

**Online Auctions Ad Hoc Committee of the
VIRGINIA AUCTIONEERS BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

The Online Auctions Ad Hoc Committee of the Virginia Auctioneers Board met on May 5, 2026, at the Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation, 9960 Mayland Drive, Richmond, Virginia 23233.

The following committee members were present for all or part of the meeting:

Josh Puffenbarger (Auctioneer)
Angela Smith-Mackey (Citizen Member)
Charlie Watts (Committee Member)

Staff present for all or part of the meeting were:

Laura McClintock, Director
Steve Kirschner, LRPD Director
Kate Nobsch, Executive Director
Kyle Mathews, Regulatory Operations Administrator
Davon Jones, Administrative Coordinator
Joseph Haughwout, Regulatory Affairs Manager
Jennifer Sayegh, Policy and Legislative Affairs Manager
Tom Payne, CID Director
Free Williams, Director of Adjudication
Johnathan Darden, Director of Investigations - Region 1
John Grieser, Director of Investigations - Region 2

No one was present from the Office of the Attorney General.

Ms. Nobsch called the meeting to order at 10:14 a.m. Mr. Puffenbarger moved to nominate Ms. Smith-Mackey as Chair of the Online Auctions Ad Hoc Committee. Mr. Watts seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved by Puffenbarger, Smith-Mackey, Watts.

Call to Order

Ms. Smith-Mackey advised the Committee members of the emergency evacuation procedures. Ms. Nobsch advised Committee members of the 911 procedures.

**Emergency
Evacuation
Procedures**

Mr. Puffenbarger moved to approve the agenda. Mr. Watts seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved by members: Puffenbarger, Smith-Mackey, Watts.

**Approval of
Agenda**

There was no public comment.

**Public Comment
Period**

Ms. Nobsch discussed Senate Bill 578 and the ongoing effort to develop a framework for online auctions in Virginia. Members discussed defining online auctions, online auctioneers, and auction firms, while reviewing approaches used in states such as Ohio and Alabama.

Online Auctions

Mr. Payne, Mr. Darden, and Mr. Grieser discussed enforcement challenges related to online auctions, including jurisdiction, subpoena limitations, interstate and international concerns, and consumer protection. Discussion generally focused on tying jurisdiction to the location of the property or assets being sold within Virginia.

The committee also reviewed online auction laws from several states, including Ohio, Alabama, Tennessee, Kentucky, Illinois, Louisiana, and North Carolina. Tennessee was discussed due to ongoing litigation involving its online auction law.

The committee discussed distinctions between licensed auctioneers, online auction companies, software providers, and marketplace platforms such as eBay. Members discussed exemptions for technology providers that only host platforms and do not actively conduct auctions.

The committee went into recess from 11:21 a.m. to 11:35 a.m.

Recess

The committee discussed cybersecurity, credit card security, online transaction safeguards, and consumer protection concerns associated with online auctions. Members noted these topics may be more appropriate for future regulatory discussion.

**Online Auctions
(Cont.)**

Members also discussed whether online auctions should be incorporated into Virginia's existing auctioneer licensing structure or require a separate credential.

Mr. Puffenbarger contacted Ohio auction representative Wade Baer by speakerphone. Mr. Baer discussed Ohio's implementation process, online platform exemptions, enforcement experiences, and complaint trends.

The committee agreed additional work would be needed before recommendations are presented to the full Auctioneers Board. Staff and committee members agreed to continue reviewing statutory language from Virginia and other states while developing draft definitions and proposed language for future review.

Director McClintock and Mr. Payne departed the meeting at 12:20 p.m.
Mr. Darden and Mr. Greiser departed the meeting at 12:25 p.m.

**Departure of
DPOR Staff**

There was no other business discussed before the committee.

Other Business

Conflict of Interest forms and Travel Vouchers were completed by all Committee members present.

**Conflict of
Interest Forms /
Travel Vouchers**

Adjourn

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:28 p.m.

Angela Smith-Mackey, Committee Chair

Laura V. McClintock, Secretary

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