Alabama Private Investigator Regulatory Board (APIB)

Minutes of Meeting

July 15th, 2025

With proper and required notice provided to the Alabama Secretary of State and published on the Alabama Secretary of State's website, a meeting of the Alabama Private Investigator Regulatory Board was held on July 15, 2025, at 60 Commerce Street, Suite 1440, Montogomery Al.

Present were Chairperson Charles Knight, Vice-Chairman Jim Casteel, Jeff Hammock, Sheriff Derrick Cunningham, Ivan Gray, with a quorum of board members being present. And attending via zoom was Scott Hawk and Darrell Tatum. In attendance was executive director, Claire Austin, Will Parker, and Hunter Sims, Legal Counsel the meeting was called to order at approximately 10:30 AM.

Sheriff Derrick Cunningham offered a Prayer. Upon closure, the board reviewed the agenda. A motion from Ivan Gray was made to approve the agenda, with a second by Jim Casteel with the board unanimously approved the agenda.

Upon review of the minutes by the board, a motion to approve the minutes was offered by Sheriff Cunningham. and a second by Jim Casteel. The board unanimously voted to approve the minutes from the April meeting of the meeting.

Chairman Knight offered a thank you to the executive director from the board in appreciation for all the work they have undertaken for the board.

From the executive director's report, the board is still pending another appointment to the board by Governor Ivey's office. The Sunset Review Committee meeting is on August the 25th and August the 26th at the state house with the board members asked to be in attendance. Will Parker provided that at present there were 26 renewals, 44 apprentices, 80 agency licenses and 30 sponsors with approximately 600 licensed investigators. There are 6 active complaints pending. Mr. Parker provided the financial report for the board members. The Board is in sound financial shape.

Ben Albritton, Legal Counsel stated that the Investigative Committee did review five cases prior to the Board meeting for disciplinary action. The Attorney General's report provided that 5 cases were reviewed for disciplinary action.

The new amended contract with the Austin Group was discussed. The contract is due July the 24th 2025 for the executive director's contract. The board voted to approve a 5% increase to the contract. Upon a motion from Jeff Hammock and a second from sheriff Derek Cunningham, the board voted unanimously to approve the 5% increase A roll call vote was taken with all board members voting yes.

Upon a discussion of the board regarding "background checks," a motion from Jim Casteel for the board to adopt a policy that background checks fall under the definitions as outlined in 34- 25B. Ivan Gray offered a second to the motion and the board was unanimous in their vote.

At approximately 11:38 AM motion to adjourn was offered by Jim Casteel with a second from Sheriff Derek Cunningham, it was unanimous to adjourn

Charles Knight, Chairman

CK Knight

Claire H. Austin, Executive Director

Claire H. Austin 11/18/23
