

1 BAIL BOND BOARD MEETING

2 FEBRUARY 16, 2023

3

4 THOSE PRESENT: Judge Raquel West

5 Judge Ransom "Duce" Jones

6 Jamie Smith

7 Becky Bertrand

8 Tim Funchess

9 Tom Roebuck

10 Dustin Galmor

11 Chief John Shauberger

12 Al Reed

13 Roxanne Acosta-Hellberg

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1 JUDGE WEST: All right, sir. Call the
2 meeting to order. And I'm just going to remind everyone
3 maybe one or two more times, if you'll say your name
4 when you're speaking just -- I think Ada is getting us
5 down. But that way she can try to get everyone's name
6 down and who is speaking on the record.

16 JUDGE JONES: I move that we accept all
17 three. My name is Ransom "Duce" Jones.

18 | MR. GALMOR: Dustin Galmor. I'll second.

19 JUDGE WEST: A motion and second. Any
12:33PM 20 discussion with regard to the minutes? All in favor of
21 approving all three?

22 | (ALL RESPOND IN FAVOR.)

23 JUDGE WEST: Any opposed? All right.

24 | Thank you.

12:33PM 25 I think everybody -- do we have a report

1 from the D.A.'s office?

2 MS. BERTRAND: It was E-mailed out.

3 JUDGE WEST: And so there is no questions,
4 or do we have a representative from them? I don't think
12:33PM 5 we do today. Well, we'll save the questions then,
6 because I can't answer them. All right.

7 Consideration and approval of applications
8 for agents and renewals. It looks like we have -- one
9 renewal; is that correct?

12:33PM 10 MS. BERTRAND: Yes, ma'am.

11 JUDGE WEST: For Selenia (phonetic).

12 MS. BERTRAND: Reed.

13 JUDGE WEST: All in order?

14 MS. BERTRAND: Yes, ma'am.

12:34PM 15 JUDGE WEST: So take a motion to approve
16 that?

17 MR. FUNCHESS: So moved, Tim Funchess.

18 JUDGE JONES: Second, Duce Jones.

19 JUDGE WEST: All right. I've got a motion
12:34PM 20 and second. Any discussion with regard to that renewal?
21 All those in favor?

22 (ALL RESPOND IN FAVOR.)

23 JUDGE WEST: Any opposed?

24 All right. That passes. Complaints, we
12:34PM 25 don't have any? Treasurer's report, I think.

1 MR. FUNCHESS: I passed out my collateral
2 report. And y'all can review it. If you have any
3 questions, call me.

4 JUDGE WEST: Any issues that you know that
12:34PM 5 we need to talk about today?

6 MR. FUNCHESS: No, ma'am.

7 JUDGE WEST: Anybody got any questions for
8 Tim on that? Perfect.

9 Any release request of property, CDs,
12:34PM 10 anything like that?

11 MS. BERTRAND: Not that I'm aware of.

12 JUDGE WEST: Okay. Auditor's office
13 report?

14 MS. BERTRAND: She wasn't feeling good
12:34PM 15 earlier this morning. I think she went home.

16 JUDGE WEST: Okay. All right. Well, if
17 anybody -- we can always -- she'll get us that next
18 month, I'm sure. Okay.

19 Accusation bonds, which there is no such
12:35PM 20 thing, I hate saying those words together. Because
21 there is no such thing as accusation bonds so we're
22 not -- number one, we're not going to call that on any
23 other agenda because there is no such thing. But the
24 bonding out of people during the accusation period and
12:35PM 25 how -- and I was supposed to call Mary Helm -- and I

1 forgot. Okay. I was -- it just hit me right this
2 minute that I did not do this this morning. So John, do
3 you know what we're supposed to talk about?

4 CHIEF SHAUBERGER: So on those ones that
12:35PM 5 are outstanding currently -- when we go live, it's not
6 going to count against the bondsmen's account
7 immediately. There is roughly a thousand of those bonds
8 that are outstanding right now -- or the charges that
9 are outstanding. We're going to enter those in manually
12:36PM 10 after the go live date. And it's probably going to take
11 roughly two weeks, I would think. A week to two weeks
12 to get those entered in. And as we enter them in, it
13 will gradually count against the account.

14 JUDGE WEST: We had discussed at our last
12:36PM 15 meeting everyone getting us -- Keith was -- had E-mailed
16 me that he had E-mailed everybody, all the bondsmen to
17 tell them what we had talked about that they need to be
18 going through their own files and figuring out which
19 ones they have. And if we can get those that were
12:36PM 20 willing -- if we can get them ahead of time that we
21 would wait to put them in, I guess, for some amount of
22 time is that --

23 CHIEF SHAUBERGER: Well, we can't put them
24 in now. So it's not going to count against them when we
12:36PM 25 go live. We have to be able to enter them into the

1 till, so we have to go live for that to happen.

2 JUDGE WEST: Gotcha.

3 CHIEF SHAUBERGER: For those bonding
4 amounts. And of course, because some of them were cash
12:37PM 5 bonds and then some are surety, it's just -- it's a
6 process that we're going to have to go through on those.
7 As we go through that process, it will gradually start
8 to count.

9 JUDGE WEST: Right. Everybody just needs
12:37PM 10 to be aware of what you have as bondsmen.

11 CHIEF SHAUBERGER: I talked to Mary about
12 that monthly report but -- we were thinking that we
13 could send out on that, maybe even -- they get a report
14 daily now, don't they?

12:37PM 15 MS. BERTRAND: Yeah.

16 CHIEF SHAUBERGER: Maybe even after the go
17 live and a little bit of time, we can go back to that
18 daily report. But it's just going to take -- there is
19 going to be a window that's going to take a little bit
12:37PM 20 of time.

21 MS. BERTRAND: Yeah. That's a specialized
22 report that's currently not in Odyssey. So it is
23 something -- one of our programers is actually having to
24 create using the data that's in Odyssey. So it may be a
12:37PM 25 week or so.

1 CHIEF SHAUBERGER: Which then it won't be
2 accurate until we enter those outstanding --

3 JUDGE WEST: Right. Everybody is just
4 going to have to be patient. I mean, our -- everyone
12:38PM 5 here at the courthouse, at the jail, at the sheriff's
6 office, it is going to be a nightmare for a short --
7 hopefully a short amount of time for all of us, and so
8 nothing --

9 CHIEF SHAUBERGER: I wouldn't say a
12:38PM 10 nightmare, Judge, maybe just a bad dream.

11 JUDGE WEST: Okay. Whatever. It's going
12 to be amazing at some point. We all agree it's going to
13 be great. But the transition is going to be difficult.
14 It just is. Nightmare was harsh. I didn't mean to be
12:38PM 15 harsh. Nothing that we do in that process are we
16 obviously intentionally wanting to hurt anyone in
17 y'all's writing ability or anything like that. So
18 something pops up that doesn't look right, you're just
19 going to have to call and talk to us, talk to the jail,
12:38PM 20 be prepared that those ones that you're holding for
21 those bonds, they're going to get inputted, you know,
22 after that. And we talked last time about different
23 things that can happen. If you need to get off of
24 certain ones that you have been hanging onto for certain
12:39PM 25 reasons, you just need to file, file the motions. And

1 the courts are going to do what they need to do to help
2 you out, you know.

3 CHIEF SHAUBERGER: Yeah. It's -- we talked
4 about that before -- you know, in the past there was a
12:39PM 5 time limit and after we reached a time limit on those
6 cases that weren't filed, the bonds dropped on them.
7 Maybe time to revisit that?

8 MS. BERTRAND: Well, in my last
9 conversation with Mary this morning, one thing we talked
12:39PM 10 about is if any sureties on a Class C, those aren't
11 going to be -- those are getting closed out. So any
12 Class C's will not affect your liability.

13 JUDGE WEST: And see, I thought we
14 changed -- we got away from the time frame because it's
12:39PM 15 not legal.

16 MS. BERTRAND: Yeah. I think they're
17 there. There is no 30/60/90-day.

18 CHIEF SHAUBERGER: Is there legal precedent
19 since we're the only county that does accusations?

12:39PM 20 JUDGE WEST: I don't think so. But I --
21 when we first -- when I first started -- however many
22 years ago just even on the board, much less here, I
23 just -- something caught us and we were just doing some
24 things that -- and I don't know that anybody necessarily
12:40PM 25 was complaining. But then a couple of things did happen

1 that brought it to your attention. And it's just flat
2 out not --

3 CHIEF SHAUBERGER: Maybe we can't have that
4 preset time frame.

12:40PM 5 JUDGE WEST: Time frame.

6 CHIEF SHAUBERGER: But they can -- after
7 90 days, we would grant them liability to come to the
8 Court and say --

9 JUDGE WEST: I mean, at any point, you're
12:40PM 10 on a bond and the case isn't getting filed for some
11 amount of time or whatever happens -- I mean, I think
12 that just something on a case-by-case basis that if you
13 file an AFRS, the judge looks at it. Make sure you put
14 all the information, how long it's been, and if it's a
12:40PM 15 reasonable amount of time, then I think your judges are
16 going to grant them. If it's a couple of weeks, then
17 we're probably going to start thinking -- come on, you
18 know, they're going to have to bond him out again, give
19 it some time. So I think it's -- I don't know what
12:41PM 20 reasonable is. I can't say because it's not legal to
21 say and put a date on it. But you guys know, you know.

22 MS. BERTRAND: Well, one thing that Mary
23 and I had discussed is possibly eventually getting a
24 report ran in the D.A.'s office to say these bonds have
12:41PM 25 been on file for X amount of time -- you know, maybe the

1 officer hasn't brought the papers, maybe they just fell
2 off into a hole or something. But it would be
3 information to the D.A.'s office that they need to look
4 at something, because this case is just -- this bond has
12:41PM 5 been on file for way too long.

6 JUDGE WEST: I mean, you know, on your DWIs
7 and your possession cases that you're looking at 4 to
8 6 months, anyway. So I would say don't try to get off
9 of them before you know that the lab results should be
12:41PM 10 back because they're -- it's just not. They're not
11 indicting those or filing them until they get the
12 results. So those are probably a lot of what's sitting
13 and waiting to some extent. I would think on a
14 rotation. But if you get to 4 to 6 months and they're
12:42PM 15 not, then somebody needs to be looking into where they
16 are in the lab process and if they're going to get
17 filed.

18 CHIEF SHAUBERGER: I think one of the
19 things that -- in conversations with Mary, it's going to
12:42PM 20 be easier to create AFRS in Odyssey than in AS400. So
21 what the D.A.'s office is relying on is us doing it
22 manually by hand at the jail and saying these bonds are
23 still out, and we're doing it once a year. The ECR
24 could probably even be monthly on the cases that haven't
12:42PM 25 been filed yet, so...

1 JUDGE WEST: It's going to be helpful in
2 some ways. It's just going to be difficult for a little
3 while.

4 CHIEF SHAUBERGER: We'll see how that works
12:42PM 5 on that.

6 JUDGE WEST: We'll see. Yeah. All right.
7 Anything else about that?

8 MS. BERTRAND: Mary apologizes for not
9 being here. She told everyone she would be here. She
12:42PM 10 is not feeling well. Her vertigo issues, but -- we will
11 be back next month with more information. If you have
12 any questions, certainly E-mail me or anyone else, and
13 we'll try to get the information for you. And --

14 JUDGE WEST: I mean, next month by the time
12:43PM 15 we're here, we're live.

16 CHIEF SHAUBERGER: Should have questions --
17 MS. BERTRAND: Days.

18 JUDGE WEST: I say I think I feel vertigo
19 coming on from that next meeting.

12:43PM 20 MS. BERTRAND: I don't sleep anymore so...

21 JUDGE WEST: We have to get my backup to be
22 here that time. All right. So the next thing is
23 consideration and approval to change the bond forms to
24 add the defendant's E-mail addresses.

12:43PM 25 MS. BERTRAND: Yeah. So when -- we haven't

1 revisited the bond forms in quite some time. One
2 thing -- you know, in being involved in this Odyssey
3 project, one of the purchases we made on it is
4 E-notices. And so if we have the defendant's E-mail
12:43PM 5 address, we can send an E-notice to them, not only to
6 surety and to the attorneys, but also to the defendants
7 about if their court date has been rescheduled, if it
8 changed the last minute due to inclement weather. So
9 that's one thing I wanted to go back in on both the cash
12:44PM 10 bond PR and surety bond is to add an E-mail address.
11 Certainly, I don't want to make anyone go reprint a
12 bunch of forms that y'all -- in the meantime just get a
13 stamp or a sticker or whatever. But that would be --
14 allow us to have a little bit more information for this
12:44PM 15 person to contact them. As well as on the cash bond, I
16 know our office sometimes have issues with -- when we
17 refund cash bonds we take a five percent administrative
18 fee if there is a conviction. But if it's a dismal or a
19 not guilty, they get the full amount back. And they can
12:44PM 20 kind of want to argue with us. But I think if we just
21 put it on the bond and it's this waiver more or less, we
22 would be appreciative to have that on there.
23 JUDGE WEST: So the E-mail as well --
24 you're asking for the E-mail to be on there as well as
12:45PM 25 some type --

1 MS. BERTRAND: On cash bonds.

2 JUDGE WEST: And on cash bond some type of
3 disclaimer --

4 MS. BERTRAND: Right. The administrative
12:45PM 5 fee that might be taken.

6 JUDGE WEST: Yeah. I think that's a great
7 idea for both. I would think it would help everything
8 electronic --

9 MS. BERTRAND: Addresses change but e-mails
12:45PM 10 are usually constant.

11 JUDGE WEST: And people will have E-mails
12 even when they don't have other things. Yeah. So to
13 approve those, we would do -- I would say we probably --
14 let's do two different motions, one for each -- and
12:45PM 15 since they're two separate things if anybody --

16 CHIEF SHAUBERGER: I make a motion for the
17 E-mail.

18 MR. SMITH: Second.

19 JUDGE WEST: Motion by John. Second by
12:45PM 20 Jamie. Anymore discussion about the E-mail? All those
21 in favor say aye?

22 (ALL RESPOND IN FAVOR.)

23 JUDGE WEST: Any opposed? All right. That
24 passes. And then --

12:45PM 25 JUDGE JONES: I move for the other, but I

1 don't know what it was. The disclaimer, I move --

2 JUDGE WEST: The disclaimer on cash
3 bonds --

4 JUDGE JONES: Yeah.

12:46PM 5 JUDGE WEST: -- so that there would be a
6 notice that they would have a fee if there is a
7 conviction.

8 MS. BERTRAND: Yes, ma'am.

9 CHIEF SHAUBERGER: Second.

12:46PM 10 JUDGE WEST: There is motion and a second.
11 Any more discussion on that? All those in favor say
12 aye?

13 (ALL RESPOND IN FAVOR.)

14 JUDGE WEST: Any opposed? All right.

12:46PM 15 That's it on my agenda. I'm always scared to ask --

16 JUDGE JONES: I move that we adjourn.

17 JUDGE WEST: There we go. Is there
18 anything else anybody needs to discuss?

19 MS. BERTRAND: Do they have any questions
12:46PM 20 about Odyssey or before it's -- I mean, just --

21 UNKNOWN FEMALE VOICE: I have a question.
22 Does the E-mail address that you're requesting is that
23 just on the cash bonds or is that also going to be on
24 the surety bonds?

12:46PM 25 MS. BERTRAND: On all of them. That's what

1 I was saying. If you just get a sticker made, I don't
2 want you to go spend a bunch of money reprinting the
3 bonds that you already have. I will, of course, redo
4 the form and send that out to everyone so that when you
12:46PM 5 do get to that point and you need to order some more,
6 you will have it. But just put a sticker on there or a
7 stamp or whatever you want to do.

8 JUDGE JONES: Question: Do you have what
9 you want on there -- that everybody can have the same --
10 you have the wording that you want to put on the
11 sticker?

12 MS. BERTRAND: Yeah. I'll form it up and
13 I'll get Judge's approval on it that it's to par with
14 statute.

12:47PM 15 JUDGE WEST: Yeah. We'll send something
16 out with the language. That way guys can have all the
17 same wording on your cash bonds. Yes, sir?

18 UNKNOWN MALE VOICE: The question is -- you
19 said something about your -- y'all are possibly E-mail
12:47PM 20 the defendants. What I was understanding is that we
21 were not going to get no more court dates. So what is
22 the situation on that? Because what was said a while
23 ago is that y'all were going to possibly going to be
24 sending E-mails to the defendant as to us and not going
12:47PM 25 to be getting our E-mail lists no more. So what will we

1 be getting?

2 MS. BERTRAND: Like, are you talking about
3 court date's notices or are you talking about your
4 report -- your daily report?

12:47PM 5 UNKNOWN MALE VOICE: Daily report.

6 MS. BERTRAND: For a couple weeks, we will
7 shutdown. And I'm talking all offices will be on manual
8 working power. Our e-file system will be shutdown for
9 over a week. Our processes as we know it is shutting
12:48PM 10 down as -- so these reports will be shutdown at the
11 point of when we go with live. There is a short span
12 that we're pushing to get to within a two-week period to
13 get your daily report sent back out to you. But they
14 can't create it until we make the move. Because right
12:48PM 15 now those reports are running in our old AS400 system.
16 We have to convert everything from the jail and move it
17 over live into our information to be able to create the
18 report and extract the information that you guys need.
19 It will -- we're hoping two weeks. But just know that
12:48PM 20 your offices will really need to be keeping track. And
21 that's why we said in the last meeting if you go to
22 your -- I'm not going to say A word -- but the bonds
23 that haven't been filed on cases, if you could get at
24 least a ballpark idea, compare that to your collateral,
12:48PM 25 your writing ability that you currently have, you're

1 going to see when they start hitting if you need to
2 pledge additional collateral or if you're okay. But
3 because it -- it will be a manual process for you guys
4 until we can get those reports sent out to everyone.

12:49PM 5 MR. REED: I have a question, Judge. Al
6 Reed. On the stickers of the E-mail address, they just
7 on the jail copy. They don't go on our copy?

8 MS. BERTRAND: Yeah. I don't --

9 MR. REED: Okay.

12:49PM 10 MS. BERTRAND: It's whatever you want to.
11 If you want to do on all of them, do on all of them.

12 MR. REED: Jail copy.

13 MS. BERTRAND: But we just need as far
14 as -- but as far as the E-mail notices, that's a benefit
12:49PM 15 from the court side if we have the defendant's E-mail
16 address, like I said, for inclement weather --

17 JUDGE WEST: Especially on PR bonds.

18 Cash --

19 MS. BERTRAND: -- whatever, we can send out
12:49PM 20 instant notices to everyone that's on the docket at that
21 point in time.

22 JUDGE WEST: I think that will help us more
23 on cash bonds and PR bonds from the courts. That, you
24 know, we don't send out whole lot others than those but
12:50PM 25 that will be another way to say, we sent you this

1 notice -- plus everything else that they don't show up,
2 we'll have something else to look at. All right.

3 Anything else then?

4 MR. REED: Anybody else?

12:50PM 5 JUDGE WEST: Any other questions? Thank
6 you all for being here. And be patient with us.

7 JUDGE JONES: Thank you for having us.

8 JUDGE WEST: All right. Meeting is
9 adjourned.

12:50PM 10 (Meeting adjourned at 12:50 p.m.)

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