



On Thursday, August 7, 2025, the Louisiana State Board of Embalmers and Funeral Directors (“LSBEFD”) conducted a regularly scheduled in-person meeting at the board office located at The Executive Towers 3500 N. Causeway Boulevard Suite 1232 Metairie, Louisiana 70002 in accordance with La. R.S. 37:831, et seq and other applicable law.

1) Call to Order

Chairman Stephen Boudreaux called the meeting to order at 9:02 AM.

Opening remarks were given by Chairman Stephen Boudreaux stating the mission statement and the purpose of the LSBEFD.

2) Roll Call

Board Members Present

Willie Davis, Jr.

Terry Luneau

Maurice Southall

Louis Charbonnet, III – Arrived late and left early

Gregory McKneely – Absent

***Seven Board Members were present at the time of roll call. Board Members Louis Charbonnet, III and Gregory McKneely were absent. A quorum was present. ***

Rev. Shelton Dixon

Rev. Rodney McFarland, Sr.

Stephen Boudreaux – Chairman

Juan Joseph

Others Present

Kim W. Michel - Executive Director

Carrie L. Jones – General Counsel

R. DeMale Bowden, Jr. - Inspector

Chanel R. Debose - Prosecuting Attorney

3) Invocation

Board Member Rev. S. C. Dixon led the invocation

4) Pledge of Allegiance

Board Member Willie Davis, Jr. led the Pledge of Allegiance

5) Public Comments

Chairman Boudreaux asked if there were any public comments.

No public comment cards were submitted by members of the public present at the meeting.

No public comments were submitted online via Microsoft TEAMS by virtual participants.

6) Consent Agenda – Chairman Boudreaux explained the new consent agenda process and the reports below were reviewed by the board members.

a. Executive Director’s Report

b. Financial Report – FY 24.25 Budget Projection v Actual to Date

c. Inspector’s Report

d. Complaint Review Report – Board Member Rev. Rodney McFarland, I had a question about the complaint review committee not meeting, which was discussed by Prosecuting Attorney Debose.

Board Member Rev. Rodney McFarland, Sr. made a motion to accept the consent agenda, which was seconded by Board Member Rev. S. C. Dixon. The motion passed unanimously.

7) Approval of Meeting Minutes – June 2025 meeting

The June 2025 Board Meeting minutes had been already circulated to the board members via email prior to the meeting.

Board Member Rev. Rodney McFarland, Sr. made a motion to accept the June 2025 meeting minutes, which was seconded by Board Member Willie Davis, Jr. The motion passed unanimously.

8) Louisiana Cemetery Board Presentation - Jerry W. Sullivan, Director & Staff

Mr. Sullivan gave a presentation to the Board regarding types of cemeteries and explained issues/problems that the Cemetery Board is having with burials taking place in cemeteries that are NOT REGISTERED with their agency and possible collaboration with the LSBEFD and its licenses to address the issues.

****Board Member Louis Charbonnett, III arrived at 9:32AM*

9) Executive Session (pursuant to LA R.S. 42:17)

Board Member Rev. Rodney McFarland, Sr. made a motion to go into the executive session to discuss ongoing litigation and personnel matters, which was seconded by Board Member Rev. S. C. Dixon.

**** Laurie White, a member of the public, objected to the board going into executive session.*

The motion passed unanimously in a roll call vote. The executive session began at 9:40 AM.

Board Member Rev. Rodney McFarland, Sr. made a motion to come out of executive session, which was seconded by Board Member Rev. S. C. Dixon. The motion passed unanimously via a roll call vote. The Board came out of the executive session at 11:21 AM.

10) Unfinished Business

There was no unfinished business for discussion.

11) New Business

- a. Resolutions – Alvin Anthony Haynes, Jr. & Theophilus A. Rose
The presentation of the resolutions of respect for licensees who passed away was made by Inspector Bowden.
- b. Attorney contract amendment and Resolution – September 2025 for Breazeale, Sachse & Wilson, LLP (to include additional language in accordance with La. R.S. 39:1602.2)
Board Member Maurice Southall made a motion to adopt the Resolution for the September 2025 for Breazeale, Sachse & Wilson, LLP contract amendment, which was seconded by Board Member Terry Luneau. The motion passed unanimously.
- c. Discussion regarding fee increase
At the request of Chairman Boudreaux, Inspector Bowden, and Counsel Jones will work on obtaining licensure fees from other states. No Board action was taken.

Laurie White submitted a public comment regarding the fee increase discussion.
- d. Discussion regarding restructuring of Complaint Review Committee
Executive Director Michel gave insight into this process. Counsel Jones and Board Member Rodney McFarland, Sr. gave insight. Inspector Bowden also gave insight into the work of the Laws and Rules Committee. No Board action was taken.
- e. Discussion regarding January 9, 2024, resolution authorizing the Executive Director to enter into any and all contractual obligations on behalf of the LSBEFD
Board Member Rev. Rodney McFarland, Sr. made a motion to revoke the prior resolution authorizing the Executive Director to enter into any and all contractual obligations on behalf of the LSBEFD, which was seconded by Board Member Rev. S.C. Dixon. The motion passed unanimously via roll call vote.

12) Disciplinary Matters*

Board Member Rev. Rodney McFarland, Sr. made a motion to take an agenda item out of order making and for the Board to call Item (12)(e) –In the Matter of Gary Lewis, New Orleans Cremation Services, Inc. d/b/a New Orleans Funeral and Cremation Services v. LSBEFD, Remanded for deliberation in accordance with Louisiana’s Open Meetings Law, which was seconded by Board Member Juan Joseph. The motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item (12)(e). Remanded for deliberation in accordance with Louisiana’s Open Meetings Law: *In the Matter of Gary Lewis, New Orleans Cremation Services, Inc. d/b/a New Orleans Funeral and Cremation Services v. LSBEFD, Case #23.24.0048, Civil District Court for the Parish of Orleans, State of Louisiana, Docket #2004-06195*

Laurie White was presented on behalf of NOFCS and objected to the proposed procedure for taking up the remanded matter.

Board Member Rev. S. C. Dixon made a motion to go into the executive session, which was seconded by Board Member Terry Luneau. The motion passed unanimously. The executive session began at 12:07 PM. Board Member Rev. Rodeny McFarland, Sr. made a motion to come out of executive session, which was seconded by Board Member Rev. S.C. Dixon The motion passed unanimously. The public meeting resumed at 12:22 PM. Board Member Rev. Rodney McFarland, Sr. made a motion to defer/continue the remanded case, which was seconded by Board Member Rev. S. C. Dixon The motion passed unanimously.

****Board Member Louis Charbonnett, III, left the meeting at 12:26 PM and did not participate in any of the remaining agenda items. A quorum of the Board remained.*

Agenda Item (12)(a). Contempt Hearing: In the Matter of White Oaks Funeral Home, Oakdale Case #23.24.0034 consolidated with Case #23.25.0004

****Licensee Gregory Strother was not present. Chairman Boudreaux read a statement from Licensee Kimberly Strother on behalf of Mr. Strother.*

Board Member Rev. Rodney McFarland, Sr. made a motion to continue the case, which was seconded by Board Member Rev. S. C. Dixon The motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item (12)(b). Contempt Hearing: In the Matter of St. Edwards Funeral Home, Bunkie Case #23.24.0030. The Prosecuting Attorney, Ms. Chanel Debose, provided the Board with documentation regarding the alleged contempt. St. Edwards Funeral Home’s owner, Ms. Darlene St. Romain, made comments to the board. The Board considered the Admission & Consent.

Board Member Rev. Rodney McFarland, Sr. moved to fine St. Edwards Funeral Home \$2,500 per violation for a total of \$5,000, plus attorney fees, due 30-days from the date of the Final Board Order. The motion was seconded by Board Member Rev. S.C. Dixon. The motion passed unanimously. A roll call vote was taken. There were 6 – yes votes (Davis, Dixon, Joseph, Luneau, McFarland, and Southall) and 0 – no votes. Board Members Louis Charbonnet, III, and Gregory McKneely were not present for the vote. President Boudreaux did not participate in the vote.

Carlette Christmas provided public comments after the Board voted and asked the Board to reconsider.

Item (12)(c). Hearing: In the Matter of Murray Henderson Funeral Home, New Orleans Case #23.24.0020. Board Member Willie Davis, Jr., recused himself from this matter and was not present during the discussion. Ms. Jones presented a joint stipulation entered into by the parties in lieu of a formal hearing. The Board considered the joint stipulation submitted by the parties. No additional argument was considered.

Board Member Rev. S. C. Dixon made a motion to go into the executive session to deliberate on the disciplinary matters, which was seconded by Board Member Terry Luneau. The motion passed unanimously. Executive session began at 12:38 PM. Board Member Rev. Rodney McFarland, Sr. made a motion to come out of executive session, which was seconded by Board Member Rev. S.C. Dixon. The motion passed unanimously. The public meeting resumed at 1:27 PM.

Board Member Maurice Southall made a motion to dismiss the administrative complaint with no action based on the Joint Stipulation of Facts, which was seconded by Board Member Rev. Rodney McFarland, Sr. The motion passed unanimously. A roll call vote was taken and there were 5 – Yes votes (Dixon, Joseph, Luneau, McFarland, McKneely, Southall), 0 – No votes, Board Member Willie Davis, Jr. recused himself, Board members Louis Charbonnet, III, and Gregory McKneely were not present for the vote. President Boudreaux did not participate in the vote.

Board Member Davis returned to the meeting at 1:28 PM.

Agenda Item (12)(d). Hearing: In the Matter of White Oaks Funeral Home, Oakdale (Note: Hearing noticed for 2:00 PM) Case #25.25.0039 consolidated with Case #24.25.0044

****Licensee Gregory Strother was not present. Chairman Boudreaux read a statement from Licensee Kimberly Strother submitted on behalf of Mr. Strother into the record. Board Member Maurice Southall made a motion to continue the case, which was seconded by Board Member Juan Joseph. The motion passed unanimously.*

13) Closing Remarks

Final statements and closing remarks were given by Chairman Boudreaux. Dates for the next meeting will be circulated to the board members by Executive Director Michel and posted on the website.

14) Adjournment

Board Member Rev. Rodney McFarland, Sr. made a motion to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded by Board Member Rev. S. C. Dixon. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 1:35 PM.