

BAIL BOND BOARD MEETING

APRIL 19, 2018

THOSE PRESENT:

Judge Ken Dollinger

Judge Clint Woods

Betty Limbrick

Becky Garcia

Theresa Goodness

Keith Day

Tina Benoit

Rhonda Brode

Joleen Fregia

Lt. Aaron Morris

Tamika Martin

Tonja Voorhies

1 JUDGE DOLLINGER: We'll go ahead and call the
2 April meeting of the Jefferson County Bail Bond Board to order.

3 The first thing we want to go over is there was
4 a slight discrepancy in the posting. What got posted was
5 actually the April 6th notice and the addendum dated April 12th
6 was not posted so because of that, we're going to forego taking
7 up Items 11 through 15 this month and we'll add them next month.
8 Since it wasn't part of the public notice, I don't feel like
9 it's proper for us to take up those items.

10 Yes, ma'am.

11 MS. BENOIT: The only thing is for all of these
12 people that are wanting their -- 11 through 15 -- they're
13 attorneys. The Bail Bond Board does not govern them. Out of
14 courtesy we're doing this release for the treasurer's office and
15 it doesn't need approval by the Bail Bond Board. It's just they
16 want -- the treasurer just wants a letter.

17 JUDGE DOLLINGER: If it doesn't need approval,
18 then there is no --

19 MS. FREGIA: Auditors want it.

20 MS. BENOIT: The auditor's office wants a
21 letter. And I've drafted all the letters so --

22 JUDGE DOLLINGER: We don't have authority so
23 just send the letters to them. Let the auditor have the
24 letters, and they can release the attorneys' money since it's
25 not truly Bail Bond Board business.

1 MS. BENOIT: Exactly.

2 JUDGE DOLLINGER: That's a great solution. All
3 right.

4 First item is review of the minutes. I believe
5 they were emailed out yesterday. Is there any discussion or
6 corrections or additions to the minutes as they were sent?
7 Hearing none, we'll call for a motion.

8 JUDGE WOODS: I make a motion.

9 JUDGE DOLLINGER: We have a motion to approve.

10 MS. GOODNESS: Second.

11 JUDGE DOLLINGER: Second to approve. Any
12 discussion that anybody wants to have? We didn't have it
13 before. If anybody wants to say anything about them, do it now.
14 Hearing none, we'll take vote. All those in favor of approving
15 the minutes as they were e-mailed signify by saying aye.

16 (RESPONSES MADE)

17 JUDGE DOLLINGER: All those opposed same
18 signal -- by same sign. No.

19 Next is report from the district attorney's
20 office. That has just been passed out. Looks like a pretty
21 healthy month of collections, little over \$15,000 brought in
22 during the month of March which is great.

23 Anybody have any comments or discussion on the
24 collections? Okay.

25 Moving on. Applications to become bondsmen or

1 agents, do we have any?

2 MS. GARCIA: Yes, sir, we have three. I've
3 placed the certificates on top of the -- your copy of the
4 application.

5 JUDGE DOLLINGER: Okay.

6 MS. GARCIA: Everything is in order on all
7 three.

8 JUDGE DOLLINGER: Looks like we have one
9 from -- a renewal from David Fregia to be an agent for Financial
10 Casualty and Surety. And you said that his application is in
11 order?

12 MS. GARCIA: Yes, sir. All three of these have
13 been previously e-mailed out to all members of the board for
14 their re- -- to be reviewed.

15 JUDGE DOLLINGER: Okay. And then there is -- I
16 don't know who this person is, this Keith Day person. I don't
17 know where that came from.

18 MS. GARCIA: Random.

19 JUDGE DOLLINGER: His is there and Stan
20 Stanley's application for renewal is also there. And all three
21 of them have been emailed out and all of them are in order so if
22 there is any comments, questions, this is the time to do that.

23 MS. BRODE: Will any of the property values
24 change?

25 MS. GARCIA: Yes. I just gave Tina a list on

1 the adjusted values on Keith Day. His is the only one that will
2 be changing. It will be dropping about roughly 30 thousand but
3 he still has enough collateral out there to cover what's
4 currently written on.

5 MS. BRODE: And you'll give a copy of that to
6 the treasurer's office?

7 MS. GARCIA: Yes.

8 MS. BRODE: Okay. Thank you.

9 JUDGE DOLLINGER: Any other comments or
10 questions? Okay. Hearing none, we'll call for a vote. All
11 those in favor of approving the three renewals signify by saying
12 aye.

13 (RESPONSES MADE)

14 JUDGE DOLLINGER: All of those opposed, same.
15 Okay. They are approved.

16 Do we have any complaints? I notice that
17 Ms. Godina is not with us, but do we know if we have any
18 complaints?

19 MS. BENOIT: As far as I know, we do not.

20 JUDGE DOLLINGER: All right.

21 Next will be a report from the treasurer's
22 office. That also has been passed out. And I have one
23 question. I got this bond fee assessment dated April 5th. That
24 document, are y'all familiar with that document?

25 MS. BRODE: Did I put it on your desk?

1 JUDGE DOLLINGER: Well, actually Karen gave it
2 to me. I think it got emailed to her.

3 MS. BRODE: Oh, okay. Instead of Kathy
4 Wingate. (laughing) Karen Wiggins. Kathy Wingate Yes, that's
5 mine. I take care of it every month.

6 JUDGE DOLLINGER: So it has nothing to do with
7 us today, correct?

8 MS. BRODE: Well, Frank Adams, at the very top,
9 we can --

10 JUDGE DOLLINGER: Yes.

11 MS. BRODE: We cannot release his money because
12 he owes a 15-dollar fee.

13 MS. BENOIT: I'm going to contact his office
14 and I'm going to get the letter signed and once I find out he's
15 paid that, then I'll give that to the auditor as well.

16 MS. BRODE: Okay. That's it. You can throw it
17 away. It was -- thank you.

18 JUDGE DOLLINGER: Thank you, ma'am.

19 MS. BRODE: She didn't reply and say "huh"?

20 JUDGE DOLLINGER: Any comments or questions
21 regarding the treasurer's report on cash and CDs up for
22 collateral? I don't think we need a motion to accept that. I
23 don't believe.

24 Next is the auditor's office report. What do
25 we have, if anything, of note on there that we need to bring to

1 our attention?

2 MS. BRODE: I just wanted to say being six
3 months in, we're actually 23 hundred dollars in the black and
4 we've already paid for Roger Moore's class. So we're doing
5 good.

6 JUDGE DOLLINGER: And that's to be held, as a
7 reminder to everyone, Thursday next week right after lunch. Is
8 that correct?

9 MS. GARCIA: 12:30, this place right here.

10 JUDGE WOODS: Right here.

11 JUDGE DOLLINGER: 12:30 here in Judge Woods'
12 courtroom.

13 MS. GARCIA: Right here.

14 JUDGE DOLLINGER: Okay.

15 MS. GARCIA: So far we have a confirmed 22
16 attendees.

17 JUDGE DOLLINGER: That's great.

18 MS. GARCIA: So far.

19 JUDGE DOLLINGER: That's great. Did we invite
20 the people from Orange County or no?

21 MS. GARCIA: I did extend the invitation to the
22 bail bond board representative of Orange County, Mr. David
23 Fregia, and they have declined.

24 MR. FREGIA: Yeah, but I think a couple of them
25 may attend. I know Captain Marlow would like to come. There is

1 just a bunch of them that couldn't.

2 JUDGE DOLLINGER: No problem. I just want to
3 be sure that they at least got included.

4 MR. FREGIA: We appreciate y'all.

5 MS. GARCIA: I contacted the sheriff in Hardin
6 County, although they are a non bail bond board county, they're
7 kind of running into some things over there. He's a newly
8 elected official, and I've extended the invitation for him and a
9 plus one to attend as well.

10 JUDGE DOLLINGER: Great. Thank you. Okay.

11 Any questions about the auditor's office report? I don't think
12 we have any.

13 Next would be release of cash funds to Deborah
14 Burke. I'm not 100 percent sure that I'm aware of what
15 that's --

16 MS. BENOIT: She is an attorney that now lives
17 in San Antonio so she's kind of on the list of attorneys but I
18 have her letter as well.

19 JUDGE DOLLINGER: Okay. Paul Buchanan's money
20 is going to escheat to the State. Is that correct?

21 MS. BRODE: No, sir.

22 MS. GARCIA: Yes, I was corrected on this.
23 Rhonda, you want to go ahead and --

24 MS. FREGIA: We get the money under 100. The
25 treasurer's office gets any money under 100.

1 JUDGE DOLLINGER: Oh, okay. So it doesn't have
2 to escheat to the State of Texas; we are able to keep it local?

3 MS. FREGIA: And then we post it yearly on the
4 website.

5 JUDGE DOLLINGER: All right. So Mr. Buchanan's
6 release of cash will be to Jefferson County Treasurer's Office.
7 Okay.

8 Item number nine, consider and approve
9 foreclosing on Michael Barborek's pledged property to satisfy
10 outstanding debt from unpaid final judgments arising out of bond
11 forfeitures. And how much is the value of the property we're
12 foreclosing on? Does anyone have that figure?

13 MS. GARCIA: Well, it's roughly maybe 40,000,
14 50,000. This is the property that we previously in previous
15 years tried to negotiate a sale with him with the commissioner's
16 court because the type of closing, the proceeds were actually
17 going to be cut a check to the County instead of him. But I've
18 been kind of keeping my eye on this, and it slipped my mind a
19 few times, but he hasn't paid taxes in the last couple of years
20 and if I'm not mistaken, this property may have flooded. So
21 I've reached out to Mr. Price and to begin the foreclosure
22 proceedings on this property. I would rather the County get
23 something rather than nothing.

24 MS. GOODNESS: How much does he owe, Becky?

25 MS. GARCIA: A hundred thousand.

JUDGE DOLLINGER: Okay. Does anybody have questions or comments regarding the ability to go ahead and foreclose on this property and get whatever it is we're able to get to satisfy some small portion of what's owed to us? Okay. There being no comments, we'll call for a motion.

MS. GOODNESS: So moved.

JUDGE DOLLINGER: Okay. We have a motion.

JUDGE WOODS: Second.

JUDGE DOLLINGER: Second to approve foreclosure proceedings. All those in favor signify by saying aye.

(RESPONSES MADE)

JUDGE DOLLINGER: Anybody opposed? Okay.

And the final item on today's agenda is the release of a certificate of deposit to International Fidelity Insurance. Their agent locally is Scott Goodman. And we're releasing this because -- is this because he's no longer writing bonds with us? Is that accurate?

MS. GARCIA: Yes, sir.

JUDGE DOLLINGER: Okay. Anybody know of a reason why his money should not be released back to the insurance company since they're no longer writing bonds and I'm assuming, Becky, they have no outstandings?

MS. GARCIA: Correct. After running his name, he has no outstanding bonds he's currently on. He doesn't owe any money to the Jefferson County Clerk's office or District

1 Clerk's office or even the Sheriff's office; so I believe this
2 money is good to be released.

3 JUDGE DOLLINGER: Okay. Then we'll order it
4 released.

5 Is there any new business to come before the
6 Bail Bond Board that didn't make it on the agenda?

7 Any old business that needs to be taken up
8 again from previous meeting? Okay.

9 JUDGE WOODS: Can I just make an announcement?

10 JUDGE DOLLINGER: Yes, sir.

11 JUDGE WOODS: To the bondsmen, because I don't
12 know -- some of y'all may or may not be aware but we have no
13 more preset bonds in Jefferson County. And that's been that way
14 for about a month now.

15 MR. DAY: Joleen has a question.

16 MS. FREGIA: I have a question about Buchanan's
17 money. Is that going to come to me? Is it going to state in
18 the letter that it's being released to me for unclaimed money?
19 Can it say that, to come to me as unclaimed money?

20 MS. BENOIT: I can do that.

21 MS. FREGIA: That way it directs it, and it
22 shouldn't go to him or something. I mean, not me but that I'm
23 going to hold it in my unclaimed.

24 MR. PRICE: And let me give you just a little
25 update. Actually I was tracking down Mrs. Buchanan who is the

1 administrator of the estate and I had actually sent her out a
2 letter asking that she sign a letter saying, I authorize or I
3 approve the release of the funds from the treasurer's office to
4 Jefferson County as payment for the outstanding judgments that
5 are on Mr. Buchanan. So I haven't gotten a letter back from
6 Mrs. Buchanan yet. I actually reached out to her son who is an
7 attorney as well. He never contacted me, but I'm trying to get
8 Ms. Buchanan to sign it as the executor of the estate. So it
9 may be that we'll actually have a legal authorization saying
10 release the funds.

11 MS. FREGIA: Okay. Perfect.

12 MS. BRODE: Six of one; half dozen of another.
13 The treasurer's office is holding it no matter what. It's in
14 general operating. They're the ones --

15 MR. PRICE: But if you do it as an escheat,
16 does that leave the heirs the opportunity to come in and say, we
17 want the money?

18 MS. BRODE: Yes.

19 MR. PRICE: And see, that's what I'm saying.
20 That's why I was moving for her to sign it saying that you can
21 turn it over to the County.

22 MS. BRODE: Perfect.

23 MR. PRICE: So, I mean, that's just as an
24 update.

25 JUDGE DOLLINGER: Maybe the proper thing then

1 would be to wait a week or two to see if you get a response back
2 and then when you do, provide that to Tina and she can go ahead
3 and do what needs to be done.

4 MR. PRICE: Yes. I'll do that just as soon as
5 I get it. And if she doesn't sign it before long, I'll send one
6 of our investigators out and see if they can present it to her
7 to sign so we can get the i's dotted and t's crossed and get it
8 done.

9 MS. BRODE: That's good.

10 JUDGE DOLLINGER: Okay. What else? Okay.
11 Call for motion to adjourn.

12 MS. GOODNESS: So moved.

13 JUDGE WOODS: Second.

14 JUDGE DOLLINGER: Moved and second that we
15 adjourn, if you don't think that's appropriate, be quiet.

16 (MEETING CONCLUDED AT 12:45 P.M.)

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