

Arkansas State Board of Embalmers and Funeral Directors
Board Meeting Teleconference

MINUTES

Thursday, June 26, 2014, 4:00pm
101 East Capitol
Little Rock, AR

Members present via the teleconference were: President, James Terry Woodard, Vice President Bobby Thurman, Bobby Burns, Jerry Adams, Patricia Roberts, and Ben Brazzel. Staff that were present: Amy Goode, Executive Secretary, Leslie Stokes, Inspector, and Mark Ohrenberger, Board Counsel.

On June 25, 2014 the Board conducted two public hearings in Blytheville and Manila. The purpose of the teleconference was for the discussion and determination concluding the public hearings held on Dogwood Crematory and Tri-City, LLC in Blytheville and Manila respectively. The purpose of the public hearings were to determine whether or not the Board in accordance with A.C.A §17-29-313 would issue the crematorium permits to construct.

First public hearing was in Blytheville, AR at the Blytheville Water Works Water Tower at 11:30 am on the application for Westwood Funeral Service and Dogwood Crematory. The second public hearing was in Manila, AR at the Manila Community Center at 1:30 pm on the application for Tri-City, LLC. There was no opposition against either of the crematories and several supporters in attendance for each.

Motion made by Adams to approve the issuance of the permits to Dogwood Crematory and Tri-City, LLC, seconded by Burns, Thurman and Roberts abstained from voting since they were not in attendance at the hearings. Remaining members were in favor and motion carried.

Executive Secretary explained that she needed the Board to consider adopting the policy of using Google maps for mileage reimbursement and further explained the Board just needs to adopt a consistent policy to use. Motion made by Brazzel to adopt and approve the use of Google maps for mileage reimbursement for the Board members, seconded by Roberts, all in favor. Motion carried.

Mr. Woodard questioned Board Counsel concerning the issue of other upcoming public hearings. It was Mr. Ohrenberger's advice that the Board's duty is listen to the public comment. They are not there to provide expert witnesses that will be the duty of the applicant to provide evidence that is compelling to make the decision. If the applicant fails to provide evidence that is compelling and you rule in their favor then that could be another issue.

Motion made by Burns to adjourn teleconference, seconded by Brazzel, all in favor. Motion carried.