Dr. Bryant Ashley, Board President, opened the meeting at 1:30 pm with all Board members present except Edward Spears, Herman Shirley, Dr. Herman Ginger, and Dr. Shane Ford. Others present were Dr. Howard Flippin, Board Executive Director, Ms. Bonita Wineman, Board assistant, Mr. Kevin O’Dwyer, Board attorney, Vickie Farmer of the Arkansas Optometric Association, Dr. Brad Diner of the Arkansas Medical Foundation, Dr. Jason Bright, and Dr. Allison Hall.

Dr. Smalling presented the minutes of the August 16, 2018 Board meeting.

Dr. Hennessey made a motion to approve the minutes. Dr. Ford made a second. The motion passed.

In Mr. Shirley’s absence, Dr. Flippin reported on the Board accounting update. Most of the finances are very routine with enough funds to make it through the end of the year without transferring funds. Our reserve funds are approximately $272,000.

Dr. Hennessey made a motion to approve the financial report. Dr. Ford made a second. The motion passed.

Dr. Flippin and Mr. O’Dwyer led a discussion of the changes in the administration and boards coming out of the Governor’s office. Most Board members were somewhat skeptical of the changes as being positive for the future function of the Board. The Legislature has to pass legislation to implement these changes.

Dr. Diner of the Arkansas Medical Foundation presented a letter on Dr. Jason Bright reporting that he had made all of his requirements of his contract and was in full compliance. Dr. Bright has a voluntary contract with AMF for 12 months beginning in July. Dr. Bright was present and the Board had a brief discussion about his past, present, and future.

The hearing for Stringz Eyebrow Threading was postponed until the February 2019 Board meeting.

The proposed 2019 meeting dates are February 14, April 25, June 13, August 15, October 17, and November 21. Exams are scheduled for February 14 and June 15. February 27 is the ARBO regional meeting in New Orleans and the ARBO annual meeting will be June 16-18 in St. Louis. Jurisprudence will be given April 26-28 in Little Rock and in October in Rogers.

Dr. Hennessey made a motion to accept these 2019 meeting dates. Dr. Ford made a second. The motion passed.

The owner of Usha’s Eyebrow, Usha Budhathoki, contacted Mr. O’Dwyer and sent an email to the Board apologizing for missing her hearing last Board meeting and request forgiveness. She will be out of the country until December 11.

Dr. Hennessey made a motion to have Ms. Budhathoki come before the Board at the February 14 meeting. Dr. Ford made a second. The motion passed.

Dr. Ashley handed out a handout on the new prescribing limits for oral opioids in Morphine Milligram Equivalent (MME). New standards are 50 MME per day which appears to be excessive for most uses in Optometry. These new standards are to be added to the Board Rules and Regulations of the Board. Opioids can only be prescribed for 72 hours and must be seen prior to a refill.

Dr. Flippin reported that he had heard nothing from the Governor’s office about the two lay person appointments or Dr. Hennessey’s reappointment.
The next Board meeting is scheduled for November 29 at the Victory Building. The Jurisprudence will be October 26 in Rogers. Dr. Ford and Dr. Flippin will not be able to attend. A pop quiz is planned with notation on the Arkansas Medical Foundation impaired provider program, the PMP, and the oral opioid MME requirements.

Dr. Flippin reported that minimum VA requirements for drivers in Arkansas is now 20/70. Also the issue of eight year drivers license was also noted.

   Dr. Ford made a motion to pay mileage and per diem for the Board meeting. Dr. Hennessey made a second. The motion passed.

   Dr. Ford made a motion to adjourn. Dr. Hennessey made a second. The motion passed.

The meeting adjourned at 2:20 pm.

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Dr. Bryant Ashley, President

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Dr. Robert W. Smalling, Secretary/Treasurer