

BAIL BOND BOARD MEETING

JULY 22, 2021

THOSE PRESENT:

JUDGE RAQUEL WEST

JUDGE CLINT WOODS

PAT KNAUTH

JAMIE SMITH

THERESA GOODNESS

KELLIE HOLMES

GLENDIA SEGURA

JUDGE CRAIG LIVELY

VALENCIA SIMPSON

CHARLIE HALLMARK

RHONDA BRODE

TAMIKA MARTIN

TONJA VOORHIES

AL REED

DONTA MILLER

LADONNA LEWIS

JUDGE WEST: I'm going to call the meeting to order. Thank you all for being here in person.

THE COURT REPORTER: Please don't forget to sign the sign-in sheet.

JUDGE WEST: Make sure everybody signs the sign-in sheet.

Okay. The minutes from last meeting, Ms. Tanner did those; and she was out and didn't get those. So we are just going to skip that. We will take care of approving those at our next meeting.

The next is the report from the district attorney's office regarding status on collections. Is somebody here from the DA's office? No. Did we get a -- we have a report. Everyone has a report in their packet from them.

Next, consideration and approval of applications to become bondsmen or agents. I don't think --

MS. HOLMES: Yes, yes, I think so.

JUDGE WEST: Do we?

MS. HOLMES: Yes, ma'am. There are two that
Becky has sent. Everything seems to be in order according to
Ms. Bertrand.

JUDGE WEST: So we have one for Allied Bail Bonds for Patsy Mason, and it looks like it's in all order. That's a renewal.

And then one from Professional for Tamara

1 Ritenour, and that one also appears to be in -- everything looks
2 good on that as well. So we would need a motion for each of
3 those.

4 JUDGE WOODS: I make a motion to approve both
5 the applications.

6 MR. SMITH: Second.

7 JUDGE WEST: There is a motion and a second.
8 Any other discussion?

9 All those in favor.

10 (RESPONSES MADE)

11 JUDGE WEST: Look, y'all get to say "aye"
12 instead of raise your hands.

13 Any opposed? All right. Those are done.

14 Complaints against bondsmen?

15 MS. HOLMES: Yes, ma'am. We have gotten one
16 complaint, and we are in the process of investigating that. We
17 will have more next month, I believe.

18 JUDGE WEST: Okay. Thank you.

19 Report from treasurer.

20 MR. HALLMARK: Nothing to report at this time.

21 JUDGE WEST: Okay. Thank you.

22 Release of any property, do we have any
23 requests for property to be released?

24 MS. HOLMES: Glenda, property to be released?

25 MS. SEGURA: Yes.

1 JUDGE WEST: Do we have any?

2 MS. SEGURA: Uh-huh.

3 MS. HOLMES: Just in time.

4 MS. SEGURA: Sorry. I was in CC2.

5 JUDGE WEST: That's all right.

6 MS. SEGURA: Yes, Keith Day. And he's in good
7 standing if you sign it to be released.

8 JUDGE WEST: All right. So Keith Day is
9 requesting that we release -- it's Lot 16 in the Merry Mart
10 Subdivision in Hardin County, and he's in good standing if we do
11 this. Do we need a motion?

12 MS. BRODE: I need to see how much is that
13 value.

JUDGE WEST: This doesn't have a value on it.

15 MS. BRODE: Hang on. I have Keith's collateral
16 right here. Is he just swapping something out because I know he
17 just put some new stuff in.

18 MS. SEGURA: He just put some new stuff in.

19 MS. BRODE: 105,000. He's okay.

20 JUDGE WEST: So we have doublechecked.

21 MS. SEGURA: He's okay. I just checked.

22 JUDGE WEST: Is there a motion to approve that?

23 MS. GOODNESS: So moved.

24 MR. LIVELY: Second.

25 JUDGE WEST: Thanks, Judge. All right. There

1 is a motion and a second. Any other discussion?

2 All in favor.

3 (RESPONSES MADE)

4 JUDGE WEST: Any opposed? All right. I will
5 take care of that.

6 Report from the auditor's office.

7 MS. BRODE: I'm sorry. I do have some
8 questions.

9 JUDGE WEST: That's okay.

10 MS. BRODE: The first thing I have is I have a
11 list of the bonding with no limits and I wanted to talk about
12 the outstanding bond fee assessments. I have a list of lawyers
13 that I have been told, *hearsay*, are not in this area anymore
14 that owe money. It's this -- do you have this one?

15 JUDGE WEST: I have it.

16 MS. BRODE: And the ones in *italics* are the
17 ones I'm looking for confirmation.

18 JUDGE WEST: Mike Papania for sure is down, I
19 think, in the Corpus Christi area.

20 MS. BRODE: Okay.

21 JUDGE WEST: Isn't Richard Dutton over in
22 Hardin County at the DA's office? Isn't he?

23 JUDGE WOODS: I thought he was the county
24 attorney's office in Hardin County.

25 MS. BRODE: In Hardin County?

1 JUDGE WEST: That should be somebody that we
2 can get in touch with.

3 I don't know about Harold Baker. I don't know
4 who that is. Or Rodney Moton -- does that sound familiar?

5 MS. SEGURA: He's in Houston.

6 MS. HOLMES: He's been on a case of ours.

7 JUDGE WEST: I thought that sounded familiar.
8 We may have some contact information on him. So we can double
9 check.

10 MS. BRODE: I went on the web and looked him up
11 and this was probably a year or more ago and wrote him a letter.
12 Haven't gotten any response from anyone in *italics*.

13 Right now we are doing really good. The only
14 two that owe money are Corey Crenshaw and Tom Rugg.

15 JUDGE WEST: Okay. Good.

16 MS. BRODE: So if anyone sees those two and
17 wants to tell them they owe the county a little bit of money.

18 JUDGE WEST: I would love to do that.

19 MS. BRODE: That would be awesome.

20 JUDGE WEST: I would be glad to do that.

21 MS. BRODE: They've been inactivated at this
22 time.

23 JUDGE WEST: Now, I don't ever see Mr. Rugg.
24 But Corey is in my court so --

25 MS. BRODE: If you could just mention it to

1 him.

2 JUDGE WEST: I will try to remember.

3 MS. BRODE: It's just last month. It's nothing
4 big. I think it was an oversight.

5 The second thing is the no bond limits. I know
6 that there was meeting with all of the court coordinators about
7 moving -- cleaning up the other counties. I'm seeing those
8 numbers increase. I'm not seeing those numbers decrease.
9 Jasper County went up. The bonds increased. The forfeitures
10 increased. So I don't see anything happening with those. I
11 understood that they were going to be cleaned up and moved into
12 their own bonding agency line item.

13 MS. SEGURA: Have y'all got the information on
14 the --

15 MS. HOLMES: I've not finished it. Like the
16 new codes?

17 MS. SEGURA: Like the codes.

18 MS. HOLMES: Huh-uh. I need to get with Becky.

19 MS. SEGURA: So that's why.

20 MS. BRODE: An this is --

21 JUDGE WEST: I know Becky sent an e-mail out
22 that had to do with those codes and things. They were trying to
23 figure it out.

24 (SIMULTANEOUS SPEAKERS)

25 MS. BRODE: But I just wanted to keep

1 everyone's attention on that.

2 MS. SEGURA: Okay. Once we get them from her,
3 we will start doing them.

4 MS. BRODE: Okay. And the next thing is -- and
5 I honestly don't know this question. I mean, I don't know this
6 answer -- what do we do with the people who are deceased? Were
7 we researching -- is that part of the process that we are doing
8 researching to see if these bonds and forfeitures are real or if
9 it's just a paperwork thing like you and I had worked through
10 one time with go to the third page and click a?

11 MS. SEGURA: Yeah.

12 JUDGE WEST: I don't know if we talked about
13 that, but maybe if that's something that Becky could help look
14 in to when she gets back so that we know if it's just a matter
15 of doing paperwork or not.

16 MS. BRODE: Okay. On the bondsmen report, Real
17 Fast Bonding, their bond amount exceeds their bonding limit by
18 300 -- almost \$375,000.

19 JUDGE WEST: Who does?

20 MS. BRODE: Real Fast, SJ Laine.

21 JUDGE WEST: How does that happen?

22 MS. BRODE: Well, my assumption -- someone else
23 can answer this -- is that an accusation bond maybe came
24 through. I don't know. So if that could be researched. That's
25 a lot of money.

1 JUDGE WEST: Yeah. So we need to have someone
2 contact them and let them know the disparity and if they have
3 some money to put up or they need to do something else.

4 MS. SEGURA: And who was that?

5 JUDGE WEST: Shirley Laine.

6 MS. BRODE: SJ Laine. It's next to last on
7 there.

8 MS. SEGURA: Oh, okay.

9 JUDGE WEST: So, Kellie, if you or Glenda will
10 get with that bonding company and show them what the difference
11 is and see if they have an explanation or if there is something
12 they can do to fix that.

13 MS. HOLMES: Yes, ma'am.

14 JUDGE WEST: Anything else?

15 MS. BRODE: One last thing, on the attorney
16 report, Ms. Tonja, I know that Shauberger likes to keep an eye
17 on Corey Crenshaw and his bonds out went down tremendously. So I
18 know he likes to keep an eye on the limits; so if you can just
19 ask him what he wants to do with it.

20 MS. VOORHIES: All right. Okay.

21 JUDGE WEST: I just noticed something on here
22 and I want to make sure. I never thought about.

23 | Gaylon Cooper --

24 MS. BRODE: That was my next one.

25 JUDGE WEST: So Gaylon at this point is not

1 licensed to practice law. So we need to make sure whoever needs
2 to know, I guess, at the jail or otherwise, that he does not
3 have the ability -- should not be making any bonds.

4 MS. BRODE: Well, that was my next question
5 about Corey -- I mean, I'm sorry -- about Gaylon. What happens
6 to his bonds that he's on? Because he's on a bond because he's
7 on that case, right?

8 JUDGE WEST: I mean, he's still on the bond.
9 He's just not going to be kind -- it's kind of like if we were
10 to suspend someone from bonding, they're still on the bonds.
11 But he's just been suspended from the practice of law, which
12 would suspend his ability to make more bonds. So he's still
13 responsible for the bonds that he's on.

14 MS. BRODE: So he's not on these bonds because
15 he was the attorney on the case, right?

16 MS. HOLMES: He should have been at the time
17 maybe, but he shouldn't be on any more cases either. Any cases
18 he had --

19 JUDGE WEST: He shouldn't have any pending
20 cases.

21 (SIMULTANEOUS SPEAKERS)

22 JUDGE WEST: So I guess that's a good question
23 because a lawyer -- you can't just be on a bond as a lawyer. If
24 you're signed up on as the bond, then you automatically go on as
25 their attorney. That's what the law says. So if he is still on

1 some bonds, then we need to figure out which ones and see if
2 there is another bonding company that would, I don't know, take
3 those over or something for him because he shouldn't be on any
4 even pending ones. So if y'all can do the research to see what
5 he's actually on, on which cases; and we can see what we can do.
6 See what attorney took them over, if the case is over and -- I
7 bet I could guess.

8 Anyone else? Anything else?

9 MS. BRODE: No.

10 JUDGE WEST: Okay. I need to keep my little
11 comments to myself. Okay.

12 What is this? Discuss and act -- possibly act
13 upon an issue with old bonds remaining at the jail once the
14 limitations are up on the charge and arrest. Does anybody
15 remember what that's about?

16 MS. GUIDRY: I'm Lisa with Al Reed Bail
17 Bonding. So we have bonds with people who have been checking in
18 for two and three years depending on the statute of limitation
19 on the case and the bonds are just sitting there at the jail and
20 people are still checking in after two years on the
21 misdemeanors. So we need to try to find out a procedure to get
22 those bonds back.

23 JUDGE WEST: Oh.

24 MS. VOORHIES: Probably with the DA'S office
25 because they don't have limitations on how long to hold a bond

1 anymore. It used to be like 60 days.

2 MS. GUIDRY: Right. I understand that. The
3 DA may not have even received the case from the arresting agency
4 so the DA wouldn't even have that information because they may
5 never have received the case so it's been two years.

6 MAJOR MILLER: So what she's saying is someone
7 went to jail for like trespassing and they bonded out of jail
8 and the agency never filed that case, that person is still out
9 on bond but the case has never been filed.

10 MS. GUIDRY: It's been two years.

11 MAJOR MILLER: It's been two years.

12 JUDGE WEST: Well, if it's never been filed,
13 then -- if the statute has run, if the statute of limitations
14 has run, then I would think that as long as there would be some
15 type of (a) documentation and even though the DA doesn't have
16 the case, they could probably -- did I see Pat?

17 MS. HOLMES: You woke him up.

18 MR. KNAUTH: Call us. We've put in a letter
19 before on stuff. I mean, even if we don't have it, we can try
20 to figure it out. So just give us a list of what you need.

21 MS. GUIDRY: Right. If you refused the case,
22 we need a way to get our bonds back so I can tell these people
23 they don't have to continue checking in because I got their bond
24 back.

25 JUDGE WEST: So I would say, first, start with

1 the DA's office to make sure the statute has passed. And if so,
2 then maybe the DA's office can get with --

3 MR. KNAUTH: Can contact the person who made
4 the bonds or --

5 JUDGE WEST: And the jail to give the bonds --
6 to release the bonds.

7 MR. KNAUTH: So send it to me and Corey
8 Kneeland and --

9 MS. GUIDRY: So send you a list of my people?

10 MR. KNAUTH: Right, that you need. E-mail me
11 and Corey and we will see what happens.

12 MS. GUIDRY: Okay.

13 JUDGE WEST: I wouldn't know how to do it other
14 than the bondsmen coming and asking. I don't think there is any
15 way for us to go through at the jail or at the DA's office. So
16 it's just going to be a matter of you guys bringing it to
17 someone's attention.

18 MS. GUIDRY: I just know when they expired, we
19 would go pick them up, you know, from the bond holder and put
20 them in a folder when they expired but now they don't expire.

21 JUDGE WEST: Right. Okay. Let's try that and
22 see if it works and then we can adjust it if not.

23 And then consider and approve any changes to
24 the surety bond form which Becky --

25 MS. SEGURA: You saw it?

1 JUDGE WEST: Well, no. She e-mailed me it, and
2 I did not look at it.

3 MS. SEGURA: I printed it. That's the new one
4 on top. I think. Let me see.

5 JUDGE WEST: Okay. So what this is -- and I
6 don't know if you guys have these. The old attorney surety bond
7 did not have anything listed on it about the attorney
8 automatically being on the case to represent them. And so what
9 Becky did was add a notation towards the bottom and before the
10 attorney's signature that says pursuant to the Occupations Code,
11 section whatever, I acknowledge that I'm required to file a
12 notice of appearance as counsel of record in the criminal case
13 for which this bond was executed. So that way there is no doubt
14 when the attorney signs this, that they're required to also file
15 a notice of appearance. We received one the other day where
16 someone called asking for a bond, I think, and they said but I
17 don't want to be a lawyer. We just want to get a bond and that
18 doesn't work like that. So we would need to approve this new
19 form and it just adds that one notation if anybody wants to look
20 it, we can pass it around. That's the new one with the
21 notation. The old one just doesn't have it. It's in bold.

22 MS. SEGURA: The old one didn't have that; so
23 that's the only thing that changed on that.

24 JUDGE WEST: So we would need a motion on that
25 if there is going to be one.

1 MS. GOODNESS: I move that we adopt the new
2 language on the surety bond to add that disclaimer for the
3 attorneys to know that they have to put in a notice of
4 appearance if they post a bond.

5 MR. SMITH: Second.

6 JUDGE WEST: We've got a motion and a second.
7 Any other questions or concerns or discussion about that?

8 All right. All those in favor.

9 (RESPONSES MADE)

10 JUDGE WEST: Any opposed? All right. That
11 passes.

12 Okay. Anything else? Did everybody sign in?
13 Look at that. That was quick. Make sure you sign in.

14 Any other business that anybody needs to bring
15 up.

16 Is there a motion to adjourn?

17 MR. HALLMARK: So moved.

18 JUDGE WEST: All right. Done. Let's go.

19 (MEETING CONCLUDED)

20

21

22

23

24

25