



January 20, 2026, General Session Meeting Minutes (FINAL - approved April 14, 2026)

Board Members Present: Robert **Gaskill**, President; Ruggiero **Canizares**, Vice President; Melissa **Porter**, Secretary / Treasurer; Craig **Collins**; Debra **Harris**; Holly **Houston**; Elizabeth **Johnson**; Brady **Leder**; Kevin **Loveland**; Neal **Naigus**

Board Members Absent: None

Staff Members Present: Chad **Dresselhaus**, Executive Director; Aaron **Cowell**, Education and Compliance Manager; Marianne **Itkin**, Investigator; Greg **Brown**, Compliance Specialist, and Catriona Angela **Nelson**, Compliance Specialist; Ryan **Christopher**, Office & Licensing Manager; Sylvie **Huhn**, Program Administrator Indigent Disposition Fund; and Tony **Des Champs**, AAG

Staff Members Absent: None

Guests: None

I Call to Order

The General Session of the Mortuary and Cemetery Board (Board) was called to order at 9:03 am, at the Portland State Office Building in room 1D.

Roll call was taken.

II General Session

A Approval of Meeting Minutes

President Gaskill mentioned that there were no minute to be presented this meeting.

B. President's Comments

President Gaskill acknowledged the two new board members and a full Board staff.

C. Presentation and Approval of Executive Director's Report for January 20, 2026

Director Dresselhaus briefly discussed the budget details of the report.

Member Naigus asked if there were any expected changes.

Director Dresselhaus stated there were no anticipated changes. He briefly discussed the licensing details of the report. He moved onto the compliance portion of the report and stated that we are continuing to train Angela with the inspection process. He asked Greg to talk more about it.

Staff member Brown stated that we haven't done a lot of training because the agency has been going through a lot of changes but starting in January, they are going to start doing inspections together. He indicated that Angela would hopefully be able to inspect on her own by March or April.

Director Dresselhaus recalled that during the vacancy of one of our inspectors that Greg did a good job on his own keeping us at 100% or higher. He briefly covered the investigation details of his report. He briefly covered the Indigent Disposition details of his report.

President Gaskill asked if there was a motion to approve the report. He recognized Vice-President Canizares.

Motion to approve: Member Canizares. Member Loveland seconded.

President Gaskill asked those in favor to signify by saying aye. All others were aye, and the motion passed unanimously. Those voting in favor: Members Canizares, Collins, Gaskill, Harris, Houston, Johnson, Leder, Loveland, Naigus, Porter.

D. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

E. General Discussion & Action Items

1. Standing Item:

a. Board Best Practices 2 min. Check In for FY 2025 (July 2025 – June 2026)

Director Dresselhaus reminded members that this standing item should be in their packet and that this would be done in July.

2. Welcome New Board Members: Elizabeth Johnson & Brady Leder

President Gaskill introduced new Board members Elizabeth Johnson and Brady Leder.

Member Johnson provided some information about herself.

Member Leder provided some information about himself.

President Gaskill thanked them and welcomed them to the Board.

Director Dresselhaus expressed his thanks,

3. Election of Board Officers

Gaskill mentioned that we need a Nominating Committee to elect new Board officers.

Member Naigus and Member Houston volunteered.

4. License Renewal Update

Staff member Christopher briefly discussed the current renewal cycles.

President Gaskill asked staff member Christopher if he liked the current renewal cycle.

Staff member Christopher reminded the Board that staff had been previously directed to come up with a proposal to address several issues with the current renewal process. He pointed out that in January 2025 the Board reviewed and voted to approve the staff's proposal. Staff were directed to implement what was set forth in the staff's proposal. This would make it so that each individual license that is issued and any facility license that is issued would be valid for 2 years from the date that it is issued. Rather than just expiring December 31st regardless of when it's issued.

5. OMCB Newsletter

Director Dresselhaus praised staff member Huhn for her work on the Winter Newsletter which was distributed last Friday.

6. Stipend Review

Staff member Christopher provided details about Board member stipends. These will be distributed twice annually.

7. Strategic Planning Session Review

Director Dresselhaus read an article from the OMCB's Winter newsletter which covered details of the November 2025 Strategic Planning Session held with OFDA and OMCB during the OFDA's district meeting. He stated that the next step is to synthesize the notes into a cohesive report which will be shared with all participants to ensure that all discussion points have been accurately captured. That will be formally presented at a future board meeting, hopefully in April, allowing the board to determine how to proceed with the recommendation.

Vice-President Canizares brought up the industry representation at the meeting. He asked if the public was properly represented and that he wanted to have diversity.

Director Dresselhaus expressed that it was open to the public
(get details from recording)

Member Johnson stated that she was glad to see the Indigent Disposition Program as a topic and mentioned that it's being misinterpreted.

Director Dresselhaus expressed thanks to those who attended the meeting.

President Gaskill ended the first portion of the general session at 9:41am.

III Executive Session as authorized by ORS 192.660(2)(a), (b), (f), (h), (i) and / or (l)

At 9:57 am, President Gaskill directed the Board to enter into executive session. The executive session was held pursuant to ORS 192.660(2)(a), (b), (f), (h), (i) and / or (l). If present, representatives of the news media and designated staff would have been allowed to attend the executive session, but all other members of the audience would have been asked to leave the room. Representatives of the news media would have been specifically directed not to report on any of the deliberations during the executive session, except to state the general subject of the session as previously announced. Note that no decision can be made in executive session. At the end of the executive session, the Board returned to open session. Executive session adjourned at 1:39 pm.

IV General Session

President Gaskill called the general session of the Board back to order at 1:42 pm.
All Board members who were in attendance for the earlier general session were present.

F. Licensing Actions

G. Board Inspection Report (BIR)

Vice-President Canizares asked for motion to approve both agenda items.

Member Canizares so moved. Member Loveland seconded. All others were in favor.

Those voting in favor: Members Canizares, Collins, Gaskill, Harris, Houston, Johnson, Leder, Loveland, Naigus, Porter.

Those voting no: None.

Those abstaining: None.

H. Special Request

- a. Taylor Myers – approve request for extension of apprenticeship period, through 12/31/2026
- b. Sierra Dirling – approve request for extension of apprenticeship period, through 12/31/2026

Vice-President Canizares asked for motion to approve both special requests.

Member Canizares so moved. Member Loveland seconded. All others were in favor.

Those voting in favor: Members Canizares, Collins, Gaskill, Harris, Houston, Johnson, Leder, Loveland, Naigus, Porter.

Those voting no: None

I. Investigations

1. 25-1026 C1 Addendum – Rescind previous vote due to administrative error in that there was a violation of OAR 830-030-0090(2)

Moved: Canizares Second Naigus:

For: Canizares, Collins, Gaskill, Harris, Houston, Johnson, Leder, Loveland, Naigus, Porter.

Against: None.

Recused: None.

Motion Passes: 10 - 0.

C1 – new allegation, violation of ORS 432.133(2)(b), in that respondent did not acquire medical certification prior to cremation – Action civil penalty \$500

Moved: Canizares Second Naigus:

For: Canizares, Collins, Gaskill, Harris, Houston, Johnson, Leder, Loveland, Naigus, Porter.

Against: None.

Recused: None.

Motion Passes: 10 - 0.

2. 25-1027 A1 – violation of OAR 830-030-0090, respondent entered the wrong date of death on the death record – Action civil penalty \$250

Moved: Canizares Second Naigus:

For: Canizares, Collins, Gaskill, Harris, Houston, Johnson, Leder, Naigus, Porter.

Against: Loveland.

Recused: None.

Motion Passes: 9 - 1.

3. 25-1028 A1 – violation of OAR 830-030-0090(1)(b) in that in contradiction to direction on the Cremation Authorization, cremains were released to the wrong person. Action civil penalty \$500

25-1028 B1 – violation of OAR 830-030-0090(2) in that the incident occurred while respondent was the facility manager. Action civil penalty \$500

Moved: Canizares Second Naigus:

For: Canizares, Collins, Gaskill, Harris, Houston, Johnson, Leder, Loveland, Naigus, Porter.

Against: None.

Recused: None.

Motion Passes: 10 - 0.

4. 25-1030 – Ratify

Moved: Canizares, Second: Naigus

For: Canizares, Gaskill, Harris, Houston, Johnson, Leder, Loveland, Naigus, Porter.

Against: None.

Recused: Collins.

Motion Passes: 9 - 0.

5. 25-1031 – Ratify

Moved: Canizares Second Naigus:

For: Canizares, Collins, Gaskill, Harris, Houston, Johnson, Leder, Loveland, Naigus, Porter.

Against: None.

Recused: None.

Motion Passes: 10 - 0.

6. 25-1032 A1 – violation of ORS 692.405 in that the ID disc was not affixed to the casket when presented for burial. Action civil penalty \$500

25-1032 A2 – violation of OAR 830-030-0000(8) in that neither of the respondent’s employees retained responsibility of the decedent until the ID disc was obtained and affixed to the casket. Action civil penalty \$500

Moved: Canizares Second Naigus:

For: Canizares, Collins, Gaskill, Harris, Houston, Johnson, Leder, Loveland, Naigus, Porter.

Against: None.

Recused: None.

Motion Passes: 10 - 0.

25-1032 B1 – violation of ORS 692.405 in that the ID disc was not affixed to the casket when presented for burial. Action civil penalty \$500

25-1032 B2 – violation of OAR 830-030-0000(8) in that respondent did not retain responsibility for the decedent until the ID disc was affixed to the casket. Action civil penalty \$500

Moved: Canizares Second Naigus:

For: Canizares, Collins, Gaskill, Harris, Houston, Johnson, Leder, Loveland, Naigus, Porter.

Against: None.

Recused: None.

Motion Passes: 10 - 0.

25-1032 C1 – violation of OAR 830-030-0000(7) in that its employee did not ensure that the ID disc was secured to the casket and that the number on the ID disc was the number recorded on the final disposition permit. Action civil penalty \$1000

25-1032 C2 – violation of OAR 830-030-0090(4)(h) in that the cemetery employee acting as sexton falsified the FDA by attesting with their signature that they had verified that the number on the ID disc was the number recorded on the FDA although no ID disc was present. Action civil penalty \$1000

Moved: Canizares Second Naigus:

For: Canizares, Collins, Gaskill, Harris, Houston, Johnson, Leder, Loveland, Naigus, Porter.

Against: None.

Recused: None.

Motion Passes: 10 - 0.

25-1032 C3 – violation of OAR 830-030-0090(4)(g) in that the date of disposition on the FDA is incorrect, showing disposition occurred on 8/4/2025, when the actual date of disposition was 8/7/2025, resulting in inaccurate cemetery records. Action civil penalty \$100

Moved: Canizares Second Naigus:

For: Canizares, Collins, Gaskill, Harris, Houston, Johnson, Leder, Loveland, Naigus, Porter.

Against: None.

Recused: None.

Motion Passes: 10 - 0.

7. 25-1033 – Ratify

Moved: Canizares Second Naigus:

For: Canizares, Collins, Gaskill, Harris, Houston, Johnson, Leder, Loveland, Naigus, Porter.

Against: None.

Recused: None.

Motion Passes: 10 - 0.

8. 25-1034 A1 – violation of ORS 692.025(6) in that it performed 13 interments while unlicensed and without acquiring a Temporary Burial Permit pursuant to ORS 692.280. Action civil penalty \$1,000 per interment (\$1,000 X 13 = \$13,000)

Moved: Canizares Second Naigus:

For: Canizares, Collins, Gaskill, Harris, Houston, Johnson, Leder, Loveland, Naigus, Porter.

Against: None.

Recused: None.

Motion Passes: 10 - 0.

25-1034 A2 – violation of ORS 692.025(6) in that it sold 15 interment rights while unlicensed. Action civil penalty \$1,000 per interment (\$1,000 X 15 = \$15,000)

Moved: Canizares Second Naigus:

For: Canizares, Collins, Gaskill, Harris, Houston, Johnson, Leder, Loveland, Naigus, Porter.

Against: None.

Recused: None.

Motion Passes: 10 - 0.

9. 25-1035 – Table

Moved: Canizares Second Naigus:

For: Canizares, Collins, Gaskill, Harris, Houston, Johnson, Leder, Loveland, Naigus, Porter.

Against: None.

Recused: None.

Motion Passes: 10 - 0.

10. 25-1036 A1 A2 – No Action

Moved: Canizares Second Naigus:

For: Canizares, Collins, Gaskill, Harris, Houston, Johnson, Leder, Loveland, Naigus, Porter.

Against: None.

Recused: None.

Motion Passes: 10 - 0.

11. 25-1037 A1 – violation of 830-030-0090 in that it did not provide payment to the complainant pursuant to the Consignment Agreement. Action \$1000 civil penalty

Moved: Canizares Second Naigus:

For: Canizares, Collins, Gaskill, Harris, Houston, Johnson, Leder, Loveland, Naigus, Porter.

Against: None.

Recused: None.

Motion Passes: 10 - 0.

12. 25-1038 A1 – violation of OAR 830-040-0050 (5) in that the website for Simple Cremation shows a physical address as 650 NE Holladay Suite 1600, Portland, OR. 97232. The immediate disposition company does not maintain a physical address at this location. Action – Revocation

Moved: Canizares Second Naigus:

For: Canizares, Collins, Gaskill, Harris, Houston, Johnson, Leder, Loveland, Naigus, Porter.

Against: None.

Recused: None.

Motion Passes: 10 - 0.

25-1038 A2 – violation of OAR 830-040-0000(13) in that no license is posted for Simple Cremation. Action – Revocation

Moved: Canizares Second Naigus:

For: Canizares, Collins, Gaskill, Harris, Houston, Johnson, Leder, Loveland, Naigus, Porter.

Against: None.

Recused: None.

Motion Passes: 10 - 0.

25-1038 A3 – violation of OAR 830-040-0050(6) in that Simple Cremation’s website contains a price for a simple cremation plan but does not include a hyperlink to a general price list.- Action – Revocation

Moved: Canizares Second Naigus:

For: Canizares, Collins, Gaskill, Harris, Houston, Johnson, Leder, Loveland, Naigus, Porter.

Against: None.

Recused: None.

Motion Passes: 10 - 0.

25-1038 B1 – violation of OAR 830-040-0050(5) in that the website for Simple Cremation shows a physical address as 650 NE Holladay Suite 1600, Portland, OR. 97232. The immediate disposition company does not maintain a physical address at this location. Action – Revocation

25-1038 B2 – violation of OAR 830-040-0000(13) in that no license is posted for Simple Cremation. – Action – Revocation

Moved: Canizares Second Naigus:

For: Canizares, Collins, Gaskill, Harris, Houston, Johnson, Leder, Loveland, Naigus, Porter.

Against: None.

Recused: None.

Motion Passes: 10 - 0.

25-1038 B3 – violation of OAR 830-040-0050(6) in that Simple Cremation’s website contains a price for a simple cremation plan but does not include a hyperlink to a general price list. – Action – Revocation

Moved: Canizares Second Naigus:

For: Canizares, Collins, Gaskill, Harris, Houston, Johnson, Leder, Loveland, Naigus, Porter.

Against: None.

Recused: None.

Motion Passes: 10 - 0.

13. 25-1042 – No Action

Moved: Canizares Second Naigus:

For: Canizares, Collins, Gaskill, Harris, Houston, Johnson, Leder, Loveland, Naigus, Porter.

Against: None.

Recused: None.

Motion Passes: 10 - 0.

After voting President Gaskill mentioned that he wanted to have the requirement to roll-call vote for every vote.

Member Loveland pushed to establish a rules advisory committee to review and change the verbiage in the rule that will specify that facilities must have a physical address.

There was a consensus to have a committee formed.

Member Loveland brought up Cascadia and pushed for OMCB to address this.

Member Loveland pushed for a committee to address dynamics related to having family sign a contract and then not pay, and funeral establishments proceeding with the cremation without payment, and family then wanting to have the cremated remains.

V Adjournment - the meeting adjourned at 2:19pm.