

BAIL BOND BOARD MEETING

NOVEMBER 19, 2020

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4 THOSE PRESENT:

Judge Raquel West, Chairman

Judge Clint Woods

Judge Craig Lively (via Zoom)

Quintin Price

Becky Garcia

Betty Limbrick (via Zoom)

Rhonda Brode (via Zoom)

Joleen Fregia (via Zoom)

Keith Day (via Zoom)

James Kelly (via Zoom)

Mary Godina

Glenda Segura

Cristy Smith, Court Reporter

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1 JUDGE WEST: We're going to go ahead and
2 call the meeting to order and get started with the
3 first item, which is the review of last month's
4 minutes.

5 Did everyone have an opportunity to
6 review those? I think they were emailed to us. I'm
7 not sure. Did we get those?

8 (DISCUSSION OFF THE RECORD)

9 JUDGE WEST: Make a note that Mr. Price
10 is here from the DA's office. Okay. Sorry.

11 We're going to go back to Item No. 1 of
12 last month's minutes. Is there a motion to approve
13 those?

14 JUDGE LIVELY: I move.

15 JUDGE WEST: Judge Lively made a motion.
16 Is there a second?

17 Judge Woods, would you second a motion?

18 JUDGE WOODS: Second.

19 JUDGE WEST: Thank you. There is a
20 second.

21 All those in favor? I need y'all to
22 unmute yourselves so that I can -- or actually, all
23 those in favor raise your hand, please.

24 (RESPONSE)

25 JUDGE WEST: If you are opposed, would you

1 raise your hand?

2 (NO RESPONSE)

3 JUDGE WEST: Can y'all hear me?

4 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKERS: Yes.

5 JUDGE WEST: Okay. It passes.

6 Item No. 2 is report from the district
7 attorney's office regarding status on collection of
8 judgments. There is a report that you should have
9 gotten in an email. Are there any questions or
10 concerns about that report?

11 (NO RESPONSE)

12 JUDGE WEST: Mr. Price, anything that you
13 need to add?

14 MR. PRICE: Nothing, your Honor.

15 JUDGE WEST: All right. Thank you.

16 Next, consideration and approving of
17 applications to become a bondsman.

18 I know there was one that we received,
19 correct, Becky?

20 MS. GARCIA: Yes.

21 JUDGE WEST: If you will talk real loud
22 into that microphone.

23 MS. GARCIA: Yes. We had one for Tiffany
24 Cousins, and she worked for Keith Day Professional Bail
25 Bonding.

1 JUDGE WEST: And that was all in order,
2 correct?

3 MS. GARCIA: Yes, ma'am. Everything is
4 in order.

5 JUDGE WEST: Can y'all hear her today
6 better on the microphone?

7 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKERS: Yes.

8 JUDGE WEST: Perfect.

9 Are there any questions or issues with
10 regards to that application?

11 MS. BRODE: Judge, I'm sorry. I need to
12 go back to No. 2.

13 Did we get a separate email with the
14 attachments?

15 MS. SEGURA: Okay. Yes, you did.

16 JUDGE WEST: There was a separate email
17 that had the attachments.

18 MS. SEGURA: Had the attachments to it.

19 MS. BODE: Okay. I'll just contact you
20 later, Glenda.

21 JUDGE WEST: Okay. Did you not get it?

22 MS. BODE: No.

23 JUDGE WEST: Okay. We'll double-check
24 next time if there's any -- make sure everybody gets
25 that. And if it's the day before or so and you don't

1 have it, maybe you can just send a message to Glenda
2 and make sure something didn't get returned for some
3 reason.

4 MS. BODE: Yes, ma'am.

5 JUDGE WEST: So, on No. 3 -- Rhonda, do
6 you want to see a copy of that to see if there are any
7 issues you have; or are you good?

8 MS. BODE: No. I'm fine. Thank you.

9 JUDGE WEST: Okay. So, there is a motion
10 with regard to the approval of the -- or a renewal,
11 correct?

12 MS. GARCIA: Renewal.

13 JUDGE WOODS: I'll make a motion to
14 renew --

15 JUDGE WEST: Judge Woods made a motion.

16 JUDGE WOODS: -- to accept.

17 JUDGE LIVELY: Second.

18 JUDGE WEST: Judge Lively seconded.

19 Is there any other discussion with regard
20 to that?

21 (NO RESPONSE)

22 JUDGE WEST: All those in favor, please
23 raise your hand.

24 (RESPONSE)

25 JUDGE WEST: Any opposed, raise your

1 hand.

2 (NO RESPONSE)

3 JUDGE WEST: All right. That passes.

4 Thank you.

5 No. 4, complaints against bondsmen.

6 MS. GODINA: I don't have any.

7 JUDGE WEST: All right. There aren't
8 any.

9 No. 5, the treasurer's report, anything
10 on that that we need to be -- have our attention
11 brought to, Rhonda?

12 MS. BODE: That's Joleen.

13 JUDGE WEST: I'm sorry. Joleen. Joleen
14 is not here, though, is she?

15 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKERS: Yeah, she's here.

16 JUDGE WEST: Oh, there's Joleen. Sorry.

17 Anything on that, Joleen?

18 MS. FREGIA: (Shaking head from side to
19 side)

20 JUDGE WEST: Okay. Does anybody have any
21 questions or issues to ask about that?

22 (NO RESPONSE)

23 JUDGE WEST: No, okay.

24 Release of property or CD's, do we have
25 any?

1 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: No.

2 JUDGE WEST: There aren't any?

3 MS. BODE: I do have a question.

4 JUDGE WEST: Yes.

5 MS. BODE: Are we planning on talking
6 about the -- this is a question for Glenda.

7 Are we going to discuss what we had a
8 conversation about, on the increase in collateral and
9 needing help -- I'm sorry. It was Mary that I talked
10 to.

11 JUDGE WEST: We're going to talk about
12 that.

13 MS. BODE: Okay.

14 JUDGE WEST: And I guess we could talk
15 about that now. It's kind of under that. Mary, I
16 think what she's talking about is what you came and
17 visited me with me about.

1 know where they are and when and so that if they're not
2 here, that people know that and kind of also know ahead
3 of time. I know Mary mentioned to me, at least with
4 regard to the last thing that happened, I think, with
5 you, Keith, that she had actually texted your staff a
6 couple of times a week or two out and then again
7 another week out saying you were getting low. And so,
8 I think if they could take care of that before Friday
9 afternoon, we probably wouldn't run into this problem.

10 MR. DAY: Well, we do -- in that
11 situation we do the best we can; but what happens a lot
12 of times is things are added onto our docket,
13 indictments come in on Wednesdays. Sometimes they --
14 and we see them on our docket on Thursday. So, that
15 increases our liability.

16 But right now, you know, cases aren't
17 moving right now; so, cases aren't dropping off of our
18 docket like they normally would in a normal
19 environment; but also, too, you add on top of that that
20 the JP's are setting bonds much higher now.

21 And I'm not complaining. I don't want --
22 I just want everybody to understand that I'm -- I'm
23 putting up cash each time. I'm not putting up property
24 every time. So, I put it up in smaller amounts.

25 But my question was -- and this is what

1 Mary and I talked about -- would it be a conflict of
2 interest for someone in the treasurer's office, who we
3 have to bring it to anyway, to just go ahead and put it
4 on right then?

5 It is a conflict of interest?

6 MS. BODE: Yes, it is. The treasurer's
7 office -- we are internal controls. The treasurer's
8 office actually takes the money. So, they shouldn't --
9 Mary and I had this discussion. The treasurer's office
10 shouldn't be increasing the bonding limit because they
11 are in charge of taking the money and receiving it.
12 The auditor's office can't do it because we have audit
13 oversight.

14 But we do have three administrators on
15 the bail bond board. So, I tried to contact Jeff -- of
16 course, Jeff is on vacation. And so, next week I will
17 be able to contact him. But I know, because it goes
18 through me all the time, you can get one tiny piece of
19 the program. So, we could give Becky just enough
20 access to increase the collateral. We could have all
21 three administrators as someone that could increase the
22 bonding limits.

23 JUDGE WEST: I mean --

24 MS. BODE: Would that help?

25 JUDGE WEST: -- my thought is it makes

1 sense for the administrators to be able to do it, if
2 they can, through the computer.

3 Mary, I mean, is there any reason not to
4 do that that you know of?

5 MS. GODINA: Not that I know of. The
6 only thing is --

7 JUDGE WEST: Speak loud into the
8 microphone.

9 MS. GODINA: They can have access to a
10 different system --

11 JUDGE WEST: It's not going to work
12 unless you put it right to your mouth.

13 MS. GODINA: Becky has access to a
14 different system downstairs.

15 JUDGE WEST: It's not going to work
16 unless you put it right up to your mouth.

17 MS. GODINA: Hello.

18 JUDGE WEST: There you go.

19 MS. GODINA: Becky has access to a
20 different system downstairs. She does have access to
21 the AS400.

22 But another question I would have is --
23 and I don't care who has authority to do it or
24 whatever. It doesn't matter to me. I don't know.

25 But I mean, I don't know, Keith, and this

1 is, I guess --

2 JUDGE WEST: Can y'all hear Mary?

3 MS. BODE: Barely.

4 MS. GODINA: But I mean, have you ever
5 had a problem with trying to add collateral and no one
6 is here?

7 MR. DAY: No.

8 MS. GODINA: Thank you.

9 MR. DAY: I don't -- I'm not there all
10 the time. So, keep that in mind. Tamara usually
11 handles that. I don't think it's come up. But like I
12 said, we're putting up property faster now than we ever
13 have before because, like I said, some of these bond
14 amounts that judges are setting now on -- or JP's are
15 setting on cases now are so much higher. It's just
16 absorbing -- and we're writing -- I mean, our company
17 writes over 40 percent of the bonds in Jefferson
18 County. So, we're writing at a faster rate than
19 everybody else, because I'm the best, you know.

20 JUDGE WEST: Mary is grabbing the
21 microphone. Hang on.

22 MS. GODINA: No. I'm just going to
23 say -- which we do it as a courtesy to the best bonding
24 company, as you say, to stay in contact with y'all and
25 let you know that your funds are getting low as a

1 courtesy. We don't do that for every bonding company.
2 I do it. I know Tamika does it. And so, we let y'all
3 know, Hey, Wednesday we're going to be off; Hey, Friday
4 we're going to leave at noon.

5 Plus, here Braela knows where I am all
6 the time. If I'm off, she knows how to contact me.
7 She knows how to contact Glenda if we're off to come
8 down. Like, Tuesday, I was off.

9 JUDGE WEST: I don't know if this is
10 something -- let me ask -- just because I don't know.
11 The authority to do that comes from where? Is that
12 something we need to vote on? Is that in our bylaws?

13 (RESPONSE)

14 JUDGE WEST: It's in the bylaws. And
15 what do they say? I didn't bring my notebook. Does it
16 specifically say who --

17 MS. GARCIA: Well, the bylaws just say --
18 the bylaws just basically say --

19 MR. DAY: Well --

20 MS. GARCIA: No. My turn.

21 So, the bylaws just basically say that we
22 have -- three administrators shall be appointed. It
23 sets our fees; but basically, we're the administrators
24 over the writing, the communication, and board actions
25 with the postings, the approval of the applications. I

1 would -- it doesn't specifically say --

2 JUDGE WEST: That's what I'm asking. Is
3 there a specific provision that gives you two and not
4 Becky?

5 MS. GODINA: No.

6 MS. GARCIA: No.

7 JUDGE WEST: So, we don't need to vote on
8 anything. Becky just needs to be a backup, if nothing
9 else. There's -- the three administrators have the
10 same ability to do that.

11 Does anyone have an issue --

12 MS. BODE: All you have to do is email me
13 and ask me to get Becky access to the bonding limit
14 program and that is the one little piece that we will
15 give her but I need a department head or someone over
16 it.

17 JUDGE WEST: Bonding limit program?

18 MS. BODE: Yes.

19 JUDGE WEST: Okay. Done.

20 MS. SEGURA: Another thing is, I keep a
21 folder and a spreadsheet on every amount that comes in
22 and goes out. So, Becky, if you start doing it, you
23 are going to have to get -- like, if they give you
24 stuff from the treasurer's office, I just need you to
25 get it to me so I can file it.

1 JUDGE WEST: Right.

2 MS. SEGURA: Okay?

3 MS. GARCIA: Sounds good.

4 JUDGE WEST: Okay. All right. So,
5 that's taken care of. And you know, Keith, if that --
6 between the three of them, I would think you should be
7 able to get someone. It doesn't sound like you haven't
8 been able to get the two; but at least that gives us
9 cover just in case, especially with Covid -- if people
10 are flexing -- if we go back to that, then there would
11 be a third person that can take care of that.

12 MR. DAY: At this point it hasn't been an
13 issue. I just wanted to -- I'm not trying to be a pain
14 because the first phone call that my office manager
15 makes to me every morning is about our liability, and
16 we check it three times a day through the jail to make
17 sure. So, that, along with the fact that Mary or
18 Glenda usually gives us a phone call if we're getting
19 close, we stay on top of it the best we can. But like
20 I said, cases aren't falling off as fast as they used
21 to, bonds are higher and there's just a lot --

22 JUDGE WEST: Okay. Hopefully that will
23 help if there's any issues.

24 MR. DAY: Yes.

25 JUDGE WEST: Auditor's office report.

1 Anything?

2 MS. BODE: I email it out. I'm hoping
3 everyone got it. It's the beginning of the new year.
4 We're in the red, no income.

5 JUDGE WEST: Anybody have any questions
6 about that?

7 (NO RESPONSE)

8 JUDGE WEST: Let's see. No. 8, speak
9 with Keith Day about JP signing off on -- oh, okay.

10 So, I have the -- we're having an issue,
11 and I'm going to follow through more. I've already
12 made a phone call to the JP's. We have -- what's
13 happening, Keith -- and you can maybe help get the word
14 out, also, to the other bondsmen is, when a case -- I
15 guess pre-indictment, when a case is still just in the
16 JP's hand and you guys file an AFRS, it's staying
17 there. It's not getting to where it needs to be; and
18 so, we need your help. And I'm going to talk to the
19 two JP's about -- I would think most of these would be
20 going through Collins and -- I guess it will be Naomi
21 at some point soon. And so, I'm going to talk to them
22 about getting those AFRS's where they need to be
23 because they're not making it to where they're in the
24 file. People aren't -- or in the computer and things
25 like that. So, we might need y'all's help in getting

1 those physically, right?

2 MS. GODINA: Correct. Tamika had one --
3 it wasn't last week. We didn't have indictments. The
4 week before -- where the JM -- I don't know if it was
5 your office, Keith, or it was Stan Stanley. Somebody
6 had filed an AFRS. It stayed in the JP's office. It
7 didn't move, but Tamika had the bond. They got
8 indicted, and Tamika had the bond. So, she put that
9 they were on bond because she didn't know they had
10 filed an AFRS. So, it became a problem which ended
11 up -- how funny, the case ended up getting dismissed
12 when it went before you anyway.

13 JUDGE WEST: Did it?

14 MS. GODINA: Yeah.

15 JUDGE WEST: I figured. I think it was
16 -- if it was the one you brought me, it was actually
17 Stan's.

18 MR. KELLY: Yeah.

19 JUDGE WEST: And so, we've just got to
20 make sure that they know; And I'm going to follow
21 through with that. Like I said, I made a phone call
22 but I didn't get them. So, I'm going to make sure and
23 talk to Judge Collins' office and the other office so
24 that they know they have to get those to Tamika, right
25 -- would be where they need to go -- so that she can

1 put them in, right?

2 MR. KELLY: Correct.

3 JUDGE WEST: All right. Thank you.

4 Anything else on that? We're make sure and follow
5 through with them.

6 They're supposed to have a person, aren't
7 they, a representative here, the JP's are?

8 MR. KELLY: Yes, ma'am.

9 JUDGE WEST: Who is their person now? We
10 need to talk to Judge Jones about that and him coming
11 or being a part of this; and if he's not going to be
12 able to for some reason, maybe they need to get
13 together and see if there is another representative
14 that can come help us out on that. So, if somebody
15 will talk to him --

16 MS. SEGURA: I'll call him.

17 JUDGE WEST: Okay. Thanks, Glenda.

18 Okay. The next item is to conduct the
19 election for the chairman.

20 Are there any nominations?

21 MR. DAY: I'm going to nominate Raquel
22 West.

23 JUDGE WOODS: I second.

24 JUDGE WEST: Y'all are so funny. Look,
25 Judge Lively just took his face off and everything. We

1 still know you are there. Judge Woods is over here
2 sinking down in his seat and second it, also.

3 | Are there any other nominations?

4 (NO RESPONSE)

5 JUDGE WEST: Okay. If there's no other
6 nominations, then I guess all those in favor of me
7 continuing, please raise your hand.

8 (RESPONSE)

9 JUDGE WEST: Anyone opposed?

10 (NO RESPONSE)

11 JUDGE WEST: Okay. So, I'll be -- so, I
12 need a second. I nominate Judge Woods.

13 Is there a second? He has done so well
14 covering for me so I think it would be great for him to
15 continue.

16 MR. DAY: It's not that I don't want to
17 see Judge Woods in. I just enjoy watching you sweat up
18 there. So...

19 JUDGE WEST: I hate this. I hate it.

20 All right. I don't hate doing this. I don't like the
21 Zoom thing when people are watching me up close is what
22 I don't like. No. Really, I don't know if I can make
23 a nomination. I was kidding.

24 MS. GARCIA: Any voting member can make a
25 nomination.

1 JUDGE WEST: Okay. So, there is a
2 nomination. Is there a second?

3 MS. GARCIA: For a second chair.

4 JUDGE WEST: For a second chair.

5 JUDGE LIVELY: I second it.

6 JUDGE WEST: All right. Judge Lively
7 seconded that.

8 Are there any other nominations for a
9 second chair?

10 (No Response)

11 JUDGE WEST: All right. Hearing none,
12 all those in favor of Judge Woods?

13 (Response)

14 JUDGE WEST: All those opposed?

15 (No Response)

16 JUDGE WEST: All right. That's done.

17 Now, we have to also conduct an election
18 for the surety representative, which is now Keith, to
19 represent the bondsmen; and apparently this is one that
20 we're -- I think what has happened in the past, it's
21 supposed to be a secret ballot, I guess. I think in
22 the past it hasn't been an issue because there's only
23 been one nomination.

24 Tell me what y'all think. We can do
25 this -- if we get more than one nomination for that

1 person, my thought is we can come up with a way for
2 everyone to deliver, maybe in person in an envelope or
3 something, to Glenda or Mary or Becky will pick their
4 vote; and we can do it that way. If there's only one
5 nomination, which I think is what we've had in the
6 past, we just voted because it didn't matter.

7 Does that sound appropriate to everyone?
8 So, Keith, I know you are not in town but are you
9 willing to still do that or have you talked to your --

10 MR. DAY: Yeah. I still come in. Now, I
11 haven't been in in a couple of months. I'm actually
12 coming in this evening, actually; but I had already
13 planned on being there once a month anyway. So, I
14 planned it when I -- when I come in because I've got a
15 lot of other projects going on down there. So, when I
16 come in, I usually was going to try to plan it around
17 these meetings; but since I've moved, it's all been
18 Zoom. So, it hasn't been an issue.

19 JUDGE WEST: Right. It's been easy. All
20 right. I guess let's start off with: Are there any
21 nominations for the surety representative to represent
22 bondsmen as a voting member?

23 JUDGE LIVELY: I nominate Keith Day.

24 JUDGE WEST: Judge Lively nominates Keith
25 Day.

1 MR. DAY: His face reappears.

2 JUDGE WEST: I know. It's easy on Zoom,
3 right? You feel like you don't have any -- nobody is
4 going to get you.

5 Is there a second on Keith Day?

6 JUDGE WOODS: I'll second.

7 JUDGE WEST: Judge Woods seconded that.

8 So, are there any other nominations for surety
9 representative?

10 (NO RESPONSE)

11 JUDGE WEST: All right. There not being
12 any, I don't think we need to have a secret ballot,
13 right?

14 So, all those in favor say "I" or raise
15 your hand?

16 | (RESPONSE)

17 JUDGE WEST: Any opposed?

18 (NO RESPONSE)

19 JUDGE WEST: Congratulations, Keith.

20 All right. That's it on the agenda. Is
21 there any other old business or new business that
22 anyone needs to bring up or talk about?

23 MR. DAY: Is Glenda still in there? I
24 can't see her.

25 MS. SEGURA: I'm here.

1 JUDGE WEST: Glenda, did Tamara give you
2 my email address to send me directly about the
3 meetings?

4 MS. SEGURA: No, she didn't. You want to
5 give it to me now?

6 MR. DAY: She's supposed to email you.
7 So, if you can check your email to put my personal
8 email address on the -- for the meetings.

9 MS. SEGURA: Okay.

10 JUDGE WEST: All right. She'll take care
11 of that.

12 Anything else?

13 (NO RESPONSE)

14 JUDGE WEST: All right. Thank y'all very
15 much.

16 JUDGE WOODS: I make a motion to adjourn.

17 JUDGE WEST: There's a motion to adjourn.
18 Is there a second?

19 MR. DAY: Second.

20 JUDGE WEST: Second. All in favor?

21 (RESPONSE)

22 JUDGE WEST: Done. All right. Thanks
23 y'all.

24 (HEARING ADJOURNED)

25 * * * * *