

BAIL BOND BOARD MEETING**(VIA ZOOM)****FEBRUARY 18, 2021**

THOSE PRESENT: Judge Clint Woods
Judge Raquel West
Mary Godina
Glenda Segura
Becky Garcia

THOSE PRESENT VIA ZOOM: Charlie Hallmark
Rhonda Brode
Dustin Galmor
Joleen Fregia
Tamika Martin
Quentin Price
Judge Ransom "Duce" Jones
Pat Knauth
Jamie Smith
Theresa Goodness
Keith Day

1 JUDGE WEST: I'm going to call the meeting to
2 order. Thanks everyone for coming. I hope everyone has stayed
3 warm and dry.

4 The first thing on the agenda is our minutes.
5 We don't have those just because we have been out. It's
6 probably going to be a lot of things that we kind of skip over
7 and we will take care of at the next meeting so we will skip
8 over that.

9 Report from the district attorney's office, I
10 don't think we got one of those either. So, Mr. Knauth, if you
11 guys can get that to us for the next meeting for both months,
12 we'll take care of that.

13 MR. KNAUTH: Will do, Judge.

14 JUDGE WEST: And then the next is consideration
15 and approval of applications to become bondsman. What I'd like
16 to do: Let's skip that and go ahead and go through and see if
17 we have any other reports and stuff to deal with and then we'll
18 come back to that and that way we can spend whatever time we
19 need to on that.

20 Consider complaints against bondsmen.

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

22 JUDGE WEST: There aren't any.

23 Report from the treasurer, did we get -- I
24 don't think we got a report from the treasurer, right?

25 MS. SEGURA: No, I didn't.

1 JUDGE WEST: Okay. We will skip that one.

2 Release of any property, CDs, cash or cashier's
3 check, that's --

4 MS. SEGURA: Keith Day.

5 JUDGE WEST: We have a request from Keith Day
6 to release some CDs. I think it was six; is that correct?

7 MS. SEGURA: Eight.

8 JUDGE WEST: Eight, eight CDs and --

9 MR. DAY: Cashier's checks.

10 JUDGE WEST: Cashier's checks. I'm sorry. And
11 have y'all run the numbers to make sure that everything is fine
12 if we do this?

13 MS. GODINA: I input everything and all of the
14 bonds out sheets -- I'm sorry -- I input --

15 JUDGE WEST: On the microphone.

16 MS. GODINA: I input everything this morning
17 from what the bond-out sheet showed up until yesterday so
18 everything is current as of right now.

19 JUDGE WEST: Okay. And it's fine?

20 MS. GODINA: On taking away.

21 JUDGE WEST: What Mary has said, she's inputted
22 everything is up-to-date as of today and that releasing these is
23 fine as far as his --

24 MS. SEGURA: No, it's not fine.

25 MS. GODINA: No, it's not.

1 JUDGE WEST: No, it's not.

2 MS. SEGURA: It's on there on the back of your
3 page. It's showing that he's going to be in the negative. It's
4 circled.

5 JUDGE WEST: So the negative amount would be
6 \$314,300?

7 MS. SEGURA: Yes.

8 JUDGE WEST: So what does that mean? We can't
9 release them, correct, at this point?

10 MS. GODINA: Not all of it.

11 MS. SEGURA: Not all of them.

12 JUDGE WEST: So has anybody done the math on
13 how many we can release?

14 MS. SEGURA: I did not.

15 MS. GODINA: Because I just input them, I
16 mean --

17 MS. SEGURA: We just did them.

18 JUDGE WEST: They just updated this. So it
19 looks like -- is somebody going to make me do this math?

20 MS. GODINA: Plus, Judge, that means any bonds
21 they write from here on is going to go into effect, too.

22 JUDGE WEST: Right. I mean, if we get it
23 exact, then there is going to be an issue if you write any
24 other -- if there are any other bonds written is what Mary is
25 saying. So I think that would create an issue. So I don't want

1 to sit here and do math.

2 Keith, do you --

3 MR. DAY: Judge, I've got some appraisals that
4 are going to be changing with the renewal of my license. I
5 don't know if Becky has made those additions yet; and I'm
6 wondering if we make those additions, will that make a
7 difference, Becky?

8 MS. GARCIA: It will go up some, but it's hard
9 to tell right now with you taking away. He's actually going up
10 just over 30,000.

11 JUDGE WEST: Okay. She said you're going up
12 over 30 -- let's just say at 30,000.

13 MS. GODINA: Times the 10.

14 MS. SEGURA: Times 10.

15 JUDGE WEST: Times 10.

16 MS. GODINA: So that would be 300. So he's
17 still negative.

18 JUDGE WEST: So that would still be a negative
19 14 --

20 MS. SEGURA: 14,300.

21 JUDGE WEST: -- 14,300 if we did it.

22 MR. DAY: Okay. Why don't we just -- can we
23 just table it to the next meeting?

24 JUDGE WEST: Yeah, I think that's --

25 MR. DAY: Table releasing the cashier's checks

1 until we can redo the math because everything is so fluid right
2 now on a daily basis. So I'm trying to take the cashier's
3 checks off; so I can put up a larger piece of property to cover
4 it.

5 JUDGE WEST: Got you. Okay. We will just
6 table that and we'll put that on the agenda for the next
7 meeting.

8 MR. DAY: Okay.

9 JUDGE WEST: Was there any other request for
10 release of property or anything like that that we need to look
11 at?

12 MS. SEGURA: No, ma'am.

13 JUDGE WEST: Then report from the auditor's
14 office, looks like we did get something maybe emailed just
15 today.

16 MS. SEGURA: Yes.

17 MS. BRODE: I did send the general ledger. I
18 did not have a chance to look at the bail bondsmen or the
19 attorneys. I'm sorry.

20 JUDGE WEST: That's fine. Everybody is -- we
21 will look at that more closely next time.

22 So then the only thing we need to go back to
23 then is the consideration and approval of applications and we
24 have got Erika Burch Francois that we -- last month if y'all
25 recall -- did not approve her request for renewal and then ended

1 up that she was unable to write because of some things.

2 And so I'm going to let her back in the
3 meeting, and then Becky has some information with regard to her
4 new application. And that wasn't sent out to everyone yet, was
5 it?

6 MS. GARCIA: It was. It was emailed so
7 everyone should have it. It was very last minute.

8 JUDGE WEST: All right. So if you guys check
9 your e-mail, you should have it. Do you have a separate copy
10 for me, by chance?

11 MS. SEGURA: What?

12 JUDGE WEST: Erika's new application. I didn't
13 check my e-mail. That's okay. I'll pull it up somehow.

14 And what does your say, state or defense?

15 MS. GARCIA: State.

16 JUDGE WEST: All right. So Becky is going
17 to -- tell me if you guys cannot hear Becky. She is going to
18 talk into the microphone over there.

19 MS. GARCIA: Okay. We received a new
20 application from Erika. There are some things I need to kind of
21 go over.

22 The first thing is she wants to repledge the
23 properties currently being pledged under the -- her former
24 application to this new application. There are still hundreds
25 of thousands of dollars out on that property from the previous

1 application that she is wanting to carry over; so I think that's
2 the biggest discussion for you guys.

3 And I'll catch you up where we are from that
4 previous application. As far as the liens go with the City of
5 Port Neches, those have been paid. The property in Port Neches,
6 she did deed over to a Maria Morrell but currently the back
7 taxes of over \$14,000 are still owing. The property listed on
8 Nickerbocker, she refiled that property, the note and her name
9 is no longer on there nor did the maker of the note or the payee
10 of the note -- I'm sorry -- sign off acknowledging her removal
11 of her name. There is a bank statement that was provided in the
12 e-mail I sent you out this morning. It should be noted there
13 was \$20,000 deposit around the time we were asking for the bank
14 statements from the previous application. The insurance that
15 had lapsed has been reinstated, and the abstract of judgment
16 from Kendall County for the \$10,000 plus bond forfeiture has
17 been paid. But, again, at this time I think the number one
18 topic for discussion on this new application should be the
19 property that she is requesting to be pledged which is already
20 pledged on the previous license.

21 JUDGE WEST: Okay. But you're not -- we
22 wouldn't expect her to have -- it's really like a renewal
23 somewhat. We wouldn't expect her to have all new property.
24 It's the same business running, correct, or no?

25 MS. GARCIA: Well, typically, when you get a

1 new application, you're going to be issued a new license number.
2 And so this application would be under a new license number. So
3 everything that was under that first license number is for the
4 first application. This is going to get a new license number
5 going forward on anything else.

6 MS. GODINA: How are we going to put that in
7 the computer? Is she going to get another number in the
8 computer, too?

9 MS. GARCIA: She would have to because this is
10 a brand-new original application.

11 MS. GODINA: Well, how are we going to
12 distinguish which bonds go with which number? I won't be here,
13 but y'all are going to have to figure it out.

14 MS. GARCIA: She would have to get a new
15 three-digit number.

16 MS. GODINA: That's what I'm saying, but how
17 would you distinguish which bonds go with what number in the
18 computer?

19 MS. GARCIA: Right, right. This is an original
20 application.

21 JUDGE WEST: Yeah. And I mean, I understand
22 the original application. Also, part of the reason she had to
23 do that is because of something that happened that we did.

24 MS. GARCIA: Right.

25 JUDGE WEST: So I would think that there would

1 be a way to carry over, combine somehow what she had and what
2 she's going to have because it's the same person, it's the same
3 company, it's the same bonds. So as far as requiring someone to
4 have like a second company and new collateral wouldn't make
5 sense. I understand the computer part of it.

6 What Becky and Mary are saying is that because
7 it's an original application, that there is a -- there will be a
8 new license actually given and it will have a new number and
9 that makes some issues in our system as far as it looks like a
10 new person but really it's not.

11 MR. DAY: Well, Judge --

12 JUDGE WEST: Yes.

13 MR. DAY: -- since we went over a year with
14 this license being expired is my understanding, then why can't
15 we just handle this as a renewal instead of a new application
16 and just leave everything the same? I mean, it just seems to me
17 like it's just a bunch of, you know -- I mean, it's just -- we
18 are causing a bigger mess than what we need to by handling this
19 as a new application rather than just handling it as a renewal
20 application. That way everything just stay the same. It's been
21 expired for a year now anyway, and we were going to handle it
22 last month as a renewal. So why not handle it this month as a
23 renewal?

24 Where is Dustin? Is Dustin still with us?

25 JUDGE WEST: I thought I saw him.

1 KEITH DAY: I see his sun roof. I don't see
2 Dustin. I see the sky.

3 MR. GALMOR: I am here. I am here. And I
4 don't know the answer to the question, to be honest with you. I
5 wasn't prepared to take a look at that. But, obviously, it
6 would be easier if it was a renewal. But is there rules in
7 place that you can renew an expired license after a certain
8 amount of time?

9 JUDGE WEST: Well, I think what -- I don't know
10 if you were here last time, Dustin. We were going to do that
11 last time because the problem or the issue really was
12 something -- it was a mistake on the board's part, and so we
13 were just going to make that happen.

14 I don't know what legal consequences there
15 would be or who really would come back and care if we did that,
16 to be honest. But because there were some issues with the
17 application itself, that we had to have Ms. Francois fix, we had
18 to -- once we looked at the rules, I think there was an issue
19 last time with her writing at that point and so we --

20 MS. GODINA: Suspended.

21 JUDGE WEST: We suspended is what we did,
22 correct?

23 And so technically, she was suspended and then
24 our response was that she would have to file a new application.
25 But I don't know if anybody has any objection to treating it as

1 a renewal if everything is in line with it, if we can just
2 approve it that way, if it's in order, to be approved one way or
3 the other, then what difference would it make?

4 Any thoughts on that?

5 JUDGE JONES: Yeah. This is Duce. Can you
6 hear me?

7 JUDGE WEST: Yes, sir.

8 JUDGE JONES: What happens with the next
9 person, when it happens to the next person? If we set a
10 precedent there on doing this, somebody else this might happen
11 to and we might be out of order. Can we check into it before we
12 do it? To see if we -- if we are not out of order doing this?

13 JUDGE WEST: I think that -- I would hope that
14 the difference would be that this wasn't something that was --
15 that Erika did; it was something that we did, that caused the
16 issue.

17 JUDGE JONES: Okay.

18 JUDGE WEST: And so, obviously, if someone on
19 their own doesn't make an application in time, it wouldn't be
20 the same. We wouldn't be having the same discussion, but this
21 was a mistake that we made and so I think that's what we are
22 trying to give some accommodation because of that.

23 JUDGE JONES: Okay. I'm with it. Let's clean
24 up our mistake.

25 JUDGE WEST: Do y'all know of any reason not

1 to?

2 MR. GALMOR: The only other thought that I
3 would say that if she meets the elements of a new application, I
4 don't see why the county couldn't process it as a renewal for
5 ease of paperwork on our our side. It's not like she is not
6 qualified.

7 JUDGE WEST: So other than if we do it as
8 renewal, let's assume that that's not an issue, it sounds like
9 the other issues that we had have all been addressed. Is that
10 correct?

11 MS. GARCIA: The financials, I think we need to
12 look at.

13 JUDGE WEST: What do you mean we need to look
14 at?

15 MS. GARCIA: Just in like the -- in the
16 previous application, the financial statement, that it was
17 pointed out that the one she submitted was identical to the one
18 before that.

19 JUDGE WEST: But she redid that as well,
20 correct?

21 MS. GARCIA: She did redo that. And submitted
22 additional documentation that everyone should have in their
23 e-mail, with a bank statement showing the current funds after a
24 deposit of \$20,000 was made.

25 After we were -- or around the time we were

1 meeting on January 20th, which would bring up her account to
2 24,000, everything else -- the financial statement on this
3 application versus the previous one is pretty similar. It would
4 just depend if the board members felt that the financial
5 resources are there.

6 JUDGE WEST: What about the out-of-county
7 forfeiture?

8 MS. GARCIA: That's been paid.

9 JUDGE WEST: Okay.

10 MS. GARCIA: Everything that was listed as an
11 issue in her previous application has been either taken care of
12 or addressed.

13 JUDGE WEST: Okay.

14 MS. GARCIA: So that judgment was taken care
15 of. It was paid, from Kendall County. The insurance on the
16 property on Philmont was reinstated. The property that she
17 didn't previously list on Nickerbocker in Nederland has been
18 refiled without her name on it, but it was brought up in last
19 month's discussion that it was altered without the payee, the
20 one selling the property, even knowing that that signature was
21 removed so -- and the property she had in Port Neches, yes, it
22 was deeded over to Maria Morrell. The labor liens were paid
23 for, but there were still -- there were still back taxes at the
24 time she deeded that property over. So I guess the person that
25 now has the property has inherited those back taxes of over

1 14,000.

2 JUDGE WEST: Right, but it's not -- but it's
3 taken care of?

4 MS. GARCIA: Yes.

5 JUDGE WEST: Okay. So it sounds to me like,
6 for the most part, everything is in order as far as what we
7 would typically look at for a renewal or an application?

8 MS. GARCIA: Yes.

9 JUDGE WEST: Okay. So if there -- I don't see
10 personally an issue with us for our purposes to address this as
11 a renewal, mainly because that's really what it should have been
12 in the first place. If we had done it when we should have done
13 it, we would have caught these things; and it probably could
14 have been taken care of timely. So my thought would be that
15 it's okay to move forward with approving it as a renewal, but
16 that would take a motion, obviously, and a second and everyone
17 voting. If anyone has another motion as far as the application
18 for a new -- if y'all want to do it as an application for a new
19 bondsman, then we will handle it that way and we will have to
20 figure out how to fix everything else on the back end.

21 Thoughts anyone?

22 MR. DAY: Judge, I make a motion we approve it
23 as a renewal.

24 JUDGE WEST: All right. That was Keith Day.

25 JUDGE JONES: Second.

1 JUDGE WEST: Who seconded that? Judge Jones?

2 JUDGE JONES: Duce.

3 JUDGE WEST: Thank you. So we have a motion
4 and a second to approve it as a renewal. Is there any other
5 discussion?

6 All right. Just to make sure, so when y'all
7 vote, I'm going to have it by raise of hands when you vote.
8 Mr. Price, you and Pat are both here; so I'm going to ask if
9 only one of y'all would vote. I think everybody is okay.

10 All those in favor, please raise your hand.

11 (HANDS RAISED VIA ZOOM)

12 JUDGE WEST: Any opposed, raise your hand. All
13 right. We have got no opposed; so it will be approved as a
14 renewal. Thank you.

15 So the next thing, or the last thing on --

16 MS. GARCIA: Wait. I have one more
17 application.

18 JUDGE WEST: Oh, I'm sorry. There is another
19 application.

20 MS. GARCIA: Yes.

21 JUDGE WEST: Thank you, Erika. It's been done
22 as a renewal.

23 MS. GODINA: We will take her out of
24 suspension.

25 MS. FRANCOIS: Thank you, Judge.

1 JUDGE WEST: And so they'll take you out of
2 suspension today.

3 MS. FRANCOIS: Yes, ma'am. Thank you.

4 JUDGE WEST: Okay. Thank you. You can remove
5 yourself from the Zoom now.

6 MS. FRANCOIS: Yes, ma'am. Thank you.

7 MS. GARCIA: Okay. The second application that
8 we have is Keith Day. That was e-mailed out. I'm sorry again
9 for last minute. Everything is in order. The only thing that
10 we are waiting on for Keith is his background checks coming back
11 from himself and his employees and his continuous education
12 certificate, which he will take at a later date and time
13 pursuant to our meeting last month, but everything else is in
14 order.

15 JUDGE WEST: So, obviously, without the
16 education, we can do that because we suspended that for six
17 months. What about the --

18 MS. GARCIA: Correct. And I'll get the
19 adjusted real property collateral out to the auditor and to the
20 treasurer as well as the other board administrators to make that
21 change in the system.

22 JUDGE WEST: Without the background checks, is
23 that an issue?

24 MS. GARCIA: No.

25 JUDGE WEST: It's not. Okay.

1 Anyone have any questions or concerns about
2 Keith Day's application?

3 All right. Is there any motion?

4 MS. BRODE: Has his collateral changed, Becky?

5 MS. GARCIA: Yes. It changed slightly. I'll
6 get that information to you after the meeting and send it out in
7 one e-mail with everyone that needs to be on it.

8 MS. GOODNESS: Judge, I make the notion that we
9 approve Keith's renewal application.

10 MR. GALMOR: I'll second.

11 THE COURT REPORTER: Who was that?

12 JUDGE WEST: Who was that second?

13 MR. GALMOR: This is Dustin Galmor.

14 JUDGE WEST: Okay. Thanks, Dustin. So that
15 was Theresa and Dustin. Any other discussion?

16 All those in favor, please raise your hand.

17 (HANDS RAISED VIA ZOOM).

18 JUDGE WEST: Any opposed, if you'll raise your
19 hand. All right. Thank you. That is approved.

20 Anything else?

21 So before we go into the next -- just Mary is
22 here and this is her last meeting.

23 So, Mary, on behalf of the Board, we just want
24 to thank you very much for everything you've done all these
25 years and we appreciate you and we wish you the very best in

1 your retirement.

2 MS. GODINA: Thank you. Thank you.

3 JUDGE WEST: Does anyone have anything to say
4 to Mary?

5 MS. SEGURA: Don't leave me.

6 JUDGE WEST: Other than don't leave?

7 So what we are going to do now is we are going
8 to go into an executive session so that we can discuss filling
9 Mary's position. And what we are going to do just so that
10 everybody knows is we are not going to come back in to a full
11 session. I think what I'm going to do just so that everybody --
12 there aren't any issues if anybody has -- we don't want to hurt
13 feelings and things like that with regard to voting; so we are
14 going to do a vote where you can bring your vote in an envelope
15 to us and I'll discuss that more in our meeting. So I'm going
16 to adjourn the main meeting, and we are going to go into
17 executive session at this time, and I'm going to get us off of
18 YouTube for that.

19 And if you are not a voting member, at this
20 time I would ask that you please remove yourself from the Zoom
21 and the three people here will leave us as well.

22 (MEETING CONCLUDED AND BOARD WENT INTO
23 EXECUTIVE SESSION)

24

25