



Alabama State Board of Auctioneers

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MINUTES Board Meeting May 19, 2026

The Alabama State Board of Auctioneers met on Tuesday, May 19, 2026 at 9:00 a.m., at the Board's office located at 603 Interstate Park Drive in Montgomery, AL. The meeting was advertised on the Board's website, www.auctioneer.alabama.gov, and the Secretary of State's website, www.sos.alabama.gov, in accordance with the Alabama Open Meetings Act.

Members in attendance were Scott Barnes (Board Vice Chair), Ms. Angella Morgan (member), Mr. Randall Grissett (member), Mr. Chip Pearce (member), Mr. Ryan Dennis (member) and Mr. Shane Albright (member). Members absent were Mr. Mike Fisher (Board Chair) and Mr. Russ Wood (member). Also in attendance were Mr. Keith Warren (Executive Director), Mr. Cameron Elkins (Assistant Attorney General and Board Counsel), Ms. Hope Childers (Board Administrator), Ms. Karen Harlow (Legal Assistant), Mr. Denny Merritt (Investigator), and Ms. Renee' Reames (recording secretary).

Vice Chairman Barnes called the meeting to order at 9:11 a.m. Mr. Warren called the Board member roll and indicated that a quorum of the members was present. A word of prayer was given and the pledge of allegiance was recited by attendees. Mr. Warren read aloud the opening statement concerning Robert's Rules of Order and the Alabama Open Meetings Act. Vice Chairman Barnes welcomed board members and other attendees.

Approval of Minutes: Vice Chairman Barnes presented a copy of the minutes from the February 3, 2026 regular Board meeting for the Board's approval. Mr. Pearce corrected the minutes to indicate Mr. Barnes as Vice Chair.

MOTION: Mr. Pearce made a motion to approve the February meeting minutes as corrected. The motion was seconded by Mr. Albright and unanimously approved by the Board.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT:

Mr. Warren presented the Executive Director's Report to include licensing activities, examinations, complaints and finance. A copy of the report was provided to the members prior to the meeting (Executive Director report and financial report available in the Board's official Book of Minutes).

New Licensees:

MOTION: Ms. Morgan made the motion to ratify the approval of new licenses issued by the Executive Director as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Dennis and unanimously approved by the Board.

Licensing Activities: Mr. Warren presented licensure activities since last reported at the February Board meeting, along with a summary of complaints covering FY 2021 through FY 2026.

Newsletter: Mr. Warren presented a draft of the Board's newsletter ready for publication and he asked Ms. Morgan to provide a biographical summary to be included in the next newsletter. He indicated that a copy of the newsletter would be posted on the Board's website.

Financial Report: Mr. Warren presented the Board's FY 2026 financial activities through May 1, 2026. He reviewed the cash flow analysis report with revenue and expenses for the reported period, along with actual expenditures compared to the annual budget. A positive cash balance was projected for the end of the fiscal year (report available in the Board's official Book of Minutes).

MOTION: Mr. Pearce made the motion to accept the financial report as presented. The motion was seconded by Ms. Morgan and unanimously approved by the Board.

Ethics Commission – Statement of Economic Interest: Mr. Warren reminded the members to file, with the Alabama Ethics Commission, a Statement of Economic Interest for calendar year 2025. He reported that the filings were due by April 30, 2026 and could be completed online.

Act 2026-160 Regarding Board Member Training: Mr. Warren informed the members about Act 2026-160 requiring board training through the Alabama Department of Examiners of Public Accounts. He indicated that more information would be provided to the members prior to the training deadlines.

LEGAL COUNSEL REPORT

Mr. Elkins reported on the following Investigative Committee activities and Board complaints:

- Case 2025-003 – Administrative Hearing concerning the case had been continued and tentatively rescheduled at the next Board meeting in August. The Board asked that the respondent in the case appear before the Board at the hearing and, if needed, allow the complainant to participate virtually.
- Case 2025-009 – founded violations regarding online auctions.
The Board discussed the following steps in resolving the case: (1) issue a cease and desist notice to respondent; (2) educate the respondent regarding licensure process; (3) respondent's response/comply within 30 days; (4) if non-compliance, proceed with civil injunction. The Board considered assessing a disciplinary fine for the licensure violations (Rule 150-1-.11(4), (7), (13) and agreed to defer the matter of assessing fines to the next Board meeting to allow time to consider other Boards' disciplinary procedures. The Board further considered, when fines were assessed, that the respondent pay fines prior to a license being issued.

MOTION: Mr. Albright made the motion to approve the recommendation of the Investigative Committee for founded violations. The motion was seconded by Mr. Pearce and unanimously approved by the Board.

MOTION: Mr. Pearce made the motion to authorize the Board's Legal Counsel to proceed with the

steps identified to resolve the case which included issuing a cease and desist notice, licensure education, 30-day response/compliance period and proceeding with civil injunction for failure to comply. The motion was seconded by Mr. Albright and unanimously approved by the Board.

UPDATE ON ALABAMA AUCTION ASSOCIATION ACTIVITIES

Vice Chairman Barnes reported that the Association-sponsored continuing education (CE) program and annual Association meeting was scheduled August 1-4, 2026 in Gulf Shores, to include a 6-hour CE session open to all state licensees. Ms. Childers indicated that all licensees would be notified of the opportunity to attend.

UPDATE ON PUBLIC RELATIONS CAMPAIGN

Vice Chairman Barnes reported that the Alabama Auction Association was managing the public relations campaign of the Board to include advertising and education about licensure requirements, and there had been good traffic on the Facebook page that had been developed for this purpose.

OLD BUSINESS

Update on Renewal of Administrative Management Services Contract and Proposed Transition:

Mr. Warren indicated that the staff of Smith Warren Management Services were transitioning to State government as employees of the Alabama Security Regulatory Board. He explained that Smith Warren would cease providing contracted services to State Boards and Commissions. Mr. Warren presented a proposal for the Board to enter into an agreement with the Alabama Security Regulatory Board (ASRB) for continued services and space. He presented a transition plan at a monthly rate of \$7,000 per month to include investigative services provided by ASRB or the Board employing an investigator as Board staff, with an adjusted rate for administrative services provided by ASRB, at \$5,000 per month. The Board considered the option of an RFP with another contracted-service provider or entering an Inter-Agency Agreement with ASRB.

MOTION: Mr. Pearce made the motion to enter into an Inter-Agency Agreement with the Alabama Security Regulatory Board effective June 1, 2026 for the continuation of services as currently provided. The motion was seconded by Ms. Morgan and unanimously approved by the Board.

NEW BUSINESS

Troy University Dothan Auctioneer School: Mr. Warren presented communications about the July 2026 schedule of the Troy University-Dothan Auctioneer School and invitation to Board members to be a guest speaker (letter available in the Board's official Book of Minutes). Mr. Warren reported that the Dothan school was the only auctioneer school in the State and he encouraged members of the Board to contact the school about scheduling to speak to the class.

Smith Warren Invoice for February 2026 through May 31, 2026: Mr. Warren indicated that Smith Warren would present to the Board of Adjustment an invoice for services for February 2026 through June, 2026.

Renewal of Alabama Auction Association Contract for Public Relations Campaign: Mr. Warren reported that the renewal of the Alabama Auction Association contract for the Board's public relations campaign was due for the second year of the contract.

MOTION: Mr. Pearce made the motion to renew the contract with the Alabama Auction Association for public relation campaign for another 12 months. The motion was seconded by Ms. Morgan and unanimously approved by the Board.

OTHER BUSINESS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Apprentice Licensure: The Board discussed repealing the Board's Rule 150-X-1-.02, in consideration of the Board's statute requirements, concerning apprentices required to provide proof of sales in the form of advertisements and evidence of payment for services.

MOTION: Mr. Albright made the motion to omit part of Rule 150-X-1-.02(a) pertaining to advertising and compensation for apprentice services. The motion was seconded by Mr. Pearce and unanimously approved by the Board.

Disciplinary Fines: Vice Chairman Barnes recommended the Board consider structuring the disciplinary fines to deter violations, a maximum of \$500 per violation, along with administrative fines for hearings, a maximum of \$1500 per violation, as allowed by the Board's statute. The Board considered § 34-4-29 and Rule 150-X-1-.08, along with including continuing education requirements in consent agreements for complaint cases. Vice Chairman Barnes deferred further discussion to the next Board meeting for consideration of the matter.

Submission of Board Travel and Compensation: Compensation requests and travel expense reports were submitted by the members and accepted by the Board.

Next Board Meeting: Vice Chairman Barnes reminded the Board that the next meeting of the Board was scheduled August 18, 2026, which would include an Administrative Hearing on case 2025-003, with an Administrative Law Judge presiding.

ADJOURNMENT

There was no further business by the Board and Vice Chairman Barnes called for a motion to adjourn.

MOTION: Mr. Pearce made a motion that the meeting be adjourned. The motion was seconded by Mr. Albright and unanimously approved by the Board. Vice Chairman Barnes adjourned the meeting at 10:25 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Scott Barnes
Board Vice Chair

Keith E. Warren
Executive Director

rr/  Minutes Approved by the Board on August 18, 2026.