

ALABAMA BOARD OF COURT REPORTING
Meeting Minutes
February 17, 2020

The Alabama Board of Court Reporting held a special meeting on February 17, 2020, at the offices of Wilkerson & Bryan, P.C., 405 South Hull Street, for the purpose of conducting Board business pursuant to a meeting notice published on the Alabama Secretary of State's website on February 7, 2020.

The Special Meeting was called to order at 11:00 a.m. with a quorum established with the following members: Shannon Ball, Chair; Parian Holderfield, Vice-Chair; the Hon. Claude Hundley, Member; Linda Flippo, Member; Alan Peacock, Member and Margaret Turner, Member. Mark Wilkerson, Board legal counsel, was also present.

On motion of Parian Holderfield, seconded by Alan Peacock, the minutes of the January 8, 2020 meeting were approved as distributed by unanimous vote.

Board Chair Ball welcomed the newest member of the Board, the Hon. Claude Hundley, Madison County Circuit Judge, who was nominated by the Chief Justice of the Alabama Supreme Court to replace Judge Aubrey Ford. Judge Hundley was administered the oath of office and participated in the business of the meeting.

Chair Ball and Board Legal Counsel, Mark Wilkerson, discussed the Department of Purchasing's notice that it had granted the protest filed by the Austin Group ("Austin Group") of the award of the Board's Administrative Services Contract to Warren & Company. The Department requested that the Board review the next lowest bidder and make a new award recommendation. It was noted that two remaining bidders, Austin Group and Total Political Solutions ("TPS"), propose to provide the specified services for the same monthly fee. It was also noted that the Board determined at its January 8, 2020, meeting that the bid submitted by TPG did not meet the bid specifications, after a discussion of TPS's response to the criminal history specification and the fact that a portion of its written bid response was addressed to another state board. Mr. Wilkerson stated that the Board had the discretion to revisit that finding at this meeting if desired.

After a discussion of both remaining bids, upon motion of Linda Flippo, seconded by Parian Holderfield, the Board voted unanimously to find that the Austin Group was the lowest responsible bidder and to recommend it be awarded the contract.

There followed a general discussion regarding the need for a swift resolution of the contract award to allow the essential business of the Board to be conducted. It was acknowledged that the Chair had previously been given authority to execute one or more emergency contracts to provide for administrative services in the event of a further delay in a final contract award.

There being no further business, upon motion, second and unanimous vote, the meeting was adjourned at 11:40 a.m.