

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
BUREAU OF PROFESSIONAL AND OCCUPATIONAL AFFAIRS

F I N A L M I N U T E S

MEETING OF:

STATE BOARD OF FUNERAL DIRECTORS

TIME: 10:31 A.M.

Held at

PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF STATE

2525 North 7th Street

CoPA HUB, Eaton Conference Room

Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17110

as well as

VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS

July 15, 2026

State Board of Funeral Directors
July 15, 2026

BOARD MEMBERS:

Kenneth C. DuPree, Chairperson, Professional Member -
Absent
Arion R. Claggett, Acting Commissioner, Bureau of
Professional and Occupational Affairs
Gregory K. Furlong, Vice Chairperson, Professional
Member
Eric D. Ruggeri, Secretary, Public Member
Christopher Feryo, Professional Member
Jennifer Kirk, Esquire, Office of Attorney General,
Consumer Protection Representative
Chad M. Lutz, Professional Member

BUREAU PERSONNEL:

Shawn J. Jayman, Esquire, Board Counsel
Timothy Fritsch, Esquire, Board Prosecution Liaison
J. Leslie Warner, Board Administrator
Jason Gustitus, Board Administrator
Jason C. Giurintano, Esquire, Deputy Chief Counsel,
Counsel Division
Marc Farrell, Esquire, Regulatory Counsel, Office of
Chief Counsel
Shana M. Walter, Esquire, Deputy Chief Counsel,
Prosecution Division
Willow Marsh, Legislative Aide, Office of Legislative
Affairs

ALSO PRESENT:

Wesley Rish, Esquire, General Counsel, Pennsylvania
Funeral Directors Association
Harry Neel, President, CEO, Jefferson Memorial
Funeral Home
Ernie Heffner, President, Heffner Funeral Chapel and
Crematory
Jason Benion, Esquire, Saxton & Stump
Faith Pensinger, Esquire, Saxton & Stump
Laurie Elliott, Sargent's Court Reporting Service,
Inc.

State Board of Funeral Directors

July 15, 2026

[Pursuant to Section 708(a)(5) of the Sunshine Act, at 9:00 a.m. the Board entered into Executive Session with Shawn J. Jayman, Esquire, Board Counsel, for the purpose of conducting quasi-judicial deliberations on a number of matters currently pending before the Board and to receive the advice of counsel. The Board entered into public session at 10:31 a.m.]

The regularly scheduled meeting of the State Board of Funeral Directors was held on Wednesday, July 15, 2026. Gregory K. Furlong, Vice Chairperson, Professional Member, called the meeting to order at 10:31 a.m.

Roll Call/Introduction of Attendees

[Gregory K. Furlong, Vice Chairperson, Professional Member, requested a roll call of all of Board members and introduction of attendees. A quorum of Board members was present.]

[Shawn J. Jayman, Esquire, Board Counsel, noted the

1 meeting was being recorded and continued
2 participation constituted consent to be recorded.

3 Mr. Jayman also noted that the Board entered into
4 Executive Session for the purpose of conducting
5 quasi-judicial deliberations on a number of matters
6 currently pending before the Board and to receive the
7 advice of counsel.]

8 ***

9 Approval of Minutes of the May 13, 2026 meeting

10 MR. JAYMAN:

11 No. 1 on the Agenda is the approval of
12 minutes.

13 Do I have a motion for approval of
14 the minutes from May 13, 2026?

15 MR. RUGGERI:

16 Ruggeri, so moved.

17 MR. JAYMAN:

18 Second?

19 MR. FERYO:

20 Feryo, second.

21 VICE CHAIR FURLONG:

22 I'm ready for a roll call.

23

24 Arion Claggett, aye; Gregory Furlong,
25 aye; Eric Ruggeri, aye; Christopher

1 Feryo, aye; Jennifer Kirk, aye; Chad
2 Lutz, aye.

3 [The motion carried unanimously.]

4 ***

5 Report of Prosecutorial Division

6 [Timothy Fritsch, Esquire, Board Prosecution Liaison,
7 presented the Consent Agreement for Item No. 2, Case
8 Nos. 25-48-012143 and 25-48-017639.]

9 ***

10 [Pursuant to Section 708(a)(5) of the Sunshine Act,
11 at 10:39 a.m., the Board entered into Executive
12 Session with Shawn J. Jayman, Esquire, Board Counsel,
13 for the purpose of conducting quasi-judicial
14 deliberations and to receive the advice of Board
15 Counsel. The Board returned to open session at 10:46
16 a.m.]

17 ***

18 MR. JAYMAN:

19 Based on Executive Session
20 deliberations, I believe the Chair
21 would entertain a motion to approve the
22 Consent Agreement for Case Nos. 25-48-
23 012143 and 25-48-017639.

24 VICE CHAIR FURLONG:

25 Do we have a motion?

1 MR. RUGGERI:

2 Ruggeri, so moved.

3 MR. FERYO:

4 Feryo, second.

5 VICE CHAIR FURLONG:

6 We're ready for roll call.

7

8 Arion Claggett, aye; Gregory Furlong,

9 aye; Eric Ruggeri, aye; Christopher

10 Feryo, aye; Jennifer Kirk, nay; Chad

11 Lutz, abstain.

12 [The motion carried. Ms. Kirk opposed the motion.

13 Mr. Lutz abstained from voting on the motion as he

14 was not present for the beginning of the motion. The

15 Respondents for Case Nos. 25-48-012143 and 25-48-

16 017639 are R. Richard Tedesco II and Hatheway-Tedesco

17 Funeral Home, Inc.]

18

19 Report of Board Counsel - Final Adjudication and

20 Order

21 MR. JAYMAN:

22 I have one matter on the Agenda at Item

23 No. 3.

24 Based on Executive Session

25 deliberations, I believe the Chair

1 would entertain a motion to accept the
2 Final Adjudication and Order adopting
3 the Hearing Examiner's Proposed
4 Adjudication and substituting Final
5 Board Order as written in the matter of
6 Christopher Angelo Hawkins, Exodus
7 Ahossouhe & Distinguished Memorial
8 Chapel, Inc. at Case No. 22-48-000399,
9 Case No. 22-48-000402, and Case No. 23-
10 48-002924.

11 VICE CHAIR FURLONG:

12 Do we have a motion?

13 MR. RUGGERI:

14 Ruggeri, so moved.

15 MR. FERYO:

16 Feryo, second.

17 VICE CHAIR FURLONG:

18 We're ready for roll call.

19
20 Arion Claggett, aye; Gregory Furlong,
21 aye; Eric Ruggeri, aye; Christopher
22 Feryo, aye; Jennifer Kirk, aye; Chad
23 Lutz, aye.

24 [The motion carried unanimously.]

25 ***

1 Report of Board Counsel

2 [Shawn J. Jayman, Esquire, Board Counsel, reported,
3 on July 12, 2026, Senate Bill 130 passed unanimously
4 in the House of Representatives. Senate Bill 130
5 amends Title 51 to require licensed funeral directors
6 to notify the county's Veteran Affairs Director
7 within 96 hours of receiving the remains of a
8 deceased service person. He stated the bill would be
9 going to the Governor's desk.]

10 ***

11 Regulatory Issues

12 [Marc Farrell, Esquire, Regulatory Counsel, Office of
13 Chief Counsel, reported the Board has three open
14 regulations. Regulation 16A-4833, General Revisions,
15 continues to be the priority with Regulatory Counsel
16 preparing the rest of the package, which will proceed
17 through various approval steps.

18 Regulation 16A-4832, Licensure by Endorsement or
19 Act 41, is in the final rulemaking phase. He noted
20 the Board received public comments, and he hoped to
21 have the final documents for the Board's
22 consideration at the September meeting.

23 Regulation 16A-4829, Schedule of Civil Penalties,
24 has not gotten off the ground yet with the other two
25 packages being in line first. He still needed to sit

1 down with Prosecution to review the existing
2 schedule.]

3 ***

4 Report of Commissioner

5 [Arion R. Claggett, Acting Commissioner, Bureau of
6 Professional and Occupational Affairs, announced Ms.
7 Warner was retiring after many years of service with
8 the meeting being her last one as Board
9 Administrator. The Board agreed she would be missed
10 and gave her a round of applause. Her replacement
11 will be Jason Gustitus.]

12 ***

13 Report of Board Chairperson - No Report.

14 ***

15 Report of Board Administrator - No Report.

16 ***

17 Matters for Discussion - No Report.

18 ***

19 Legislative Initiatives - No Report.

20 ***

21 Continuing Education Report - No Report.

22 **

23 Applications Committee - No Report.

24 ***

25 Correspondence - None.

Request for Review - Ratifications

MR. JAYMAN:

This will take us to Items 5 through 20 on the Agenda. Before I do that, I just wanted to make note that the Board has delegated a role to the Continuing Education Committee as an administrative function to approve these courses. This list of courses will be added to the minutes if anybody wanted to review these courses but these have been approved by the Continuing Education Course Committee. The vote today is simply to ratify that approval.

So based on that, based on deliberations, I believe the Chair would entertain a motion to ratify the courses that have been approved by the Continuing Education Committee listed on the Agenda, which will be marked as an exhibit in the minutes, 5 through 20.

MR. RUGGERI:

1 Ruggeri, so moved.

2 MR. FERYO:

3 Feryo, second.

4 VICE CHAIR FURLONG:

5 We're ready for roll call.

6

7 Arion Claggett, aye; Gregory Furlong,
8 aye; Eric Ruggeri, aye; Christopher
9 Feryo, aye; Jennifer Kirk, aye; Chad
10 Lutz, aye.

11 [The motion carried unanimously. Ratifications
12 marked as Board Exhibit 1 attached to the minutes.]

13 Miscellaneous - None.

14
15 Old Business - None.

16
17 New Business - None.

18
19 Public Comments

20 [Wesley Rish, Esquire, General Counsel, Pennsylvania
21 Funeral Directors Association, commented he had the
22 pleasure of working with Ms. Warner for many years
23 through his various roles. He noted Ms. Warner had
24 solid knowledge, was unflappable, always had a smile
25 and something positive to say. He noted she would be

1 missed, and he hoped she enjoyed her retirement.]

2 ***

3 Adjournment

4 VICE CHAIR FURLONG:

5 I will entertain a motion to adjourn
6 this meeting.

7 MR. RUGGERI:

8 So moved, Ruggeri.

9 MR. FERYO:

10 Feryo, second.

11 [There being no further business, the State Board of
12 Funeral Directors Meeting adjourned at 10:57 a.m.]

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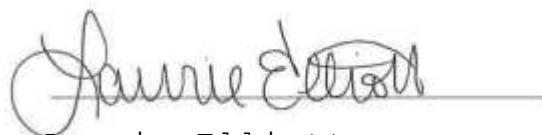
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CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that the foregoing summary minutes of the State Board of Funeral Directors meeting, was reduced to writing by me or under my supervision, and that the minutes accurately summarize the substance of the State Board of Funeral Directors meeting.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Laurie Elliott", is written over a horizontal line.

Laurie Elliott,

Minute Clerk

Sargent's Court Reporting
Service, Inc.

STATE BOARD OF FUNERAL DIRECTORS
REFERENCE INDEX
July 15, 2026

TIME	AGENDA
9:00	Executive Session
10:31	Return to Open Session
10:31	Official Call to Order
10:31	Roll Call/Introduction of Attendees
10:32	Approval of Minutes
10:33	Report of Prosecutorial Division
10:39	Executive Session
10:46	Return to Open Session
10:47	Report of Board Counsel
10:49	Regulatory Issues
10:52	Report of Commissioner
10:55	Requests for Review - ** Board Exhibit 1
10:56	Public Comments
10:57	Adjournment

REQUESTS FOR REVIEW

Ratifications

5. FED000012 – Trust in Motion How Purpose Fuels Agility, Creativity and Innovation*
6. FED000012 – Communicate with Clarity Confidence and Impact*
7. FED000012 – Self-Talk Use Your Inner Voice to Soar, Not Sabotage*
8. FED000012 – Survival Skills Not Superpowers Real Life Tools Women Use to thrive in Funeral Service*
9. FED000013 – Risk Management Core Compliance*
10. FED000013 – Where Personal Meets Professional, Leveraging Your Digital Influence*
11. FED000013 – The AI Immersive Experience*
12. FED000013 – Natural Organic Reduction Explained, A Professional Overview*
13. FED000013 – From Training to Trust, Reducing Operational Risk in Funeral Service*
14. FED000013 – Advanced Reconstruction Techniques*
15. FED000013 – Compassion, Clarity and Care, Elevating the Funeral Service Experience*
16. FED000013 – The Excellence Blueprint*
17. FED000013 – The Untapped Value of Human Connection*
18. FED000013 – Membership Has It's Perks, Professional Memberships as a Business*
19. FDCE000130 – Mastermind 2026 Elevating Your Funeral Service Business to New Heights*
20. FDCE000137 – The Modern Mourner: How Technology, Personalization, and Generational Change are Reshaping Funeral Service*

BOARD EXHIBIT 1