

1 BAIL BOND BOARD MEETING

2 (VIA ZOOM)

3 JUNE 17, 2021

4

5 THOSE PRESENT: JUDGE RAQUEL WEST

6 JUDGE CLINT WOODS

7 BECKY BERTRAND

8 KELLIE HOLMES

9 GLENDA SEGURA

10 PATRICK KNAUTH

11 JAMIE SMITH

12 THERESA GOODNESS

13 RHONDA BRODE

14 DONTA MILLER

15 THOSE PRESENT VIA ZOOM: JUDGE RANSOM "DUCE" JONES

16 VALENCIA SIMPSON

17 KEITH DAY

18 TOM ROEBUCK

19 JOLEEN FREGIA

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1 JUDGE WEST: All right. We're going to
2 call the meeting to order. The first item on the
3 agenda, review minutes from last month's meeting. Those
4 were all e-mailed out, I believe, yesterday. I will
5 need a motion and -- to approve those.

6 MS. GOODNESS: I make a motion to approve,
7 as written.

8 JUDGE WEST: Is there a second?

9 JUDGE WOODS: Second.

10 JUDGE WEST: Judge Woods seconds.

11 All those in favor?

12 (RESPONSE)

13 JUDGE WEST: Any opposed?

14 (NO RESPONSE)

15 JUDGE WEST: All right. That passed.

16 Report from District Attorney's Office.

17 Mr. Knauth's here. Any questions?

18 (NO RESPONSE)

19 JUDGE WEST: Okay. Consideration and
20 approval of applications or renewals for bondsmen. Do
21 we have any?

22 MS. BERTRAND: Not for this month.

23 JUDGE WEST: Okay. Complaints against
24 bondsmen?

25 MRS. HOLMES: No, ma'am.

1 JUDGE WEST: Okay. Report from the
2 treasurer? It was sent out, right?

3 MS. SEGURA: Yeah.

4 JUDGE WEST: Any question of Joleen on that
5 one?

6 (NO RESPONSE)

7 JUDGE WEST: That's not for approval?

8 MS. FREGIA: Correct.

11 MS. SEGURA: Yes.

12 | JUDGE WEST: Yes.

13 MS. SEGURA: Keith Day. And he will still
14 be in good standings.

15 JUDGE WEST: There's a request to release a
16 Cashier's Check No. 275675 totaling \$30,000.00 to
17 Keith Day. And the math has already been done, and he
18 would still be fine on his number if we do that. Any
19 questions or concerns about that?

20 (NO RESPONSE)

21 JUDGE WEST: Any motions or anything like
22 that? Anyone?

23 MS. GOODNESS: I make a motion CD for
24 Keith Day be released.

25 MR. WOODS: Second.

1 JUDGE WEST: There's a motion and a second.

2 Any other discussion?

3 (NO RESPONSE)

4 JUDGE WEST: All those in favor?

5 (RESPONSE)

6 JUDGE WEST: Any opposed?

7 (NO RESPONSE)

8 JUDGE WEST: All right. That passes. Is

9 that -- was that the only one?

10 MS. SEGURA: Yes.

11 JUDGE WEST: And report from the Auditor's
12 Office.

13 MS. BRODE: I am working with the County
14 Clerk, the District Clerk and the Courts to clean up the
15 page, the new report. Only about four items got cleaned
16 up last month. So, I'm going to urge everyone to
17 continue doing the research to see if we can update any
18 others. And on the attorney -- I guess this is just a
19 question on my part. Gordon Freeze was in default. I
20 just don't know if I understand the process 100 percent.
21 He had an accusation bond that actually had a case
22 assigned to it. Does the default not stop it or trigger
23 the person putting the case on his -- because his
24 bonding amount went up, and I thought defaults stopped
25 all bonds. Is that not true? I'm just trying to get

1 clarity.

2 MS. BERTRAND: What happens, as you and I
3 discussed, the bonds were made way back when. It was a
4 \$5,000 misdemeanor bond and a \$10,000 felony bond. The
5 misdemeanor bond had been -- case had been filed, that
6 bond got attached, no problem. It's when the felony
7 case was filed but the bond was already made but the
8 felony case is just now coming around to get filed. It
9 didn't trigger a default. It didn't trigger anything
10 because that bond had already gone through the process
11 of writing it and getting it at the Sheriff's
12 Department. So, it's coming in after the fact. So,
13 there was a jump increase of 10,000, but nothing was
14 triggered anywhere. So, the bond was made back in,
15 what, 2020.

16 MS. BRODE: Right.

17 MS. BERTRAND: The felony case just got
18 filed last month.

19 MS. BRODE: It was an accusation bond.
20 These are the bonds that I'm concerned about all the
21 time because I don't have any way of tracking them.
22 This guy's in default. It was for a fee. I'm sure he's
23 paid it by now.

24 MS. BERTRAND: He's paid it.

25 MS. BRODE: But at the same time, we could

1 have had him pay or if he had a forfeiture or something
2 like that. That's why I was trying to figure out if
3 someone overrode or --

4 MS. BERTRAND: The system only alerts it to
5 not allow a bond to be written at that time the bond is
6 being written at the facility. The facility has certain
7 procedures they go through, and they check the person's
8 name that's writing the bond to see if they're in
9 default or not. But since this was done last year and
10 the Sheriff's Office was just basically holding the bond
11 until the case got filed, that part of it had already
12 been done. So, it wasn't until the felony case got
13 filed did that bond get attached, and then his amount
14 shot up.

15 MS. GOODNESS: He was in default before the
16 felony case got filed. Is that what I'm hearing?

17 MS. BERTRAND: Yeah.

18 MS. GOODNESS: That makes sense to me.

19 JUDGE WEST: I don't know what the fix is,
20 though, or if there is one.

21 MS. BERTRAND: I don't really think there
22 is one during this time that we're still in the AS400.
23 I do think the new system we will have a lot more bells
24 and whistles that will --

25 JUDGE WEST: Connect us to everybody.

1 MS. BERTRAND: -- alert us, because we will
2 be able to keep up with accusation bonds that the bonds
3 at the jail is holding but can't send over because the
4 case hasn't been filed yet.

5 JUDGE WEST: Good. All right.

6 MS. BRODE: The second thing is, all of the
7 out-of-county bonds that have gone to Jasper, Newton,
8 Orange, Tyler and actually out-of-county bondsman's
9 report, there -- out of those, four out of the five have
10 forfeiture statuses. That means that someone in these
11 numbers have forfeitures that are due to us, yes? Is
12 that -- when you're in forfeiture status, that's what
13 that means, right?

14 MS. BERTRAND: It means there is a
15 forfeiture of a bond. We don't know if that hearing has
16 been held --

17 MS. BRODE: Okay.

18 MS. BERTRAND: -- to determine whether the
19 Court will continue with forfeiture of the bond. It
20 just means that that person didn't show up for court.

21 MS. BRODE: The reason I'm pushing that is
22 it's over 2 million dollars in bonds.

23 JUDGE WEST: So, are we on those waiting
24 for out-of-county judges to make decisions or that's for
25 us?

1 MS. BERTRAND: These are our forfeitures.
2 These are just bonds that where the person was arrested
3 in another county.

4 JUDGE WEST: So, why haven't we -- why --

5 MS. BRODE: This -- this was discussed last
6 meeting and what's happened is the out-of-county -- tell
7 me if I'm wrong here.

8 MS. BERTRAND: Go ahead.

9 MS. BRODE: The out-of-county bondsman bond
10 out, and say they bonded out in Orange County. The --
11 it's put under Orange County. It's not put under that
12 bondsman. We are trying to change that. The way I
13 understand it, we're trying to create a bond account for
14 that person so that we can track everyone, whether they
15 are a bondsman in our county or not. But right now,
16 everyone that bonds out in Orange County is under Orange
17 County. Everyone.

18 JUDGE WEST: Can we not specify who -- I
19 mean, we can figure out who they are.

20 MS. BRODE: But I think it is a big fix
21 because the out-of-county category is 2 million 189 --

22 JUDGE WEST: Right. For those right now
23 that we have, before we fix it, the ones that are out
24 there now can we --

25 MS. BRODE: That's out there right now.

1 JUDGE WEST: For that, is there not a way
2 for us to figure out who they are and for there to be a
3 hearing in front of whatever judge it needs to be in
4 front of and --

5 MS. BRODE: Does it have to be a hearing or
6 just corrections on the screen?

7 MS. BERTRAND: Both. We have to go back --
8 first of all, when we run a detailed report, it will
9 break down every single bond, the defendant's case
10 number, the defendant's name, but we will have to go
11 back because that information wasn't entered. Then we
12 have to see on those cases does it show forfeit status,
13 which we will have to go back into the criminal file to
14 see if a NISI was even filed. So, then the NISI case
15 you have to determine what the service was held in order
16 to put on a docket. So, it is a very in cumbersome
17 process that me and Valencia have spoken about.

18 MS. BRODE: Yes.

19 MS. BERTRAND: And then we had that meeting
20 up at the D.A.'s Office. What I'm trying to do is I'm
21 trying to get with MIS with Mary Ann, and I have the
22 majority of those out-of-county bondsmen, I already have
23 a code established in my system in my NISI program. So,
24 my thought is, you know, I can move those codes over so
25 everyone can use them. But the problem's going to be

1 training staff to recognize if I get a David Fregia bond
2 in, is it one of our bonds that was -- that he is
3 licensed under here with us, or is it an Orange County
4 bond. So, we will have to create additional fields to
5 see where this bond's coming from. David has bonding
6 companies in almost every county in the state of Texas.
7 So does Lee Wilson. So, it has to be very specific when
8 these bonds are put in which county they're coming from,
9 even, you know, down to the city.

10 JUDGE WEST: Okay.

11 MS. BERTRAND: This is going to be very
12 laborious process. It can be done.

13 JUDGE WEST: Okay.

14 MS. BRODE: Is this something need to get
15 done before we move over to Tyler Technologies?

16 MS. BERTRAND: Ideally that would be --

17 MS. BRODE: That's my goal, too.

18 MS. BERTRAND: Yes, that would be ideal.
19 I'll work as hard I can.

20 MS. BRODE: I get it.

21 MRS. HOLMES: Is there something I can help
22 do?

23 MS. BERTRAND: Once I get it all broken
24 down, yes. On the felony side, yes. But I have to get
25 it all broken down first and separated.

1 MS. BRODE: But we didn't -- you didn't
2 have meeting with court coordinators, correct?

3 MS. BERTRAND: We did.

4 MS. BRODE: I was sick that day.

5 MS. BERTRAND: But we were talking about
6 other issues on that back bond page, as well. But I did
7 mention to them that we are in the process of getting
8 new codes to use for specifically which bondsman and
9 where the bond's coming from. Yes.

10 JUDGE WEST: All right. Anything else?
11 Any other problem for us?

12 MS. BRODE: Was Keith Day's account cleaned
13 up? Keith, can he hear me?

14 JUDGE WEST: Can you hear Rhonda? She
15 asked if your account was cleaned up.

16 MR. DAY: As far as getting everybody from
17 the court onto my docket and everything? Yeah, every --
18 every court has pretty much got everything cleaned up.
19 We're having issues with one court right now, and that's
20 it.

21 JUDGE WEST: Okay.

22 MR. DAY: I'm hoping they will get it
23 squared away.

24 JUDGE WEST: Let us know if there's
25 something we can do to help.

1 MR. DAY: Okay.

2 JUDGE WEST: Okay. Any other -- that's the
3 agenda. Any other business anyone needs to talk about?

4 (NO RESPONSE)

5 JUDGE WEST: Is there a motion to adjourn?

6 MR. DAY: I make a motion.

7 JUDGE WEST: All right.

8 MR. KNAUTH: Second.

9 JUDGE WEST: Second. All in favor?

10 (RESPONSE)

11 JUDGE WEST: All right. We're adjourned.

12 (END OF PROCEEDINGS)

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