

Board Meeting Minutes
January 8, 2020

The Alabama Board of Court Reporting met on January 8, 2020, at the Board Office in Montgomery for the purpose of conducting Board business, pursuant to a meeting notice published on the Secretary of State's website and the Board's website.

Those present were as follows: Shannon Ball, Chair; Parian Holderfield, Vice-Chair; Judge Aubrey Ford, Member; Linda Flippo, Member; Alan Peacock, Member. Not present was Margaret Turner. Mark Wilkerson, Board legal counsel, was also present.

Public present were Keith Warren, Kevin Smith, Rene Reames, Allen Sheehan, Claire Austin and William Parker.

The Special Meeting was called to order at 10:05a.m. with a quorum established with the following Members: Shannon Ball, Parian Holderfield, Judge Ford, Linda Flippo and Alan Peacock.

Judge Ford made a motion to approve the Board meeting minutes from the December 19, 2019, meeting. Seconded by Ms. Holderfield. Motion carried with all in favor (Ms. Holderfield, Judge Ford, Ms. Flippo, and Mr. Peacock).

Board Legal Counsel, Mark Wilkerson, handed out copies of the three bids received from the Department of Purchasing to all Board members for review. Discussion on each of the three bids followed.

Mr. Wilkerson advised the Board that issues involved with the bid solicitation process and responses were imminently likely to be litigated depending on the course of action followed by the Board, and the Board was thus permitted to go into Executive Session with counsel to discuss the legal ramifications and options available to the Board, provided, that any deliberation between the members regarding what action to take must be conducted in the open portion of the meeting. Judge Ford made a motion, seconded by Linda Flippo, to go into Executive Session at 11:32 a.m. to last approximately 15 minutes, with the public meeting continuing immediately thereafter. The Motion carried with all in favor (Ms. Holderfield, Judge Ford, Ms. Flippo, and Mr. Peacock voting).

The Board reconvened at 12:01 p.m. by motion of Judge Ford. Second by Alan Peacock. Motion carried with all in favor (Ms. Holderfield, Judge Ford, Ms. Flippo, and Mr. Peacock). An open discussion followed on each bid proposal submitted to the Department of Purchasing for the Board's Administrative Services Contract.

The Board engaged in a discussion regarding the inclusion of written responses directed to another board (Respiratory Therapy) in the bid submitted by Total Political Solutions, along with its response to the criminal history specification. After extended discussion, upon motion of Judge Ford, seconded by Ms. Flippo, the Board voted unanimously to find that TPG had not met the bid specifications (Ms. Holderfield, Judge Ford, Ms. Flippo, and Mr. Peacock, voting yes).

Board members noted that Austin Group had met the bid specifications but was not the lowest bidder. The Board then engaged in a detailed discussion as to whether Warren & Company met the bid specifications, including a discussion of the "unresolved findings" noted in the Examiner's audit reports it provided. After an extended discussion, Alan Peacock made a motion, seconded by Judge Ford, to recommend the grant of the contract to Warren and Company as the lowest responsible bidder. The motion carried with three in favor (Judge Ford, Alan Peacock, and Linda Flippo) and one opposed (Parian Holderfield).

Mr. Wilkerson pointed out the need for the Board give Chair Ball the authority to take such additional action as may be required to carry out the essential functions of the Board pending the award of a permanent contract, including executing an emergency contract for services during the interim period. Judge Ford made a motion, seconded by Ms. Holderfield, to give the chair the authority to execute such emergency contracts as deemed necessary during the interim period, which was passed unanimously. (Ms. Holderfield, Judge Ford, Ms. Flippo, and Mr. Peacock voting).

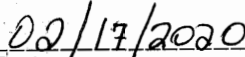
Chair Ball suggested the regular Board meeting scheduled for January 22, 2020, be cancelled, and the next meeting scheduled at a later date. Such motion was passed unanimously (Ms. Holderfield, Judge Ford, Ms. Flippo, and Mr. Peacock voting).

There being no further business, upon motion of Judge Ford, seconded by Ms. Holderfield, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn. (Ms. Holderfield, Judge Ford, Ms. Flippo, and Mr. Peacock voting).

The Board adjourned at 1:45 p.m.



Shannon Ball



Date