

**Massachusetts Board of Registration in Embalming and Funeral Directing
Minutes**

Meeting of 2/19/15

Held at
1000 Washington Street, Boston, MA, 02118
at 12:30 p. m.
Room 1E

Board Members Present:

Dahria Williams Fernandes, Chair
Peter Stefan
Thomas O'Donnell

Staff Members Present:

Michael Hawley, Executive Director
Colleen Cavanaugh, Associate Executive Director
Rachael Pauze, Board Counsel
Robert Williams, Investigator
Yadi Rivera, Board Staff

Others Present:

Call to Order: The Chairwomen, Dahria Williams Fernandes, called the meeting to order at 12:38 p. m. Board staff reviewed building evacuation procedures and noted the location of restrooms.

Report from Executive Director Michael Hawley

Mr. Hawley informed the board that John Flynn EM-14-009 had his probation terminated based on the completion of his consent agreement

Mr. Hawley also informed the board that there is still a pause on the discussion of regulations until the end of March and possibly longer. Per direction from the Governor's office.

Report from Legal Counsel, Rachael Pauze

Ms. Pauze has a few items, but must discuss them in the closed session of the meeting pursuant to M.G.L. c. 112, § 65C.

Application review, vote, and swearing in:

Type 6s – Review and vote on applications, swearing-ins:

The Board met with Ashley Grondin and issued her a Type 6 Embalming only license.

A motion was made by Mr. O'Donnell, seconded by Mr. Steffan, and it was:

Voted unanimously to accept the above referenced applicants.

The Board met with Christopher Virgona and issued him a Type 6 Embalming only license.

A motion was made by Mr. O'Donnell, seconded by Mr. Stefan, and it was:

Voted unanimously to accept the above referenced applicants

Apprentices- Review and vote on applications

The board met with Pauline Gilberti of Nickerson Funeral Home, Aaron Mizen of Nardone Funeral Home, Brian Dempsey of Downing Cottage Funeral Home, Sierra Aguiar of Manuel Rogers and Sons Funeral Home, Allerlaroo Lofffield of Forastiere Smith Funeral Home, Jonele Bate of Peck Funeral Home.

A motion was made by Mr. O'Donnell, seconded by Mr. Stefan, and it was:

Voted unanimously to accept the above referenced applicants.

The Board met with Meghan Gwozdz of Casper Funeral Servces. Ms Gwozdz indicated that she had embalmed only as part of her education and not separately for the Casper Funeral Home.

A motion was made by Mr. O'Donnell, seconded by Mr. Stefan, and it was:

Voted unanimously to accept her application.

Funeral Assistants- review and vote on applications

The Board met with Jason Spry of Casper Funeral Home and

A motion was made by Mr. O'Donnell, seconded by Mr. Stefan, and it was:

Voted unanimously to accept the above referenced applicant.

William Sampson of Agawam Funeral Home in Agawam had made efforts to appear before the Board at two prior meetings which were cancelled. Board Counsel previously spoke with Mr. Sampson regarding his qualifications and the Board's regulations.

A motion was made by Mr. O'Donnell, seconded by Mr. Stefan, to accept William Sampson's application, and it was:

Voted unanimously to accept the above referenced applicant.

The Board met with Thomas Vitro of Forastiere Family Funeral Service and George Kiakis of Brunelle Funeral Home. The Board will issue Funeral Assistant registrations on the condition that the respective Funeral Homes will appear at the Board's next meeting for approval of their Funeral Establishment Certificate Application.

A motion was made by Mr. O'Donnell, seconded by Mr. Stefan, and it was:

Voted unanimously to accept the applicants on the above terms.

Ms. Pamela Fortier sent a letter requesting an extension of the deadline for taking the exam.

Ms. Williams Fernandes moved to give her until May 1, 2015. Mr Stefan seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
Establishment Certificates

Wall certificates were signed for:

- Pike-Newhall Funeral Home and Cremation Service, Inc
- La Rosa Funeral Home, LLC
- Avalon Life Celebration Center & Cremation Services, LLC

Investigative Session Case, Investigative Conferences, Settlement Offers : Closed session pursuant to G.L. c. 112, § 65C

A motion was made by Mr. O'Donnell and seconded by Mr. Stefan and it was so

Voted: To enter Investigative Conference, Settlement Offers: Closed session pursuant to M.G.L. c. 112, § 65C at 2:47 pm.

Public Session resumed at 3:40 pm.

During the Investigative Conference, Settlement Offers the Board took the following actions:

EM-15-004 – discussion tabled until the next board meeting

EM-15-005 – dismiss with advisory

3.43 p.m. Adjournment

Mr. O'Donnell moved to adjourn the meeting. Motion seconded by Mr. Stefan. Motion passed unanimously

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Colleen Cavanaugh".

Colleen Cavanaugh
Associate Executive Director