

North Dakota State Board of Funeral Service
Minutes of Meeting January 3, 2024

The North Dakota State Board of Funeral Service met electronically on January 3, 2024, at 1:00 P.M.

Those present were: Dale G. Niewoehner, Dr. Nizar Wehbi, Michael Williams, Allyson M. Hicks, Brittany Martinez, and Austin T. Lafferty. James Ladbury was absent.

Chairman Williams called the meeting to order at 1:02 P.M.

The minutes of the August 14, 2023, meeting were approved by a motion from Dr. Wehbi and seconded by Niewoehner and carried.

The printed financial report as of December 28, 2023, was reviewed by the members of the Board and approved by a motion from Wehbi and seconded by Niewoehner and carried.

Old Business:

Niewoehner presented a short report of the 2024 license renewals. All funeral establishments, chapels, and crematoriums have renewed. There are 13 embalmers that have not renewed, there have been 8 drops, one death, and 3 demits for 2023 and the end of 2024.

New Business:

Niewoehner presented the names of Zachary J. Martin #1377 (15 August 2023), Kayla M. Begger # 1378 (28 August 2023), Andrew O. Johnson #1379 (29 August 2023), James M. Woods # 1380 (1 September 2023), Walter D. Reghi, Jr. # 1381 (5 September 2023), Nicholas J. Kinnen #1382 (12 September 2023), James A. Beaton # 1383 (4 October 2023), Brian D. Sumption # 1384 (9 October 2023), Erick M. Eliason #1385 (19 October 2023), Brett R. Davis # 1386 (6 November 2023) to be granted a funeral practitioner license and Breanne Cudney # #651 (21 August 2023) as registered intern embalmer. Moved by Wehbi and Seconded by Niewoehner to approve the license and registration. The motion passed with roll-call vote with all voting yes. It was noted that Norma C. Acker was also in the intern program but dropped out December 15, 2023. Niewoehner also presented Fulkerson-Stevenson Funeral Home Crematory C-18 (13 October 2023), Elite Innovations Crematorium C-17 (14 November 2023), Amundson Funeral Home and Cremation Service # 188 (20 December 2023) and Feist Funeral Home # 189 and chapels (22 December 2023) for licensure. Moved by Niewoehner and seconded by Wehbi to grant all the licenses and the motion passed with a roll call vote with all members voting yes.

The matter of an unlicensed North Dakota funeral director, George Schriver - Aberdeen, South Dakota, conducting a funeral/memorial service in North Dakota was presented to the Board. After discussion, Niewoehner made a motion to send a letter to Mr. Schriver suggesting that he consider obtaining a North Dakota license and refrain from doing business in North Dakota without a license. The motion was seconded by Dr. Wehbi and with a roll call vote with all members voting yes. Niewoehner will mail the letter along with the forms to obtain a North Dakota license by reciprocity.

The matter of the salary for the Executive Secretary was presented. Since the Board would be a slim quorum with the absence of member Ladbury, and if Niewoehner left the meeting, Attorney Hicks recommended that this serious matter be tabled, and another special meeting be called to discuss the matter.

Prior to the meeting being called to order Attorney Hicks informed the Board that she would be replaced by Attorney Austin Lafferty. Niewoehner expressed appreciation for Allyson's guidance to the Board during her appointment to serve our Board.

Niewoehner announced that there would be a forthcoming meeting with the Department of Labor and Human Rights sometime this spring. Allyson explained the matters that would be discussed at the meeting.

Meeting was adjourned at 1:18 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,
Dale G. Niewoehner, Secretary