

These minutes have been approved by the Board on 1.26.2023

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF FUNERAL DIRECTING AND EMBALMING**

October 27, 2022

1. ROLL CALL

The meeting of the Board of Funeral Directing and Embalming was called to order by Steven Brunken, Chair, at 8:30 a.m., in the Lower Level B, Nebraska State Office Building, 301 Centennial Mall South, Lincoln, Nebraska. In accordance with § 84-1411 of the Nebraska Open Meetings Act, copies of the agenda were 1) emailed to the Board members and other interested parties, and 2) posted on the DHHS web site at <https://dhhs.ne.gov/licensure/Pages/Agendas-and-Minutes.aspx> and on the bulletin board in the Licensure Unit Lobby on 07.15.2022.

The following members answered roll call:

Members Present (3):

Steven Brunken, Chairperson (in person)
Arvid Wiest, Vice Chair (on call)
Leo Seger, Member (on call)

Members Absent (1):

Lawrence Battaglia, Secretary

Others Present (3):

Kris Chiles, Program Manager, Licensure Unit (in room)
TJ O'Neill, Assistant Attorney General (in room)
Joanna Uden, DHHS Attorney (in room)
Jennifer Morales, DHHS Attorney (in room)
Anna Harrison, Compliance Monitor (in room)

A quorum was present and the meeting convened.

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

MOTION: Wiest moved, seconded by Seger, to adopt the agenda. A voice vote was taken. Voting aye: Brunken, Wiest, Seger (3). Voting nay: None (0). Absent: Battaglia (1). Motion carried.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES (07.21.2022)

MOTION: Wiest moved, seconded by Seger, to approve the minutes of 07.21.2022 as corrected. A voice vote was taken. Voting aye: Brunken, Seger, Wiest (3). Voting nay: None (0). Absent: Battaglia (1). Motion carried.

4. GLOBAL ANATOMIX (WITHOUT FORMALDEHYDE)

Chiles reported there has been no further conversation with Creighton University regarding global anatomix, do not believe they are pursuing including this process in statute.

5. UPDATES AND REPORTS

- a. Nebraska Funeral Directing Association (NEFDA) <http://www.nefda.org>

Paul Seger with FDA Association, discussed the effects of the passage of bill that was proposed by the Association, that changed the educational hours. A couple of apprentices are short the business hours.

- 1) Try to help kids out as best can, should have had a grandparent for those in school.
- 2) Other big change relates to Vital Records; Sara (unit administrator) indicated they are removing 'unembalmed requested signature on form, and informed Seger that they are understaffed.
- 3) Possible to remove military dates on death certificate to just include a yes or no on the form. Board members, Segar likes option 2 and Steve like option 2 and 3

Chris with NFDA suggested they pursue changes to the fetal death certificates and the death certification system is not working well. There is a 5 year plan to address fetal death certificates to push them to the website and programming of system, vital records needs to work with the web provider to implement these changes.

Additional discussion included:

- Suggestions were made for creating a license as a Funeral Assistant, who could meet with families.
- There may be future conversations about National License.
- Examination pass rates are concerning.
- Many students choosing to not go to Kansas City.
- Internship in schools in some states count towards apprenticeship.
- Could applicant count hours if working in Funeral Home and going to school—ongoing discussion
- Is an apprenticeship needed? Would require statute change if consider.

- b. International Conference of Funeral Service Examination Board, Inc. (ICFSEB)
<http://www.theconferenceonline.org>

Brunken plans to attend the 9th annual meeting ICFSEB March 2023, in Phoenix, AZ.

April 11-13, 2023 State NFDC meeting

Brian Roeder reported that the examination will no longer be provided while students are in school, schools perhaps can assist students to sign-up for exam. \$500 per test, concern with the integrity of exam questions.

- c. Disciplinary and Non-Disciplinary Action Reports, Renewal, License and Examination Statistics

Reports attached to the agenda.

6. MEETING DATES 2023

Proposed meeting dates approved by board. Meetings in 2023 January 26, April 27, July 27 and October 26

7. INVESTIGATIONAL REPORTS & OTHER CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION – CLOSED SESSION

MOTION: Wiest moved, seconded by Seger, to enter into closed session at 9:18 a.m. to hear discussions of an investigative/confidential nature, and for the prevention of needless injury to the reputation of the individuals. Brunken repeated the motion purpose. A roll call vote was taken. Voting aye: Brunken, Seger, Wiest (3). Voting nay: None (0). Absent: Battaglia (1). Motion carried.

7. REVIEW AND RECOMMENDATIONS – OPEN SESSION

Board agreed to move to open session at 9:44 am.

Thomas Funeral Home – Funeral Establishment

MOTION: Wiest moved, seconded by Segar, to recommend issuance of the license with no terms and conditions. A roll call vote was taken. Voting aye: Brunken, Seger, Wiest (3). Voting nay: None (0). Absent: Battaglia (1). Motion carried.

Laughlin-Hoevet Funeral Home – Funeral Establishment

MOTION: Wiest moved, seconded by Segar, to recommend issuance of the license with no terms and conditions. A roll call vote was taken. Voting aye: Brunken, Seger, Wiest (3). Voting nay: None (0). Absent: Battaglia (1). Motion carried.

Griffiths Hovendick Chapel, Inc. – Funeral Establishment

MOTION: Wiest moved, seconded by Segar, to recommend issuance of the license with no terms and conditions. A roll call vote was taken. Voting aye: Brunken, Seger, Wiest (3). Voting nay: None (0). Absent: Battaglia (1). Motion carried.

Richard Hovendick – Funeral Director and Embalmer Reinstatement

MOTION: Seger moved, seconded by Wiest, to the recommend a 6 month probation, with the following terms and conditions: The owner successfully complete the jurisprudence examination within 90 days. A roll call vote was taken. Voting aye: Brunken, Seger, Wiest (3). Voting nay: None (0). Absent: Battaglia (1). Motion carried.

8. ADJOURNMENT

The next meeting is scheduled for 1.26.2023. There being no further business, the chair declared the meeting adjourned at 9:51 a.m.

Lawrence Battaglia, Secretary
Board of Funeral Directing and Embalming

Summarized by: Carrie Oldehoeft, Health Licensing Coordinator, Licensure Unit