

BAIL BOND BOARD MEETING

OCTOBER 20, 2016

THOSE PRESENT:

Judge Clint Woods

Judge Dollinger

Lt. Beadle

Cindy Ferguson

Pat Knauth

Stacie Munselle

Becky Garcia

Tim Funchess

Keith Day

James Makin

Mary Godina

Tina Landry

Rhonda Brode

Tom Roebuck

Judge Plessala

Judge Giblin

Brandi Sewell

1 JUDGE DOLLINGER: We're going to call our
2 October meeting of the Jefferson County Bail Bond Board to
3 order.

4 Before we get started, we've had a little problem
5 the past few months of people talking over one another. Our
6 reporter is doing a diligent yeoman's job of attempting to take
7 down everything that's said; but, unfortunately, she can only
8 take down one person at a time. So I'm going to ask that if
9 you have something to say, wait until the person speaking ahead
10 of you stops, you get recognized, make all the comments you
12:31 PM 11 want to make. Nobody is going to be cut short. And then that
12 way she will be able to take down everything that is said.

13 First order of business is to review minutes. But I
14 understand that the July and August minutes were approved at
15 the last month's September board meeting. And the September
16 minutes have not yet been reduced to writing, so those will be
17 posted on the website as soon as possible.

18 The second order of business is report from the
12:32 PM 19 District Attorney's office regarding the status of collections.
20 Mr. Knauth has passed out from Judge Wortham's office a sheet
21 showing a total of just over \$8,000 collected during the month
22 of September. Are there any comments or discussion on the
23 District Attorney's collections? Hearing none, we'll move on.

24 The next is consideration and approval of
25 applications. Do we have any today?

1 MS. GARCIA: We don't have any today. I do
12:32 PM 2 want to cover the application that we had last week for Derrick
3 Dixon. Derrick Haynes did come back and supply me with his
4 criminal background check. Everything is in order so we can
5 firmly approve this application. That was the only thing that
6 was holding, you know, tabling this application.

7 The other issue is Gary Leach has not -- was to --
8 they were to submit their application to be approved at this
9 meeting to continue writing. They have not. It's my
12:33 PM 10 understanding that they are not going to renew their
11 application and step out of the business.

12 JUDGE DOLLINGER: So they will automatically
13 be suspended from writing the bonds; is that correct?

14 MS. GARCIA: That is correct. Now, the only
15 issue that I have is I think the board needs to decide is
16 whether that is effective immediately upon this meeting, or do
17 we want to let them go into their original date, which would be
18 the 26th?

19 JUDGE DOLLINGER: Is that the date when their
20 current license expires?

12:33 PM 21 MS. GARCIA: Yes. But they would have had to
22 renew at this meeting to continue.

23 JUDGE DOLLINGER: Comments? Suggestions?

24 MR. DAY: I think their license runs until it
25 expires regardless of whether they filed a new app or not.

1 JUDGE DOLLINGER: I would be of the same
2 opinion, but I defer to Mr. Roebuck and Mr. Knauth if you have
3 different opinions or Judge Woods if you have a different
4 opinion. I would think your license is good until the day it
5 says it's good. And as long as it's a good license, I would
6 believe that you're still -- assuming everything else is okay.
12:34 PM 7 You have the necessary collateral and you're in good standing,
8 I would think you could continue until the expiration date
9 shown on the license we granted.

10 Okay. Then we'll call for -- unless there is
11 discussion, we'll call for a vote on Mr. Dixon's application.
12 All those in favor approving say aye.

13 (RESPONSES MADE)

14 JUDGE DOLLINGER: All those against approving
15 signify by the same sign. Hearing none, his application is
16 approved.

17 Any complaints against bondsmen?

12:34 PM 18 MS. GODINA: No, sir, I don't have any.

19 JUDGE DOLLINGER: All right. We have a report
20 from the treasurer's office Mr. Funchess passed out showing the
21 amount of collateral in cash and in CDs that's up for -- I'm
22 sorry -- cash and CDs up for collateral against bonds. Any
23 comments that need to be made, Mr. Funchess, other than the
24 report itself?

25 MR. FUNCHESS: No, sir.

1 JUDGE DOLLINGER: Okay. Next item of business
2 is report from the auditor's office. We have a three-page
12:35 PM 3 report that was passed out at the beginning. Are there any
4 issues that we need to pay attention to?

5 MS. BRODE: No, sir. I just want to make a
6 note that we did end 2016 on a positive note.

7 JUDGE DOLLINGER: That's a rarity, and we're
8 happy.

9 MS. BRODE: Uh-huh.

10 JUDGE DOLLINGER: Okay. Next item is release
11 of collateral for Mr. Stone. I believe this was taken up at
12 the last meeting; is that correct? Did we speak of it?

12:36 PM 13 MS. GODINA: I think it was just brought up,
14 but I did get a call from his son asking for the property to be
15 released. They have a buyer for some property, so that's why
16 we put it on the agenda.

17 JUDGE DOLLINGER: And there are no
18 outstandings against his collateral; is that correct?

19 MS. LANDRY: Yes, everything is clear.

20 JUDGE DOLLINGER: Everything is clear Any
21 discussion on releasing Mr. Stone's collateral to the estate?

22 MS. BRODE: I do have a question.

12:36 PM 23 JUDGE DOLLINGER: Yes.

24 MS. BRODE: There was numbers on the report
25 last month, and then this month they just disappeared. Can you

1 tell me how they've cleared up?

2 MS. GARCIA: What numbers were you referring
3 to?

4 MS. BRODE: There were forfeitures and bonds.

5 MS. GARCIA: For who?

6 MS. BRODE: Mr. Stone.

7 Does anyone know how those numbers cleared up?

8 JUDGE DOLLINGER: I certainly don't.

9 MS. LANDRY: I think they were over 10 years

12:36 PM 10 old, and I think -- the way it was described to me. Is that
11 right?

12 MS. GARCIA: Yes. And the D.A. was not going
13 to further execute or try to execute on it.

14 MS. LANDRY: Right.

15 MS. BRODE: Okay.

16 MS. GODINA: That came from Tina Cadena and --
17 what is that man's name?

18 MS. GARCIA: Corey?

19 MS. GODINA: No.

20 MR. KNAUTH: Gerald?

21 MS. GODINA: Gerald.

22 JUDGE DOLLINGER: Okay. Any other discussion
23 or comments on releasing Mr. Stone's collateral to the estate?

12:37 PM 24 Okay. Then it will be -- I'll sign the release.

25 Who is a notary here?

1 MS. GODINA: Tina is.

2 JUDGE DOLLINGER: Tina. All right.

3 Next and final item shown on the agenda for
4 today is a -- it says mandatory election of the chairman and
12:37 PM 5 the attorney for the Board as set forth in our bylaws.

6 Mr. Roebuck informed me he didn't know he was elected, and I
7 didn't get a yard sign, so I don't know if he's up for
8 reelection or not. But does anybody want this seat down here?
9 Speak now, please.

10 (LAUGHTER)

11 I'm assuming that's a negative. I don't hear
12 anything.

13 Mr. Roebuck, are you willing to continue on?

14 MR. ROEBUCK: I am willing to continue on.

12:38 PM 15 JUDGE DOLLINGER: Does anybody else want to
16 make any nominations from the floor? This is your opportunity.
17 Going once. Going twice.

18 MS. LANDRY: I can't vote or anything so --
19 but I just have a suggestion, like, if maybe we have Dustin
20 Galmor as a back-up in case Mr. Roebuck can't be here for some
12:38 PM 21 reason, kind of like we do the other board members, so to stay
22 in the loop on what's going on, kind of.

23 MR. DOLLINGER: Do you have any heartburn with
24 that, Mr. Roebuck, to have an associate board attorney or a
25 standby board attorney?

1 MR. ROEBUCK: No.

2 MR. KNAUTH: That's what he gets for coming to
3 a meeting.

4 MR. GALMOR: I would be willing to be a
5 back-up.

6 JUDGE DOLLINGER: Then we'll -- all those in
7 favor of maintaining the current chairman, attorney and adding
8 Mr. Galmor as a back-up attorney for the Board signify by
9 saying aye.

10 (RESPONSES MADE)

12:39 PM 11 JUDGE DOLLINGER: All of those opposed, same
12 sign. Hearing none, I guess they're elected by acclimation.

13 Is there any new business to bring before the
14 Board? Am I missing something?

15 MS. GODINA: You skipped number eight, Judge.

16 JUDGE DOLLINGER: I apologize. I certainly
17 did. As dad once told me, there is no end to how far you can
18 go in life if only you'll learn to read.

19 MS. LANDRY: I don't know whether you --

20 JUDGE DOLLINGER: I missed it. She just
21 brought that to my attention.

22 We have an item on the agenda that I bypassed
12:39 PM 23 accidentally. It is a release of a certificate of deposit to
24 the insurance company for which Thomas Snoddy is an agent. And
25 they have made that request; is that correct?

1 MS. LANDRY: I was relayed that they have.
2 Did they make it to you?

3 MS. GARCIA: Yes. Yes, the attorney for the
4 insurance company emailed me and was wanting that CD released.

5 JUDGE DOLLINGER: And are there any
6 obligations against that CD that would have to be satisfied
7 before we could vote to release it?

8 MS. GARCIA: No, sir.

12:40 PM 9 JUDGE DOLLINGER: So he's in good-standing, or
10 they are good-standing, the insurance company?

11 MS. GARCIA: Yes, sir.

12 JUDGE DOLLINGER: Any comments or discussion
13 on releasing the CD to the insurance company as requested?
14 Hearing none, all of those in favor of release signify by
15 saying aye.

16 (RESPONSES MADE)

17 JUDGE DOLLINGER: All of those opposed to
18 releasing it? Hearing none, it's so ordered.

19 Any other new business to bring before the
20 Board?

12:40 PM 21 MS. GODINA: I do have something, Judge. As
22 we all know, starting November 1st, we are going to be starting
23 the new process of the bonds that will not expire and the
24 magistrates at the jail, Judge Giblin and Judge Plessala will
25 be the ones to look at any AFRSs or surrenders of cases not

1 filed. Only cases that have not been filed, they will review
2 those. And I go out to the jail every morning. I'll get them
3 from them; and, in turn, I'll make a copy, give to Cindy, who
12:41 PM 4 holds all the bonds. And then she will return the bond and the
5 surrender or AFRS to the bondsmen. This is only for cases that
6 are not filed. We're going to work Monday through Friday.
7 We're not going to do any of the weekend stuff or the holidays,
8 just like your regular surrenders or anything that y'all do
9 now. So they'll need to be dropped at the jail. We've already
10 got with Lieutenant Beadle and the jail stuff there, so they
12:41 PM 11 know. When I go to morning arraignment, they'll be presented
12 to the magistrates at that time with the morning arraignment
13 paperwork and then Cindy and I will coordinate together on her
14 returning the bond back to the bondsmen. And her and I will be
15 the contact people for any of that kind of stuff, on cases not
16 filed only.

17 MS. FERGUSON: Right.

18 JUDGE GIBLIN: One side note, for those of you
19 who don't know, I'm Judge Giblin. This is Judge Plessala.
12:42 PM 20 We're retired judges, and we're doing the arraignments at the
21 jail, as Mary said. On your reasons for the surrender, make
22 sure you put something justified, okay, because we're going to
23 be looking at those, especially now since you can get off the
24 bond because they don't expire. So we're going to be watching
25 these, and there are some procedures on the books that says

1 they can have a hearing, the defendant or the defendant's
2 lawyer, can have a court refund money from the bondsmen. So
12:42 PM 3 make sure you're crossing your t's and dotting your i's so we
4 can make sure we don't get some problems develop. Okay? And
5 also for some reasons, contact Mary if you have some questions
6 about why I did something or did not do something. And she can
7 get give you an answer or get in touch with me. Okay? Trying
8 to make it work for y'all so y'all have a way to get off the
9 bonds because you can't get off anymore. The bonds, they're
10 forever. Okay.

11 MR. DAY: Are these copies?

12 MS. GARCIA: Yes. And to go along with that,
12:43 PM 13 there are going to be new forms that will be presented today to
14 the Board. I've already passed them out to certain people. I
15 will have some copies available to you guys after the meeting.
16 In both the AFRS and a true surrender, there is a provision in
17 here in the box that says if it's going to the magistrate or
18 not. He will also in here check to where a hearing is not
19 going to be required or it will be required and what date it's
20 set for or if he's approving it or denying it. And then the
12:43 PM 21 magistrate is provided with a place to date and sign it.

22 Again, this box is only to be used for if the case has not been
23 filed. Otherwise, it goes to the same chain that it's always
24 gone through to be filed with the Court.

25 MS. GODINA: Do you want to talk about the TRN

1 number?

2 MS. GARCIA: Yes. In addition, the way that
3 we're going to track this is with the TRN number. There has
12:44 PM 4 also been some changes to the cash bond, which doesn't concern
5 you; but to the surety bond form, as you can tell it's now
6 legal size paper. I accidentally came across an article that
7 says there has to be an oath from the surety on here, so that
8 has now been properly placed on the bond. That does have to be
9 signed and notarized by the bondsmen. I will also have those
10 forms available as well. But on it, is a place for the TRN
12:44 PM 11 number. The TRN number is the tracking method in which our
12 different departments are going to be using to submit a bond
13 that, you know, an AFRS that you want to get off of on a case
14 that hasn't been filed. The sheriff's department will put that
15 number on there for you. Any questions?

16 MR. DAY: So the sheriff's department is going
17 to be responsible for putting the TRN number now?

18 MS. FERGUSON: Yes.

19 MS. GARCIA: They create the TRN number, so
20 they will place it on there.

12:45 PM 21 MS. GODINA: Cindy, you got anything?

22 MS. FERGUSON: No.

23 JUDGE GIBLIN: Mary mentioned it, but it
24 doesn't start until November the 1st. We've already had some
25 people bring them to the jail, I think, ahead of time. You got

1 to wait until November the 1st for the new procedure to start.

2 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Once we get the TRN
3 number and so forth, we need it to surrender?

4 MS. GARCIA: At the time the bond is brought
5 to the jail, the jail will actually put it on the bond. Okay?
6 That's nothing that you will get access to or have it. If you

12:45 PM

7 want to file a surrender to the jail, again, they will look it
8 up and put it on here so that they can take this paper and go
9 match it up with this paper in the files that are kept at the
10 sheriff's office. So that's nothing that you're going to have
11 to know or write down or keep track of. This is solely for
12 like an interoffice kind of thing so we can know what paper
13 matches up with what. In the instance that a defendant goes

12:46 PM

14 and gets arrested, you know, for one charge but they end up
15 filing two, a bond was made on one; so we know how to, you
16 know, match everything up with.

17 MS. GODINA: When someone gets arrested, they
18 go through the book-in process, I guess. A TRN number is
19 created, so it's something we see in the computer. And so
20 whenever a surrender is filed or the AFRS, that's how we're
21 going to try to track, to make sure to keep the right number on
22 the right person for the right charge because, as you know, you
12:46 PM 23 know, people get arrested four or five times for the same
24 charge at different times or whatever. So that number is
25 created at the jail by their arrest; and so then, in turn,

1 we're going to put that number -- well, the jail will put that
2 number on the paperwork and that's how the numbers will be
3 tracked. That's how we know y'all are off of the correct bond
4 for the right charge for the right person on the right arrest
5 date.

6 MR. DAY: Okay. On the voluntary surrenders,
12:47 PM 7 are the sheriff department still going to supply these?

8 MS. GARCIA: We've discussed this. We've
9 discussed where it's going to be a fillable pdf file that they
10 can pull up over there and fill all the information in.
11 However, it's still going to have to be printed so that you can
12 sign it and have it notarized but that is a requirement.

13 MR. DAY: Okay. But I guess what I'm asking
12:47 PM 14 is we get these copies, these double copies from the sheriff's
15 department now. We don't have ours printed up. The sheriff's
16 department, when I go and I say I need some voluntary
17 surrenders, they give me a stack. Is that still going to be
18 procedure, or are we going to have to have our own printed up?

19 MS. GODINA: So you get them now from the
20 sheriff's department?

21 MR. DAY: We go to the sheriff's department
22 and get a -- they basically just give us a stack of them.

23 MS. GODINA: So printing probably prints them?

12:48 PM 24 MS. GARCIA: I can email this to you.

25 JUDGE DOLLINGER: Can we make that a form on

1 the bail bond board website where each bondsman could have
2 access to it and download it and print it from that website for
3 themselves?

4 MS. GARCIA: That was my idea. After this
5 meeting was once these forms have been approved, to place them
6 on the bail bond board page.

7 JUDGE DOLLINGER: Does anybody in the bonding
8 industry have a problem with that, having them on the website
9 where you can download them and print them yourself?

10 (NO RESPONSES)

11 JUDGE DOLLINGER: Al, do you have another
12 question?

12:49 PM 13 MR. REED: Well, I was just wondering when
14 these new bonds go into effect? Because I was under the
15 impression that we had X amount of days to get new bonds done
16 and we ordered new bonds and now they're not any good. So
17 we're saying that we have legal size bonds instead of the
18 letter-size bonds.

19 MS. GODINA: I think at the meeting when they
12:49 PM 20 passed -- when the bond passed that the bonds were not going to
21 expire, I think at that point, we had said it was going to go
22 into effect 45 days from that date, which is actually October
23 31st. We're bumping it one more day to start on the first day
24 of the new month, which is November the 1st.

25 MR. REED: And we're required to have all of

1 this printing done just in a few days. I mean, that's -- that
2 is not possible.

12:49 PM 3 MR. DAY: Well, I think probably is there any
4 way on the oath that we can do that on a separate -- if we have
5 it printed up on a separate form and we turn it in with the
6 bond -- attach it with the bond and turn it in? Because I
7 think what Al is saying, there is no way that, you know, by
8 October 31st, we may not be able to have these printed up. We
9 have them professionally printed up.

10 MS. GARCIA: And I apologize. I just read
11 this in the statute yesterday.

12:50 PM 12 JUDGE GIBLIN: What's the effect if it doesn't
13 have the oath?

14 JUDGE DOLLINGER: Ask the lady who read it; I
15 didn't read that.

16 MS. GARCIA: Do you have your copy?

17 JUDGE DOLLINGER: I do.

18 MS. GARCIA: For years we've gotten away with
19 without it. We are probably one of the only counties that
20 currently do not have this oath on the bond right now.

12:50 PM 21 Judge, here is the article and a copy of the
22 bond.

23 We haven't had a problem so far with it not
24 being on there; but going back and looking at other counties in
25 comparison, we are in the minority of not having this oath on

12:51 PM

1 the bonds. Again, I don't think we've ever had a problem in
2 the past with it. So if we want to put this off in a delay,
3 say, until after the first of the year before it would go into
4 effect, I mean, I --

5 JUDGE GIBLIN: My point is we've been doing
6 it, like you said, for a long time. Why -- I don't want to
7 punish them for something we found out yesterday. Okay?

8 MS. GARCIA: Right.

9 JUDGE GIBLIN: Why can't -- if you don't want
10 to delay it, why couldn't they get a stamp of the oath and
11 stamp it on the back of the bond until they get them printed
12 up?

13 JUDGE DOLLINGER: I think that's a good
14 solution. The oath is there.

15 JUDGE GIBLIN: It's there.

12:51 PM

16 JUDGE DOLLINGER: It's a simple matter, as
17 long as the oath is with the bond, we are in compliance with
18 the law.

19 JUDGE GIBLIN: Yeah, it don't have to be on
20 the front, it can be on back.

21 MR. REED: That's a great idea.

22 JUDGE GIBLIN: That will work?

23 MR. REED: That will be great.

24 JUDGE GIBLIN: Okay. Instead of delaying it,
25 that way you will be in -- whatever you want to do. Y'all --

1 I'm not on the board, but I'm just trying to figure out a way
2 to make it easy.

3 JUDGE DOLLINGER: Oh, I think that's an
4 excellent solution, Judge.

5 Any other new business?

12:52 PM

6 (PEOPLE SPEAKING IN UNISON)

7 JUDGE GIBLIN: Just have it on there somewhere
8 until you get the new ones printed up.

9 JUDGE DOLLINGER: Any old business that we
10 need to bring before the board?

11 MR. DAY: Judge, do we need want to set a
12 deadline on that? Or we just want to go January 1?

13 JUDGE GIBLIN: That's up to the Bail Bond
14 Board.

15 MR. DAY: Do you want to go January 1 on that
16 then?

17 JUDGE DOLLINGER: Well, I don't know. Mr.
18 Reed indicated he just ordered new forms. I don't know if he
19 ordered two months' worth or 20 years' worth or what he
12:52 PM 20 ordered. I don't want him to have to throw away what he just
21 spent money on.

22 MR. REED: We ordered a thousand.

23 JUDGE DOLLINGER: That's a week.

24 MR. DAY: That will last him a week.

25 JUDGE DOLLINGER: That's about a week's worth

1 for Al, I think.

2 Anybody have heartburn with January 1st being
3 the effective date to start using the form complete?

4 MR. DAY: You okay with January 1?

5 JUDGE DOLLINGER: If you have a few left at 1
6 January, go ahead and continue to use your stamp; but any order
12:53 PM 7 that any of the bonding companies that might place from now on
8 for their own forms, just be certain that your form conforms to
9 the legal-size surety bond. As long as you make your new
10 orders that way, I think we'll be in good shape.

11 MS. GARCIA: And, again, that form will also
12 be on our bail bond board website.

13 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: How soon will that be
14 on the site? Any idea?

15 MS. GARCIA: I would say by next Friday.
16 After I get this with our IT department and then they're able,
12:53 PM 17 it may be sooner but no later than next Friday.

18 JUDGE DOLLINGER: Any other old business to
19 bring before the board?

20 All right. Do I have a motion?

21 MR. FUNCHES: I move to adjourn.

22 MR. KNAUTH: Second.

23 JUDGE DOLLINGER: I have a motion and a second
24 that the meeting be adjourned. All those in favor?

25 (RESPONSES MADE)

1 JUDGE DOLLINGER: All of those opposed?
2 (NO RESPONSES)
3 JUDGE DOLLINGER: We are adjourned.
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25