

North Dakota State Board of Funeral Service
Minutes of Meeting July 31, 2023

The North Dakota State Board of Funeral Service met electronically on July 31, 2023, at 1:00 P.M.

Those present were Dale G. Niewoehner, James S. Ladbury, Dr. Nizar Wehbi, Michael Williams, Allyson M. Hicks, and Brittany Martinez.

Executive Secretary Niewoehner called the meeting to order at 1:01 P.M.

Niewoehner called for a motion to re-organize the Board, since Jeffery Brose had been replaced by James Ladbury. Dr. Wehbi moved that Michael Williams act as Chairman, Dale Niewoehner act as Secretary, and James Ladbury act as Treasurer. The motion was seconded by Williams and carried. Niewoehner then turned the meeting over to Chairman Williams. He welcomed Mr. Ladbury to the Board.

The minutes of the January 27, 2023, meeting was approved by a motion from Dr. Wehbi and seconded by Ladbury and carried.

The printed financial report as of July 23, 2023, was reviewed by the members of the Board and approved by a motion from Wehbi and seconded by Niewoehner and carried.

Old Business:

Board attorney reviewed the Administrative Code changes regarding crematoriums and qualifications for licensure. The Board appeared at the hearing before the Administrative Rules Committee in Bismarck on June 6, 2023. Jeff Brose, Niewoehner, and Allyson Hicks were present at the hearing. Niewoehner testified at the hearing. Committee member Representative Michael Nathe voiced opposition to the number of years of licensure to comply with the change. He suggested and proposed to the committee that the rule change would allow prior licensure of 3 years rather than 5 years. The Committee passed the motion made by Rep. Nathe. Attorney Hicks found fault with this motion. After discussion at this Board meeting, Niewoehner moved to request an Attorney General opinion of this action. Ladbury seconded by motion and by roll call vote, the motion was carried.

New Business:

Niewoehner presented the names of Brandon C. Pauley #1372 (27 February 2023), Heidi L. Palenik - # 1373 (19 May 2023), Shanna K. Grumbles - # 1374 (20 May 2023), and Stephanie K. Schultz - # 1375 (27 July 2023) to be granted funeral practitioner licenses and Taylor Sabinash # 647, (20 February 2023, Kayla M. Glover - # 648 (1 March 2023)), and Otto P. Langhans # 649 (17 May 2023) as registered intern embalmers. Moved by Wehbi and Seconded by Ladbury to approve the licenses and registrations. The motion passed with roll-call vote with all voting yes.

The Board considered an application from Cary Kehr to activate his license after being dormant since 2007. Ladbury moved to approve the application to activate license number 1204 upon passage of the Rules Test. Dr. Wehbi seconded the motion and carried by roll call vote with all voting yes.

Niewoehner reminded the Board of a Professional Licensing Board Training Seminar to be held on October 25th. It is available online or in person.

Niewoehner informed the Board that the 2024 license renewal program will begin in October. As required by NDCC 43-50, Social Security numbers will be needed for renewal of licenses. This item will be added to the application form.

Chairman Williams expressed the appreciation for the service of Jeff Brose for his time on the Board.

Meeting was adjourned at 1:22 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,
Dale G. Niewoehner, Secretary