

**BAIL BOND BOARD MEETING****MARCH 22, 2018**

THOSE PRESENT:

Judge Ken Dollinger

Judge Clint Woods

Keith Day

Lt. A Morris

Tamika Martin

Joleen Fregia

Tim Funchess

Quentin Price

Becky Garcia

Dustin Galmor

Tom Roebuck

1 JUDGE DOLLINGER: We'll go ahead and call the  
2 March, 2018 meeting of the Jefferson County Bail Bond Board to  
3 order. We have a quorum of voting members.

4 First item on the agenda is a review of the  
5 minutes from last month's meeting. Those were e-mailed out  
6 yesterday. If anybody has comments or questions about it, this  
7 would be the appropriate time to bring those up.

8 MS. GARCIA: They look good to me, Judge.

9 JUDGE DOLLINGER: Okay. Hearing none. We'll  
10 stand accepted as published.

11 Next item is report from the district  
12 attorney's office on the status of collected judgments. That  
13 was just recently passed out. Looks like total of \$2584  
14 collected during the month of February. Any comments, questions  
15 about the collections report?

16 Okay. The next item, number three, is  
17 application -- I'm sorry -- consideration and approval of  
18 application to become bondsmen or agents and renewals for the  
19 same. I believe the only one we have right now is a brand-new  
20 person just entered the bonding business, Joe Segura.

21 MS. GARCIA: Brand-spanking new.

22 JUDGE DOLLINGER: Joe's is up for renewal, and  
23 I've been told that it is all in order. So if anybody has any  
24 comments about Joe's application, this would be the time to  
25 bring it up. Do we need to vote on that, Becky?

1 MS. GARCIA: Yes, sir.

2 JUDGE DOLLINGER: Okay. We'll ask for a motion  
3 to approve Mr. Segura's renewal.

4 MR. FUNCHESS: I move to approve.

5 MR. DAY: Second.

6 JUDGE DOLLINGER: It's been moved and seconded  
7 we approve Joe Segura's renewal application. Any questions or  
8 comments? Hearing none, we'll call for a vote. All those in  
9 favor?

10 (RESPONSES MADE)

11 JUDGE DOLLINGER: All those opposed? Okay.  
12 Mr. Segura is yet again a bondsman.

13 Next is the treasurer's office report. It was  
14 recently passed out complete with color highlights this time.

15 MS. GARCIA: Actually, no. That's a separate  
16 report.

17 Oh, you're talking about the one Tim has. I  
18 am -- thought you were talking about mine. So sorry. I don't  
19 want to confuse anyone.

20 JUDGE DOLLINGER: I'm talking about the one Tim  
21 passed out. Any noteworthy things on there other than what you  
22 said about Mr. Werner's that's already been taken care of?

23 MR. FUNCHESS: No, sir.

24 JUDGE DOLLINGER: Okay. Next would be report  
25 from the auditor's office, but I don't know if we've received

1 one. Becky, did you get one through e-mail or otherwise?

2 MS. GARCIA: I have not heard from Rhonda.

3 JUDGE DOLLINGER: Okay. I understand she may  
4 be on vacation or out of the office. Is that accurate? Okay.  
5 Well, we don't have a report to consider or approve then.

6 Next is to consider and approve a new method of  
7 taking minutes for the board. And, Judge, you want to comment  
8 on that? Was that was sort of your suggestion.

9 JUDGE WOODS: What is your final answer on  
10 that, Mr. Galmor?

11 MR. GALMOR: I don't have my phone on me so I  
12 can't read my e-mail that I sent out.

13 MS. GARCIA: I have it.

14 MR. GALMOR: It basically says that the real  
15 requirement is that in the bond statute, it says that it has to  
16 be reduced to writing. So an audio recording and then posting  
17 the audio recording to the public would not work. That will  
18 work for open meetings, but the bond statute has an additional  
19 requirement that it's reduced to writing. So, I mean, I think  
20 the only two ways is you can do it is have a court reporter take  
21 it down or record it audio and then have it --

22 JUDGE DOLLINGER: Transcribed.

23 MR. GALMOR: -- later transcribed.

24 JUDGE DOLLINGER: Maybe that would be something  
25 appropriate we could talk to our state reps about bringing up

1 the next time the legislature gets together about maybe amending  
2 that. I can't imagine anybody being terribly opposed to us  
3 amending that to allow audio recordings.

4 JUDGE WOODS: Right.

5 JUDGE DOLLINGER: So maybe that's something we  
6 could speak to as a board and send a letter out to our two reps  
7 and state senators and see if maybe one of them would consider  
8 putting a bill like that in the hopper for us.

9 MR. FUNCHESS: They're already drafting interim  
10 charges so you better get on it pretty quick.

11 JUDGE DOLLINGER: Okay. All right. We'll pass  
12 on that one since we can't do anything.

13 Item eight, consider and approve Roger Moore to  
14 hold a seminar related to bail bond board matters, the 26th of  
15 April at a cost of \$1,000. That will be held here; is that  
16 correct, Becky?

17 MS. GARCIA: Yes, sir. Depending on the number  
18 of attendees, either we can hold it in a court room if one of  
19 the court rooms that will be available or I will ask  
20 commissioners if we can have the jury impaneling room because I  
21 would really like to extend this out to everyone that's involved  
22 with every bit of this process.

23 JUDGE DOLLINGER: Okay. Would we want to  
24 consider inviting bail bond board members from adjacent  
25 counties, assuming they would pay part of the cost of having

1     them?

2                     MS. GARCIA:   We can absolutely do that.

3                     JUDGE DOLLINGER:   Does anybody have a heart  
4     burn with us asking -- I don't know which counties have boards  
5     and which ones don't but I'm sure the bondsmen will be able to  
6     tell us.

7                     MR. REED:   Only Orange.

8                     MR. DAY:   Orange.   And Jasper but that's a  
9     little off.

10                    JUDGE DOLLINGER:   We could extend an invitation  
11    to Jasper and Orange Counties if they want to help us defray the  
12    cost of having them down here to say, you know, \$150 per county.  
13    That would cut us down to 700, if the two of them did it.  
14    Anybody got any heart burn with that?   Okay.   Let's see about  
15    inviting them.   I don't know if they'll come, but at least we'll  
16    ask.

17                    Want to vote:   All those in favor of asking  
18    Mr. Moore to put on that seminar here in Beaumont?   Anybody want  
19    to make that motion?

20                    JUDGE WOODS:   I make a motion.

21                    MR. DAY:   Second.

22                    JUDGE DOLLINGER:   I have a motion and a second  
23    that we have Mr. Moore come to Beaumont on April 26th.   Any  
24    discussion?   All those in favor?

25                    (RESPONSES MADE)

1 JUDGE DOLLINGER: All those opposed?

2 Motion passes.

3 Item nine has been removed because it's already  
4 been disposed of.

5 Item 10 is to consider approve releasing \$540  
6 of collateral held by the late Harold Laine to his wife Shirley  
7 Laine upon tendering of letters testamentary to the treasurer's  
8 office. Have you received them as of yet?

9 MR. FUNCHESS: Not yet.

10 JUDGE DOLLINGER: Okay. Anybody want to make a  
11 motion that upon receipt of them, we can release the monies to  
12 her?

13 MR. FUNCHESS: I'll make that motion.

14 JUDGE WOODS: I'll second.

15 JUDGE DOLLINGER: Have a motion and a second  
16 that ss soon as the treasurer's office is in possession of the  
17 letters testamentary that Shirley be allowed to remove \$540 in  
18 collateral that Hal had put up earlier.

19 Any discussion prior to the vote? Hearing  
20 none, we'll call question. All those in favor of allowing the  
21 treasurer to release upon receipt of the letters testamentary  
22 signify by saying "aye."

23 (RESPONSES MADE)

24 JUDGE DOLLINGER: All of those opposed? Motion  
25 carries.

1                   And finally, consider and approve releasing \$50  
2 held by Kenneth Randle per court order to be applied to  
3 outstanding balance on a judgment nisi filed in county court.

4                   Is that your court? Do you know, Judge?

5                   JUDGE WOODS: I don't know.

6                   MS. GARCIA: It's one of our misdemeanor  
7 courts. I'm going to refer this to Mr. Price to speak on this  
8 issue because he is the ADA that handles our forfeitures.

9                   JUDGE DOLLINGER: Do you know which of the two  
10 misdemeanor courts it is?

11                  MR. PRICE: I don't know that I got that in  
12 front of me. I printed out all the judgement nisis. I can  
13 figure that out.

14                  JUDGE DOLLINGER: No, no.

15                  MR. PRICE: Whichever one it is, I mean, we  
16 need it in Judge Woods' court. The reason I say that is that  
17 because Judge Holmes in private practice was actually  
18 Mr. Randle's estate attorney so he doesn't need to be on that  
19 case. So whatever -- wherever it lands, we'll make the motion  
20 in Judge Woods court so that he can handle it. But basically  
21 what we're going to ask is that the Court enter a turnover order  
22 turning over the money that's in the -- deposited with the  
23 treasurer, turn that over to the county for satisfaction, or  
24 partial satisfaction, of the judgment that's outstanding. So  
25 anyway we're just trying to get some of that cleared up so



1     that's what we're proposing.

2                     JUDGE DOLLINGER: All right. Judge, you want  
3     to make that motion?

4                     JUDGE WOODS: Yes. I make that motion.

5                     MR. FUNCHESS: Second.

6                     JUDGE DOLLINGER: Motion and a second that we  
7     approve the release of the \$50 held by Mr. Randle, the case to  
8     be brought into Judge Woods' court. All those in favor?

9                     (RESPONSES MADE)

10                    JUDGE DOLLINGER: All those opposed? Motion  
11     carries.

12                    Is there any other business not on the agenda  
13     that needs to come before the Bail Bond Board for this month?

14                    MS. GARCIA: Judge, one thing is I kind of did  
15     a color-coded breakdown of all the attorneys listed on  
16     Mr. Funchess' report and where we stand with each one of them.  
17     Sorry, my color copy, you know, I'm limited to how many I can  
18     do. But I discussed with Tim earlier, the attorneys highlighted  
19     in red, my recommendation is that we reach out to them and let  
20     them know this money still on deposit with the county because a  
21     lot of these attorneys aren't practicing attorneys or practice  
22     very rarely these days and I think they just don't realize they  
23     still have money put up with us and we would like to go ahead  
24     and get that money off the books before something happens to  
25     them.

1 JUDGE DOLLINGER: Well, the ones that, Becky,  
2 that have outstanding bonds -- for instance, Mr. Adams comes to  
3 mind first. He's got \$500 on cash on deposit, \$2500 in bonds.  
4 Are we allowed to release the \$500 to him?

5 MS. GARCIA: We can because what he has out is  
6 still within his 20,000 limit the county gives him.

7 JUDGE DOLLINGER: Okay. Okay.

8 MS. GARCIA: The 500 is allowing him to have  
9 more than that 20-thousand-dollar pledge.

10 For example, Deborah Burke, she's fourth one  
11 listed, she hasn't practiced in this county in many years. Her  
12 current address is in San Antonio. I did make contact with the  
13 district clerk's office to see if they owed money so that  
14 notation is in my comments. I'm still awaiting on information  
15 on Paul Buchanan. I've sent an e-mail out back in February. I  
16 have, to date, not heard anything back from that.

17 So, again, the ones in green are the attorneys  
18 that are still have money put up that are deceased. So I just  
19 kind of think we need to move it on this to get the money out of  
20 our possession.

21 JUDGE DOLLINGER: Okay. And have letters been  
22 sent to the ones --

23 MS. GARCIA: Not yet. I wanted to show the  
24 board this information first before Mr. Funchess and his office  
25 proceeded with anything else.

1 JUDGE DOLLINGER: Okay.

2 MR. FUNCHES: Do they need to come before the  
3 board? I mean, if they're free and clear and we can return  
4 their money to them, does that matter have to come before the  
5 board for approval since they're lawyers?

6 JUDGE DOLLINGER: I don't think so. I mean,  
7 the monies they have covered on bonds is because of their status  
8 as a practicing attorney is the sheriff's credit that's allowed  
9 to them and this is above and beyond --

10 MS. GARCIA: Right.

11 JUDGE DOLLINGER: -- if I'm not mistaken. With  
12 the exception of possibly Mr. Shelander --

13 MS. GARCIA: Correct.

14 JUDGE DOLLINGER: -- who has 85,000 in bonds,  
15 and I would believe that to be above the limit that the sheriff  
16 allows unless there has been some change that I don't know of.

17 MS. GARCIA: Right.

18 JUDGE DOLLINGER: So his 20 or 19 plus probably  
19 would not go back to him at this time; is that accurate?

20 MS. GARCIA: That is accurate, and that's why  
21 he is not highlighted in red.

22 JUDGE

23 MR. PRICE: Wouldn't the board want to maintain  
24 control over whatever monies is deposited in their accounts, I  
25 mean, deposited with the treasurer's office?

1 MS. GARCIA: According to -- and I can't -- I'm  
2 probably going to refer to the wrong one -- in one of the codes,  
3 we don't -- we can't govern attorneys. Only if the attorney --

4 MR. PRICE: I understand that. I'm not talking  
5 about the attorneys. I'm talking about the money that they've  
6 already deposited to be bondsmen. It would just seem that  
7 before you release it, that you would want the board to know  
8 that, you know, we are releasing it. I mean, all it is is just  
9 bringing it to the next meeting, you know, and vote to release  
10 it because there is no outstanding --

11 MS. GARCIA: But if they're not on a bond,  
12 that's the issue.

13 MR. PRICE: Oh, I understand, I mean, that  
14 they're not on the bond. But Tim has got the money deposited in  
15 his accounts and it just seems that rather than -- I mean, it  
16 relieves Tim of the responsibility of making the decision and  
17 puts it on the board and the board gets to know what's going on.  
18 I'm just saying from a governance standpoint in the back of my  
19 mind, I think it would be better to do that.

20 MS. GARCIA: I think -- I think that would be  
21 great. We can put it on as an agenda item and that way each  
22 office would have a chance to clear anything up, you know, say  
23 yay or nay.

24 MR. PRICE: Again, I'm not on the board.

25 JUDGE DOLLINGER: No. We appreciate your

1 input.

2 MR. PRICE: My thought is it would be better  
3 approached if we bring it to the board.

4 JUDGE DOLLINGER: You would rather have it come  
5 to the board?

6 MR. FUNCHESS: Yes.

7 JUDGE DOLLINGER: Mr. Funchess indicates that  
8 he would prefer that it be brought in front of the board and  
9 everybody be notified and vote on it.

10 MS. GARCIA: That sounds good.

11 JUDGE DOLLINGER: So let's keep that practice.  
12 We just did that, in fact, moments ago with Hal Laine so --

13 MR. PRICE: Hal Laine.

14 JUDGE DOLLINGER: -- no reason to change up.  
15 Okay. Any other new business that we need to bring before the  
16 board today? All right.

17 MR. FUNCHESS: Move to adjourn.

18 JUDGE DOLLINGER: Move to adjourn.

19 JUDGE WOODS: Second.

20 JUDGE DOLLINGER: Second. We are adjourned.

21 (MEETING CONCLUDED)

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