

The Alabama Professional Bail Bonding Board
Board Meeting Minutes
March 26, 2020

With proper and required notice having been provided to the Alabama Secretary of State's Office along with posting on the website of the Alabama Secretary of State, a meeting of the Alabama Professional Bail Bonding Board was held on March 26, 2020 at 2603 Wildwood Drive, Montgomery, Alabama. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and pursuant to Section III Open Meeting Act of the Proclamation issued the 18th day of March, 2020, by Governor Kay Ivey, attendance was also perfected by a combination of telephone conference and video conference. The meeting was called to order at 10:10 a.m. by Chairman Chris McNeil.

A quorum having been established, the following Board members were present:

District I: Chris McNeil by video/audio conferencing
District II: Gustavius Maxie by video/audio conferencing
District III: Barry Johnson in person and by video/audio conferencing
District V: Victor Howard by video/audio conferencing (muted until 11:08 a.m.)
District VI: Jimmie Lay by video/audio conferencing
District VII: Edward Giles by video/audio conferencing
Judge: The Honorable Spiro Cheriogotis by video/audio conferencing
Circuit Clerk: The Honorable Carla Woodall by video/audio conferencing

The following Board member was not present:

District IV: Alesia Kyser

Also present by personal/video/audio attendance was Claire Austin, Acting Executive Director; and by video/audio attendance Brenda Holden, Administrative Support.

Due to the varying methods of attendance of Board members, all voting actions of the Board were taken by a call of the roll.

The meeting was opened with prayer offered by Board Member Edward Giles.

Chairman Chris McNeil reported that the District III vacancy created upon the untimely death of Board Member Jimmy Henderson had been filled with the appointment of Barry Johnson by Governor Kay Ivey. At which time Barry Johnson was administered the oath of office by Acting Executive Director Claire Austin.

The agenda was reviewed wherein Chairman Chris McNeil requested to add the following items:

1. Creation of a statement by the Board related to the COVID-19 pandemic
2. Discussion of delaying the effective date whereby a license is to be required

A motion was made by Chris McNeil to approve the agenda with requested additions and seconded by Spiro Cheriogotis. Motion passed unanimously.

The minutes of the March 12, 2020, were previously distributed and reviewed. Jimmie Lay requested that the spelling of his name be corrected from "Jimmy" to "Jimmie". A motion was made by Chris McNeil to accept the minutes as written with the one correction and seconded by Jimmie Lay. Motion passed unanimously.

With the appointment of District IV Board Member Barry Johnson, the Board had previously been informed that a new nomination and vote of officers would need to be held. A motion was made by Chris McNeil to keep the current officers and seconded by Spiro Cheriogotis. Motion passed unanimously.

Discussions were held of the current distribution of the draft of the Rules and Regulations which have been continuously worked on by sub-committee members. Motion was made to suspend discussions and continue with agenda by Barry Johnson and seconded by Chris McNeil. Motion passed unanimously.

Discussions were held regarding the need for the creation of a public statement by the Board related to the current COVID-19 pandemic and extending the required licensure effective date dependent upon the date of re-payment of loan to the State of Alabama. A motion was made to extend the effective date by 30 days. Motion died for failure to receive a second. Jimmie Lay made a motion to suspend discussions until next meeting for clarification of legislative proceedings and re-payment requirements to State of Alabama. Motion seconded by Chris McNeil. Motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Chris McNeil set the next meeting of the Alabama Professional Bail Bonding Board for Friday, April 3, 2020, at 1:30 p.m. at 2603 Wildwood Drive, Montgomery, Alabama, or attendance pursuant to the March 18, 2020, Proclamation if the declaration of state of emergency is still in effect.

Upon review of March 18, 2020, Proclamation by Governor Kay Ivey in setting next meeting of the Board and notice requirements, a motion was made by Carla Woodall for the Board to give Chris McNeil and Carla Woodall authority to review and publish a draft of the minutes without being approved so as to satisfy the requirement of posting a “summary of meeting” pursuant to Section III, Paragraph C of said-Proclamation. Motion seconded by Chris McNeil. Motion passed unanimously.

Discussions were held regarding the workings of the Continuing Education sub-committee and to be added to next agenda, at which time audio for Victor Howard was unmuted. Board Member Victor Howard stated that he had been privy to all proceedings and was in agreement with all action taken. Discussions continued regarding COVID-19, effective date of licensure requirement, loan repayment to State of Alabama, and continuing education requirements.

During meeting, link was distributed to Claire Austin and Brenda Holden by Alabama Interactive for first view of Board website. Link was forwarded to all Board members for review with strict precautions that it is not ready for publication and to not publicize. Recommendations were made for various changes to include the “focus picture” on the homepage.

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by Chris McNeil and seconded by Gustavius Maxie. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 11:54 a.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Chris McNeil
Chairman

Carla Woodall
Secretary