation.

Meeting was adjourned at 1:58 P..M.

Respectfully submitted,
Michael R. Williams, Chair

