

1
2 BAIL BOND BOARD MEETING

3 APRIL 20, 2023

4
5 THOSE PRESENT: JUDGE RAQUEL WEST

6 VALENCIA SIMPSON

7 BECKY BERTRAND

8 KEITH DAY

9 KELLIE HOLMES

10 GLENDA SEGURA

11 RHONDA BRODE

12 TOM ROEBUCK

13 DUSTIN GALMOR

14 CHIEF JOHN SHAUBERGER

15 AL REED

16 QUENTIN PRICE

17 VALENCIA FONTENOT

18 STELLINA REED

19 DEDE ROJAS

20 TAMARA RITENOUR

21 CHRIS ROMANO

22 DERRICK HAYNES

23 MARCUS SAM

24 TONYA LENE

25 KIMBERLY BROUSSARD

1 JUDGE WEST: Let's go ahead and get started.

2 | I'll call the meeting to order. Let's see.

3 We have -- it was just emailed out just a little
4 bit ago, but we do have the meetings -- "the meetings" -- the
5 minutes from the February meeting have been sent out. We don't
6 have March yet. But everybody was emailed a little bit ago the
7 February meeting. I have one here if you want to look at those
8 minutes. We would need a motion to approve February.

9 CHIEF SHAUBERGER: Motion.

12:39PM 10 MR. PRICE: Second.

11 MR. DAY: Second.

12 MR. PRICE: Let Keith do it.

15 (RESPONSES GIVEN.)

16 | JUDGE WEST: Any opposed?

17 (NO RESPONSE.)

18 JUDGE WEST: All right. February passes.

19 Report from the district attorney's office?

12:39PM 20 MR. PRICE: We do not have one of those, your
21 Honor. Odyssey, we're not creating them. Becky can tell you
22 better why than what I can.

23 MS. BERTRAND: No.

1 MR. PRICE: Right. There you go.

2 JUDGE WEST: Okay. So, then we've got
3 consideration of any approval or renewals of agents. Do we have
4 any?

5 MS. BERTRAND: No, ma'am.

6 JUDGE WEST: All right. And then any complaints,
7 Kellie?

8 MS. HOLMES: No, ma'am.

9 JUDGE WEST: Report from the treasurer on cash
10 and CDs?

11 MS. BRODE: The treasurer's not here. I
12 disbursed everything for him. It looks good as far as I can
13 tell. I'm comparing the collateral values to Odyssey to see
14 what's happening.

15 JUDGE WEST: Okay. Don't we love Odyssey?

16 MS. BRODE: We do.

17 JUDGE WEST: All right. The next is release of
18 any property or CDs requested by bonding company. Becky, I
19 think I've been told that we've got one?

20 MS. BERTRAND: We have one.

21 JUDGE WEST: For A1?

22 MS. BERTRAND: For A1. But we've only
23 recently -- and I'm talking about this morning recently --

24 MS. BRODE: Within the hour.

25 MS. BERTRAND: -- was able to run the report.

1 And I don't think we're going to be able to.

2 JUDGE WEST: So, there's not enough collateral to
3 cover if we release --

4 MS. BRODE: We don't know.

5 JUDGE WEST: -- what he's asking?

6 MS. BERTRAND: We're really still trying to
7 verify, and it's right there if -- but I don't think we're going
8 to be able to.

9 MS. BRODE: The collateral looks messed up. The
10 bonds, we have no idea. We don't have enough information to be
11 able to release collateral. So, what I'm going to say -- not
12 just specifically Mr. Reed -- but during this transition period
13 if we could just ask the bondsmen to please be patient until we
14 get something balanced. Like I said, we just were able to pull
15 this report up within the last hour.

16 JUDGE WEST: So, why don't we do this maybe as a
17 suggestion? You know, typically obviously this is something
18 that we would --

19 MS. REED: It's a legal issue. We've got to get
20 it done.

21 JUDGE WEST: I understand; and, so, listen to
22 what I'm going to say.

23 MR. REED: Yeah.

24 JUDGE WEST: All right. So, my suggestion is
25 since they were able to pull it, let's get a day or two for them

1 to make sure that it's all covered. If it is, then they can get
2 with me and we can approve a vote by email and, so, we won't
3 have to wait till the next meeting. I'm not saying wait a few
4 weeks. I'm saying wait a few days, maybe to the beginning of
5 next week. It's Thursday. Let's see what you guys can find out
6 today and tomorrow, and then maybe Monday I can -- if everything
7 is good, I'll send out for a vote on Monday. Is that fine?

8 MS. BRODE: We really are working it. I mean --

9 JUDGE WEST: No, and we understand.

12:42PM 10 MS. BRODE: -- we recently got the report.

11 JUDGE WEST: It's your property and if there's
12 the coverage, you get it, no doubt; but we just have to have
13 that. And, so, let's see what we can find out as quickly as
14 possible. And then as long as it's covered, then I'm sure there
15 won't be any issue and we'll send out for a vote. Everybody be
16 watching their emails, Monday at the latest on that. Okay?

17 Any others other than that one?

18 MS. BERTRAND: No, ma'am.

19 JUDGE WEST: Okay.

12:43PM 20 MR. REED: Judge, if it's not covered -- it
21 should be -- but if it's not, we can put up additional
22 collateral.

23 JUDGE WEST: Okay. We'll let you -- they'll let
24 you know. So, if for some reason it's not --

25 MR. REED: Yes.

1 JUDGE WEST: -- and you get something else that
2 makes it that way, we'll --

3 MR. REED: Yes.

4 JUDGE WEST: -- hold the votes till whenever all
5 that happens --

6 MR. REED: Thank you so much.

7 JUDGE WEST: -- one way or the other.

8 CHIEF SHAUBERGER: Like we were saying, Al, we
9 just finished yesterday --

12:43PM 10 MR. REED: Yeah. I understand.

11 CHIEF SHAUBERGER: -- putting all the backlog
12 bonds in --

13 MR. REED: I understand.

14 CHIEF SHAUBERGER: -- so they just got it today.

15 MR. REED: I understand.

16 JUDGE WEST: We're getting there, slowly but
17 surely.

18 Okay. Report from the auditor's office?

19 MS. BRODE: I was able to print out the general
12:43PM 20 ledger. We're in the red quite a bit. We're almost in the hole
21 \$3,000. I don't have the March report because Odyssey; and
22 we've only had two renewals this year, this fiscal year. So,
23 the renewals are usually what covers us. The other reports,
24 Odyssey. Like I said, the last hour I was able to see what the
25 surety limits were and what the outstanding sureties bonds were.

1 (MR. GALMOR ENTERS THE MEETING.)

2 JUDGE WEST: Okay.

3 MS. BRODE: Maybe next month but --

4 JUDGE WEST: Hopefully.

5 MS. BRODE: -- I would like to make note that
6 Chief Shauberger told me today that all the accusation bonds
7 have been entered into the system.

8 JUDGE WEST: That's what I hear. Way to go,
9 jail.

12:44PM 10 CHIEF SHAUBERGER: We're trying.

11 JUDGE WEST: Everyone is trying; and this has
12 just been a very difficult, much more difficult transition than
13 anyone could have probably imagined. So, all right.

14 In the next, consider and approve new surety bond
15 form. We had talked about the new form having the email on it.
16 So -- and then we talked, Becky and I talked. She brought it to
17 my attention. Let me see, Becky. So, we have the new form.
18 It's got at the top a cause number and then beside it there is
19 also something that we'd like to add or we've discussed and we
20 want to talk to everybody about. Below that is defendant's
21 email address; and, so, Becky, if you'll explain the Person ID
22 and why that would be a good idea.

23 MS. BERTRAND: The next thing that we have in
24 Odyssey that is a unique identifier when the jail is taking in a
25 person, the DA is filing a case on a person, it's called a

1 Person ID. And that's basically a number that gets assigned to
2 that person at the time that they're booked in, and it's a
3 unique number throughout their history with our County. This
4 also helps us identify those that are using AKAs or using
5 someone else's name. This number, when it's identified on the
6 bond, because we all know sometimes the bonds don't come and hit
7 the courts until -- it could be a year or two later. So, this
8 number is a tracking number to make sure that when the bond was
9 made, this is the person, this is the offense. And then when
12:46PM 10 the DA -- when the DA's office files a case, it all ties in
11 together. It's just one more step of verifying that that bond
12 matches that offense and that charge that happened.

13 And then this is also something, because the jail
14 does have to sit on these and they know immediately which ones
15 were -- these cases were filed because that information's also
16 put on the charging instruments by the DA's office, so that
17 everything is matching.

18 JUDGE WEST: It should be a very helpful thing to
19 have on there; and, so, the form just has, you know, the cause
12:47PM 20 number -- for anybody who can see it (indicating) -- and then
21 the Person ID, email address, and then the rest is the same.
22 So, I think we need kind of a final approval. We've already
23 approved adding the email address; but we would need a motion,
24 an approval to add that Person ID to the surety bond form, as
25 well.

1 MR. DAY: Is the Person ID going to be available
2 to the bondsmen, or is that something the jail will enter once
3 the bond is turned in?

4 JUDGE WEST: The jail would enter it, I believe.

5 CHIEF SHAUBERGER: Is it available on the portal?

6 MS. BERTRAND: I don't know if that Person ID is
7 because what's on the portal is only on cases filed.

8 CHIEF SHAUBERGER: Right.

9 JUDGE WEST: I think this is information that the
12:47PM 10 jail would have to put on. Y'all wouldn't be expected to know
11 that.

12 MR. DAY: But you said it's the same -- so, if
13 they went in in 2023 and they go again in 2026, the number's
14 going to be the same?

15 CHIEF SHAUBERGER: Correct.

16 MR. DAY: Okay.

17 MR. ROMANO: So, Judge, I was looking at that
18 like on ours, with insurance, we have a power number under the
19 cause number.

12:48PM 20 JUDGE WEST: A what number?

21 MR. ROMANO: Power number.

22 JUDGE WEST: Power?

23 MR. ROMANO: 'Cause we staple the power to the
24 back of the bonds so if something happens, it gets lost, the
25 power gets separated from the bond, it's actually on the bond,

1 too. And that's not on any of the forms that y'all have. We
2 had to add that ourselves.

3 MS. BERTRAND: I mean, we can do one for the
4 insurance company specifically and not have it on the other
5 bondsmen.

6 MR. ROMANO: No. I mean, we just added that
7 ourselves because they have gotten separated before.

8 MS. BERTRAND: I mean, if you put it on there,
9 that's great. I mean, it would be up to you. I don't think
12:48PM 10 it's an issue. It's additional information. This is just the
11 required information. But I know the power number is a
12 requirement for the insurance companies --

13 MR. ROMANO: Yeah.

14 MS. BERTRAND: -- it's attached, but if you want
15 to write that on the face of the front page of it, I don't think
16 that's an issue. But if you want me to create one that's
17 specially for an insurance company, I don't mind doing that.

18 MR. ROMANO: I was just looking at room is what
19 I'm...

12:49PM 20 JUDGE WEST: Uh-huh.

21 MS. BERTRAND: I'm very limited on room.

22 JUDGE WEST: Yeah. We're running out.

23 MS. RITENOUR: Can we use the sticker, as well,
24 since we already have --

25 MS. BERTRAND: Yeah, absolutely.

1 MS. RITENOUR: -- until we run out?

2 MS. BERTRAND: Absolutely, until you need a
3 reorder. And I have the blank forms up here to give y'all --

4 MS. RITENOUR: Okay.

5 MS. BERTRAND: -- if these were going to be
6 approved.

7 Chris, I can certainly, and Derrick and whoever
8 else -- I don't see David; you're for David -- to email y'all
9 one for the insurance company.

12:49PM 10 MR. DAY: Judge, if it would be easier, we can
11 just get rid of the insurance companies.

12 MR. ROMANO: Don't matter to me. We can do that.

13 JUDGE WEST: I'm going to stay out of that one.
14 We're here to serve all. There's probably space if we made the
15 email address a little smaller or something at the top for
16 those.

17 All right. So, we would need a motion, second to
18 approve the form as it is now and also with that -- go ahead and
19 make the additional approval, I guess, for those that have the
12:50PM 20 insurance company, to have that power number on it, as well.

21 MR. PRICE: Do we have a surety's email address
22 on this?

23 MS. BERTRAND: No. But I have their email
24 address. It's a part of their application that gets renewed,
25 and then it's also something -- I mean --

1 MR. PRICE: Okay. Okay.

2 MS. BERTRAND: But that's something I can add in
3 Odyssey --

4 MR. PRICE: Automatically?

5 MS. BERTRAND: -- that wouldn't be a requirement
6 for the form.

7 CHIEF SHAUBERGER: Bond.

8 MS. BERTRAND: Because the form is where I'm
9 having to get the defendant's information.

12:50PM 10 MR. PRICE: Okay. Because we could use that for
11 purposes of giving out notice --

12 MS. BERTRAND: Notice, uh-huh.

13 MR. PRICE: -- of trial settings.

14 MS. BERTRAND: Yes. I'm with you.

15 CHIEF SHAUBERGER: I'll make a motion that we
16 approve it.

17 JUDGE WEST: I've got a motion.

18 MR. PRICE: I'll second.

19 MR. DAY: Second.

12:51PM 20 MR. PRICE: I'm going to make eye contact next
21 time.

22 MR. DAY: Give him that one.

23 MR. PRICE: Yeah.

24 JUDGE WEST: I've got a second by Quentin. All
25 those in -- or any other discussion about the form? All those

1 in favor?

2 (RESPONSES MADE.)

3 JUDGE WEST: Any opposed?

4 (NO RESPONSE.)

5 JUDGE WEST: All right. That passes. That is
6 all I have.

7 Is there any other information or issues that we
8 need to discuss today?

9 MR. DAY: On these accusation bonds that have
10 been all entered into the computer now, a few months back when
11 we started talking about all these accusation bonds being
12 created and how many years that they would go back entering
13 these bonds, you know, these accusation bonds, there was some
14 discussion about a lot of these cases would be looked at and
15 sent up to the DA's office to find out if there was going to be
16 dismissals on some of these cases. Was that done or did
17 everything just from years back -- you know, how many years is
18 it? Four? Is it four years?

19 CHIEF SHAUBERGER: I'm sorry. I don't know.

20 JUDGE WEST: On the accusation. So, if we're
21 talking about the same thing, I understand -- I thought the
22 bondsmen were going to get a list of the ones that they had --

23 MR. DAY: Well, we --

24 JUDGE WEST: -- that were outstanding --

25 MR. DAY: Well, no. We were --

1 JUDGE WEST: -- and get that to us.

2 MR. DAY: Well, we were just -- well, I don't --

3 MS. RITENOUR: We did.

4 MR. DAY: We did?

5 MS. RITENOUR: We did do a list.

6 MR. DAY: Okay.

7 JUDGE WEST: We had talked about that two or
8 three --

9 MS. RITENOUR: Uh-huh.

12:52PM 10 JUDGE WEST: -- months or meetings ago because we
11 knew this was coming --

12 MR. DAY: Okay.

17 MR. DAY: Okay.

18 JUDGE WEST: -- the time I guess or the
19 wherewithal to go through everybody's to see whose they were and
12:52PM 20 all of that.

21 MR. DAY: So, next week, when we're talking about
22 Al's deal, next week will we all be getting a more solid number
23 or --

24 MS. B.1.6.2 v. 1, fol. 100v

25 MB. DAY: Okay.

1 MS. BERTRAND: Everyone but Keith.

2 MR. DAY: Yeah. Well, I've learned that in the
3 past week.

4 MS. BRODE: I'm going to say no so that you don't
5 have expectations.

6 MR. DAY: Okay.

7 MR. ROMANO: I'm going to go with Keith on this.
8 What happens if they go post a bond and they shut them down?

9 MS. RITENOUR: Yeah.

12:53PM 10 MR. ROMANO: I mean, we've got to know what our
11 numbers are.

12 MR. DAY: Yeah.

13 JUDGE WEST: No. I agree.

14 MR. DAY: We kind of have a round --

15 MS. BRODE: I don't think the jail's shutting
16 everyone down.

17 CHIEF SHAUBERGER: If they're in default, we
18 will, if they show in default.

19 MR. DAY: And that's the question. Right now
12:53PM 20 we're kind of working, you know --

21 JUDGE WEST: I know.

22 MR. DAY: -- we know what we have out, but a lot
23 of times we don't know what cases -- like we would go through
24 our printout, our docket every day and --

25 JUDGE WEST: I know.

1 MR. DAY: -- we would have to notify the courts
2 that, "Hey, this case is over with. It needs to be taken off
3 our liability." And sometimes it reaches up five, \$600,000
4 worth of stuff that may be sitting on our docket that needs to
5 be taken off but there's no way for us to know right now 'cause
6 we don't -- we're -- like I said, we're working blind right now.
7 We don't know what's sitting on our docket that shouldn't be
8 sitting there right now. We could've did a release of surety on
9 someone on a hundred-thousand-dollar bond that hadn't been taken
10 off our liability, and we wouldn't know it. So, that's kind of
11 the issue that we're dealing with right now.

12 CHIEF SHAUBERGER: Let me tell you. The DA's
13 office has been dealing with the issue right now, especially
14 with the DWIs with DPS being so far backlogged on blood. So,
15 they're pushing the statute of limitations on two years on a lot
16 of those misdemeanors. So, they're having to go through and
17 decide whether they're going to file those cases or not or
18 dismiss them.

22 MR. DAY: Right.

23 CHIEF SHAUBERGER: -- until they're indicted.

24 MR. DAY: Right.

25 CHIEF SHAUBERGER: So, we don't know either until

1 we can actually run that. And then, you know, we had talked
2 about probably the easiest thing to do is if you have some long
3 outstanding bonds is file for the release of surety on it and,
4 you know, and the Court would determine if there's reasonable --

5 JUDGE WEST: I mean, the thing is, we've got to
6 have some -- obviously we need people bonding out of jail.

7 MS. BRODE: Right. Yes, please.

8 JUDGE WEST: Right? I mean, we need that. And I
9 don't have an answer. I'm thinking out loud right now. I mean,
12:55PM 10 we obviously need maybe -- you know, I don't know if there's
11 some relief that we can give or the jail can give for 30 days or
12 something like that where if someone shows in default, they can
13 do some more inquiry or call somebody or we give just a pass for
14 a minute on this or something because --

15 MS. BRODE: According to this report, I can tell
16 you it's --

17 CHIEF SHAUBERGER: The problem is is we've only
18 finished yesterday.

19 MS. BRODE: Yeah.

12:55PM 20 CHIEF SHAUBERGER: So --

21 MS. BRODE: Yeah.

22 CHIEF SHAUBERGER: -- if they ended up in default
23 yesterday because they've posted some bonds, it's because
24 they -- we just finished yesterday.

25 JUDGE WEST: And we knew that was coming.

1 CHIEF SHAUBERGER: Right.

2 JUDGE WEST: And we had already talked at
3 previous meetings about giving some time.

4 MS. BRODE: Right.

5 CHIEF SHAUBERGER: So, how much time would it
6 take you?

7 MS. BRODE: It was like two months that we said,
8 two or three -- 90 days? Was it 90 days in January that we
9 said?

12:56PM 10 CHIEF SHAUBERGER: How much time do you need to
11 balance?

12 MS. BRODE: I can't remember.

13 MS. BERTRAND: I think we gave -- before we
14 transitioned -- I'm just going off a really bad memory right
15 now -- but I want to say all the bondsmen were given -- I asked
16 for y'all's last report, for y'all to send me --

17 MS. BRODE: Uh-huh.

18 MS. BERTRAND: -- the last report that was
19 emailed to you; and that was the report that y'all needed to
12:56PM 20 start subtracting from any time a bond was turned in, 'cause
21 that's really all we have and all y'all would have to work off
22 of. Again, we're trying to run our detailed report --

23 CHIEF SHAUBERGER: How long would it take?

24 MS. BERTRAND: -- that shows exactly what bonds
25 have been written and then versus the ones y'all have been

1 pulled off of.

2 MS. BRODE: I'm looking at Al's. Al, you
3 average -- do you mind if I say dollar amounts?

4 MR. REED: (Shakes head from side to side.) No.

5 MS. BRODE: Okay. You average about 5 million
6 out. There's 4 million showing on here.

7 MR. REED: We should have like 15 million.

8 MS. BRODE: No, not in your limit.

9 MR. REED: A limit.

12:57PM 10 MS. BRODE: Not in your limit. In your bonds
11 that are out right now.

12 MR. REED: Okay.

13 MS. BRODE: So, I don't know if we're missing a
14 million or if you just haven't done a lot of business.

15 MR. REED: No, we have not done the business that
16 we normally are used to doing.

17 MS. BRODE: I'm just comparing it.

18 MR. REED: This year's definitely down from last
19 year.

12:57PM 20 MS. BERTRAND: Yeah. I haven't been able to
21 analyze anything. Like I said, we just got this report in the
22 last hour. I was trying to pull something to see if we had any
23 hope to tell y'all. I'm not going to promise Monday for every
24 bail bondsman. I know that Al has something going on.

25 JUDGE WEST: No. He specifically requested it.

1 And, so, I said let's work on that obviously; but we have to be
2 able to -- the bondsmen have to be able to make bonds --

3 MS. BERTRAND: Yes.

4 JUDGE WEST: -- for the next month. Now, I mean
5 everybody -- all the bondsmen were also given notice of this
6 three months ago, that it's coming, start looking at the ones
7 you have, start filing things if you want to file them. We were
8 going to sign to let you guys off of them. And, so, this isn't
9 something that's new that you weren't -- everybody shouldn't
10 have been prepared for and working on on y'all's side, also.

11 So, I'm not saying anybody's to blame. We thought this was
12 going to be a lot smoother, this process, than it is; but we
13 knew it was going to have some issues. It has more issues than
14 we ever imagined possible ever in the history of possibilities.
15 I mean, I'm serious.

16 MS. FONTENOT: True, true.

17 JUDGE WEST: I mean, it's ridiculous. It's --
18 what's going on just in my court is minor compared -- not minor
19 but every -- it's terrible. Everybody's trying. And, so, we're
20 going to figure out a way obviously for people to make bonds. I
21 don't know what the answer is.

22 MR. DAY: Yeah. Judge, and to go on what you're
23 saying, I hope most all the bonding companies did do that, but
24 the ones that I was stating were hidden amounts that we don't
25 know --

1 JUDGE WEST: Right.

2 MR. DAY: -- are sitting on our liability right
3 now that shouldn't be. That's what we can't see --

4 JUDGE WEST: Right.

5 MR. DAY: -- and we don't know. We literally
6 would do a report every day of bonds that were either AFRSSs,
7 voluntary surrenders, people back in jail or cases that were
8 dismissed or disposed of that were sitting on our liability that
9 we literally had to call the courts and get them taken off. So,
01:00PM 10 you know, those we don't know about.

11 MR. BERTRAND: Yeah. I will email y'all out
12 today what we were able to run and see where y'all are at, see
13 if it's close --

14 MS. RITENOUR: Close.

15 MS. BERTRAND: -- or if it's really -- we're way
16 off.

17 MR. DAY: Okay.

18 MS. BERTRAND: Y'all know that's been my biggest
19 concern is making sure y'all's stuff is right.

01:00PM 20 MS. BRODE: Uh-huh.

21 MS. BERTRAND: So, I want to make sure y'all's
22 stuff is right, you know. I also want to make sure everyone is
23 doing what they can whenever y'all get off a bond, that that
24 comes off, as well. So, that's also something on the back side
25 of it, I'm trying to go back and check, too.

1 MS. RITENOUR: So, I do have a question for
2 Kellie and you, Becky, as well. When we have a case that's
3 dismissed, are you -- because I know in the old system there was
4 two screens you would have to go in and take us off of and that
5 would pull it off the liability report, right?

6 MS. BERTRAND: Uh-huh.

7 MS. RITENOUR: Is that something y'all are doing
8 on Odyssey? Like I have pages of people that I know are
9 dismissed or we paid forfeitures. Can we call and see if those
01:01PM 10 have actually been taken off of Keith's liability?

11 MS. BERTRAND: Send me an email of a few of them,
12 because here's the way the program is designed to work. Once
13 there is a stat closure, like what we're reporting to OCA, that
14 this case is over with, even, you know, for anything, dismissal,
15 probation, whatever, that should immediately relieve you from
16 your bond --

17 MS. RITENOUR: Okay.

18 MS. BERTRAND: -- and drop that bond off your
19 liability. That's the way it's designed to work.

01:01PM 20 MS. RITENOUR: Okay.

21 MS. BERTRAND: So, again, I need to go in and
22 make sure. Just send me a few cases. I'll check it and see
23 where we're at. I'm still trying to figure out how to run
24 reports in this stupid program. Half of the time I'm looking
25 for the report, I don't have permission to the report. It

1 exists. I don't have permission.

2 MS. BRODE: I just got you permissions for bail
3 bonds today.

4 MS. BERTRAND: Thank you, because I haven't been
5 able to run this report.

6 MS. RITENOUR: Well, every company should know.

7 Like I have folders that show what I have done. So, if I do a
8 voluntary surrender, I have the name, the case number, the bond
9 amount and I put "closed" and then, so, everybody should know
01:02PM 10 kind of what we should have.

11 MS. BERTRAND: See, that's on the closure. So,
12 that's the next thing on my list that I'm really focusing on is
13 to make sure everyone's following their business practice, their
14 BPs, to know that if a surrender, if it was signed by the Judge,
15 that automatically should be -- the process is to go in there
16 and relieve you --

17 MS. RITENOUR: Right.

18 MS. BERTRAND: -- and lift that liability.

19 MS. RITENOUR: That would help give everybody
01:02PM 20 kind of an idea of a better number that we should have, as well.

21 MS. BERTRAND: And I'll tell you. We're fixing
22 to have a meeting starting in 5 minutes for two hours. Our
23 meeting's from 1:00 to 3:00 to cover some of this stuff.

24 JUDGE WEST: So, real quick, Chief was saying
25 that it's really not up to -- he thinks that it would be a Bail

1 Bond Board issue to give some type of grace period or something,
2 not necessarily a jail issue. If somebody -- if we want to
3 discuss that, I think even though it's not on the agenda, that's
4 something that we could entertain a motion and discuss giving
5 some type of 30-day grace period at this point where everybody
6 gets a little bit of a grace period. Everything -- hopefully by
7 then reports are run. Obviously at the end of it, if you're not
8 where you need to be, then it's over and you've got to fix it or
9 you'll be in default. But I would be in favor of something like
01:03PM 10 that.

11 MS. BRODE: Judge, I thought we discussed it in
12 January, December or January. I thought that we had discussed
13 this grace period.

14 JUDGE WEST: I think we did. I just don't
15 know if we -- I don't -- I think we discussed that if we got to
16 this point we would be able to do it, but I don't think we voted
17 on --

18 CHIEF SHAUBERGER: We never voted on a grace
19 period.

01:03PM 20 JUDGE WEST: -- it's going to be from this point
21 to this point.

22 MS. BRODE: Okay.

23 JUDGE WEST: So, my thought is we need to go from
24 today 30 days out or something like that.

25 MR. DAY: Judge, I don't -- I can't imagine

1 Jefferson County is the only county that's ever dealt with this
2 issue if you're switching programs. So, why don't you let me --
3 after the meeting I'll reach out to Roger Moore and find out if
4 he knows of any county that's ever dealt with this, how they
5 dealt with it.

6 CHIEF SHAUBERGER: Our problem is, Keith, we're
7 the only county that has accusations.

8 MR. DAY: Well, okay.

9 MS. BRODE: Yes, we are the only county.

01:04PM 10 JUDGE WEST: So, that's an issue --

11 MS. BRODE: And what I can tell you is that our
12 system was so antiquated and it was in-house. That's what's
13 giving us the most problems, switching from in-house antiquated
14 system to a new system. So, they probably had a system that was
15 only five or ten years old; and they're switching to Odyssey.
16 So, they didn't have as much problems.

17 JUDGE WEST: What I've heard from -- what I've
18 heard from, you know, kind of the Tyler Technology people is
19 that this is unlike anything they've even ever dealt with. So,
01:04PM 20 calling -- even our staff, for instance, calling another county
21 that does this isn't helpful. So...

22 MR. DAY: I just -- I mean, I just -- I don't
23 know if the Board, you know, I mean, legally can --

24 JUDGE WEST: Can we do that?

25 MR. DAY: Tom, what are your thoughts on that?

1 Can the Board legally give a grace period on something like
2 that, or is it the Sheriff? I mean --

3 MS. BRODE: The Board is over y'all.

4 MR. ROEBUCK: I think that's the Board's job. I
5 don't think the Sheriff can do anything.

6 CHIEF SHAUBERGER: No, I don't think it's an
7 issue for the Sheriff. As far as any relief as far as default,
8 because y'all are governed by the Board, I think it would have
9 to be a Board issue.

01:05PM 10 JUDGE WEST: I think so, too.

11 CHIEF SHAUBERGER: Now, whether you can legally
12 give a grace period, that's a question for Tom or Quentin.

13 MS. BERTRAND: I mean, I'm not a voting member
14 but looking at the calendar, if I can get everyone's reports
15 emailed to everyone -- excluding the insurance companies because
16 y'all got free rein, so, I'm not talking about y'all -- if I can
17 email everyone's report to them by tomorrow, the next time that
18 we meet will be in 30 days. We can kind of regroup, gather, see
19 who we're dealing with; and then if we need to allow them
01:06PM 20 another 30 days to get additional collateral put up or whatever,
21 that's really 60 days that we're kind of -- they'll have their
22 numbers to see where we're at and see if it matches their
23 numbers.

24 JUDGE WEST: So, you think doing a 30-day grace
25 period now to get us to that and then seeing --

1 MS. BERTRAND: Reevaluate.

2 JUDGE WEST: -- reevaluate then?

3 MR. REED: Yes.

4 JUDGE WEST: I mean, at this point, who's going
5 to --

6 MS. BERTRAND: Because --

7 JUDGE WEST: -- complain?

8 MS. BERTRAND: -- by tomorrow if y'all get your
9 reports, you can go through your files and see if we're big off
01:06PM 10 or we're right on, kind of \$100 off or something.

11 MS. BRODE: Make notes and send it back.

12 MS. BERTRAND: Yeah.

13 MS. BRODE: Now, this report that we just got
14 access to, I only ran the balances. I only ran the summary.
15 There is supposed to be a detailed. None of us have ever even
16 hit the button to see if it works.

17 MS. BERTRAND: I've never seen it.

18 MS. BRODE: She doesn't even know if she has
19 access to it.

01:07PM 20 JUDGE WEST: Well, I mean, I think at this point
21 if there's no one that would be -- I mean, obviously we want to
22 follow the rules and the law, but I think we're in an
23 extraordinary position to where we have to have people making
24 bonds and getting out of jail and you guys able to do your
25 business.

1 MR. DAY: Are you saying you need us? Can I get
2 this recorded? You need us?

3 MS. BERTRAND: It's on the record.

4 JUDGE WEST: What was the -- what was the bumper
5 sticker that I saw?

6 MR. DAY: I don't know. I can't say that out
7 loud.

8 MS. BRODE: And I know that we're talking about
9 the bonds and the limits and everything. We do have fees that
01:07PM 10 have not been assessed. Don't worry. You'll be getting those.
11 I don't know when, but you will be getting those.

12 JUDGE WEST: Well, if anyone wants to make a
13 motion, we can entertain it and have more discussion.

14 MR. REED: Yes.

15 MR. PRICE: Your Honor, I make a motion that we
16 extend it for 30 days, extend the default period for 30 days to
17 allow us to catch up with Odyssey.

18 JUDGE WEST: All right. There's a motion.

19 MR. PRICE: And we'll reconsider it at that point
01:08PM 20 in time.

21 (MS. SEGURA ENTERS THE MEETING.)

22 JUDGE WEST: All right. I got a motion.

23 MR. DAY: I second the motion, but I will also
24 contact Roger Moore and find out --

25 JUDGE WEST: Just see.

1 MR. DAY: -- just to find out if there's -- if
2 he's seen anything like this before.

3 JUDGE WEST: All right. So, we've got a motion
4 and a second to kind of have a grace period on any defaults for
5 the next 30 days. Is there any other discussion about that?
6 And we'll revisit it at the next board meeting. And we're
7 saying 30 days. I would say we need to make it probably
8 possibly a little more specific --

9 CHIEF SHAUBERGER: Calendar day.

01:08PM 10 JUDGE WEST: -- Quentin, because on your motion
11 the next Bail Bond Board Meeting would be May the 18th, third --
12 it's the third. So, May the 18th. I don't know exactly the
13 number of days, but maybe it would be beneficial to modify that
14 motion to have that exact date so that it doesn't stop before
15 then or after.

16 MS. BERTRAND: Well, not unless, because there's
17 four Thursdays that month, we have it the following week, if
18 that's not an issue for everyone.

19 JUDGE WEST: Is it usually the third or the
01:09PM 20 fourth?

21 MS. BERTRAND: It's usually the third.

22 JUDGE WEST: Okay.

23 MS. BERTRAND: But we can really set it any time
24 we want to if we're putting it on the record.

25 CHIEF SHAUBERGER: Do it on the third.

1 JUDGE WEST: I'd say -- I mean, I would just say
2 let's put it on the day, the 18th, but whatever you want to...

3 MS. BERTRAND: Okay.

4 MR. PRICE: Your Honor, I would amend my motion
5 to change the date from 30 days to make a date specific of
6 May 18th --

7 MS. BERTRAND: Yes.

8 MR. PRICE: -- 2023. Defaults will not account
9 against the bondsmen until that point in time, and the Board
10 will reconsider it then.

11 MR. DAY: I second.

12 JUDGE WEST: Okay. Any other discussion about
13 that? All in favor?

14 (RESPONSES GIVEN.)

15 JUDGE WEST: Any opposed?

16 (NO RESPONSE.)

17 JUDGE WEST: All right. That passes. So,
18 hopefully that will help everybody out.

19 MS. LENE: I have a question.

20 JUDGE WEST: Yes, ma'am, if you'll identify
21 yourself for the record, please.

22 MS. LENE: Tonya Lene. Anyway, yesterday
23 somebody told me that you guys were going to start forfeiting
24 people even if they're in jail --

25 JUDGE WEST: So --

1 MS. LENE: -- or rehab?

2 JUDGE WEST: So, the law -- this is -- we were
3 talking about this. Actually the law states -- or, Quentin, you
4 can explain -- but, yes, the law states that what we've been
5 doing, what I have done -- and I just did it because that's kind
6 of what everybody always did -- was if someone was in custody,
7 missed a court date because they were in custody in another
8 county or jurisdiction, I would just find them at large without
9 proper bond.

01:10PM 10 However, I think the law is specific that we were
11 actually -- it is still technically a bond forfeiture and that's
12 the way we've all now been discussing, that we're going to have
13 to follow that law. So, that's kind of...

14 MR. DAY: Well, it's only a bond forfeiture if
15 you call it -- if the Judge calls it as a bond forfeiture,
16 though; am I correct?

17 JUDGE WEST: Well, if someone doesn't show up in
18 court...

19 MR. DAY: Right. Well, I was just -- this was
01:11PM 20 brought to my attention yesterday, and I was going to bring it
21 up. But the issue we run into here is we all have defendants
22 that are in custody at the time of their court date. So, what's
23 going to end up happening is, you know, the bondsmen are going
24 to start doing -- they have a person that's in custody -- are we
25 talking Jefferson County, as well? Are we talking about any

1 county in the state? I mean, what are we talking about?

2 MR. PRICE: Any county in the United States,
3 anyplace in the United States --

4 MR. DAY: So, including --

5 MR. PRICE: -- including Jefferson County.

6 MR. DAY: -- if they're in jail in Jefferson
7 County, you'll forfeit the bond?

8 MR. PRICE: Right.

9 MR. DAY: Because if that's the case --

01:11PM 10 MR. PRICE: But if they're in jail already, then
11 they can bring them over on the jail bus. I mean, why would
12 they miss a court date if they're on the jail bus?

13 MR. DAY: Well, I mean, I don't know.

14 JUDGE WEST: If they're in our county, that
15 shouldn't be an issue.

16 MR. DAY: Okay. Well, the reason I bring it up
17 is because let's say for instance I've got a guy that's supposed
18 to be in your court and he's in Orange County jail, say, for
19 instance, and he can't be here and I'm notified. So, now that I
01:12PM 20 know -- and he's a good client. We've never had an issue with
21 him or anything. Now that I know that I'm going to be charged
22 with a bond forfeiture, what's the first thing I'm going to go
23 do? I'm going to go file a release of surety and you're going
24 to end up issuing a warrant or capias for him anyway and now his
25 bond possibly could be doubled or whatever. And it just -- the

1 whole situation -- I don't know.

2 Dustin, what are your thoughts on this? Because
3 it just doesn't seem like -- it doesn't seem like a very good
4 scenario with us dropping bonds on people that are in jail
5 trying to avoid a bond forfeiture on clients.

6 MR. GALMOR: I guess what I didn't know, what I
7 heard the situation explained was if the Court forfeits the bond
8 because they're not appearing but the person's in jail somewhere
9 else, does that have a consequence on your bond for you as far
0 as the bondsman's concerned? Does that eat into --

01:13PM 10

11 MR. DAY: Well, it hasn't in the past.

12 MR. GALMOR: Because that's -- weren't they
13 forfeiting -- they weren't doing a normal forfeiture.

14 JUDGE WEST: Right.

15 MR. GALMOR: They're doing an at large without
16 proper bond. But if they do a normal forfeiture, if they're in
17 jail somewhere else, I thought the bondsman was still protected.

18 MR. DAY: Well, only from interest. It stops
19 that day. But we would still be charged with court costs.

01:13PM 20

20 | Right, Quentin?

21 MR. PRICE: Right.

22 MR. DAY: Charged with court costs which are
23 three hundred and --

24 MS. RITENOUR: Fifty-eight dollars.

25 MR. DAY: -- fifty-eight dollars.

1 MR. PRICE: Right.

2 MR. DAY: Which I'm going to have to, in turn, go
3 to my client and say, "Hey, you know, now you have a bond
4 forfeiture, a warrant, and you owe me \$358," you know.

5 MR. GALMOR: What you're saying is if you file an
6 AFRS an hour before docket, then you won't incur the court
7 costs?

8 MR. DAY: Well, if I can show proof that they're
9 in custody; and, you know, I don't know how far in advance we
10 would have to do it.

11 JUDGE WEST: Probably not an hour before.

12 MR. DAY: Yeah. I mean, I don't know. It just
13 seems like a...

14 MS. LENE: What about people in rehab? Like we
15 have a client that went to rehab the other day; and she's got
16 court on Monday, I believe.

17 JUDGE WEST: Rehab? Court ordered rehab or
18 somebody just chose to go to rehab?

19 MS. LENE: I think she just chose to go.

01:14PM 20 JUDGE WEST: Well, then, she better be in court.
21 You don't get to choose to go to rehab and not show up in court.

22 MR. GALMOR: Have the lawyer call the Court.

23 JUDGE WEST: I mean, yeah.

24 MS. LENE: The lawyer's supposed to be dealing
25 with it. I'm not sure if he did or not.

1 MR. DAY: But, now, Judge, what about in a
2 situation where someone is in custody and they have an attorney?
3 I mean, the attorney obviously can notify the Courts. I mean,
4 since they have an attorney, can they get it reset? I just -- I
5 think this could turn out to be a much bigger mess, you know.

6 JUDGE WEST: I don't disagree. I just want to
7 make sure that we're doing it right, and I haven't looked at the
8 law myself. It was brought to my attention by Quentin that we
9 have been doing it wrong.

01:15PM 10 MR. PRICE: I did not realize until just the
11 other day that the forfeitures, when they were in jail, when a
12 Judge did a recall on the forfeiture, I did not realize that
13 those were covering all of the times when a defendant was in
14 jail some other location.

15 MR. DAY: Right. And that's only --

16 MR. PRICE: I did not realize that.

17 MR. DAY: -- if the Judge calls for a bond
18 forfeiture, but the Judge doesn't necessarily have to call for a
19 bond forfeiture on a case.

01:15PM 20 MR. ROMANO: It's the Judge's discretion.

21 MR. DAY: It's the Judge's discretion. The Judge
22 can determine what they want to do in their Court, I would
23 think.

24 MR. PRICE: Right. I mean, and it's the Court's
25 bond. I mean --

1 MR. DAY: Right.

2 MR. PRICE: -- so, their bond is to this Court.

3 JUDGE WEST: Okay. So, we're not required.

4 MR. PRICE: I don't see --

5 JUDGE WEST: We can do what --

6 MR. PRICE: -- that you're required.

7 JUDGE WEST: -- we want.

8 MS. HOLMES: Well, then.

9 MR. PRICE: The law says -- the problem is the
01:15PM 10 law says they'll be exonerated for the following causes and none
11 other and the exoneration under the "in jail at the time of the
12 hearing" says that the -- that they'll be responsible for court
13 costs.

14 JUDGE WEST: Okay.

15 MR. PRICE: That's what gets the bondsmen off of
16 the bond is the payment of the -- I mean gets them off the bond.
17 They're then off the bond, and they're sitting in jail someplace
18 else.

19 MR. DAY: Well, I don't understand why the Judge
01:16PM 20 wouldn't be able to issue a bond revocation --

21 MR. PRICE: Why would they --

22 MR. DAY: -- to revoke the bond because they're
23 in custody.

24 Because you're -- you're penalizing the bondsmen
25 for --

1 MR. GALMOR: A person getting rearrested.

2 MR. DAY: -- for a person getting rearrested and
3 that's...

4 MR. PRICE: Well, but it's not -- the bondsman's
5 not the consideration. The bondsman's not the one that failed
6 to appear. It's the defendant.

7 MR. DAY: Okay. So, you're penalizing --

8 MR. PRICE: The defendant --

9 MR. DAY: -- the defendant --

01:16PM 10 MR. PRICE: -- for getting rearrested.

11 MR. DAY: -- that's in custody for getting
12 rearrested. And, so, I don't know. It just -- something
13 doesn't -- I'm not saying just 'cause I'm a bondsman but, I
14 mean, something just doesn't --

15 MR. GALMOR: It seems like -- was the original
16 intent of doing at large without proper bond was to avoid having
17 the bondsman paying court costs?

18 JUDGE WEST: It really wasn't a -- no. Actually
19 that was not a consideration that I had. My thought process on
01:17PM 20 doing at large without proper bond is because Kellie told me to
21 do -- no, I'm just kidding. No, kidding.

22 (LAUGHTER).

23 JUDGE WEST: My process, thought process was that
24 it's not -- the bondsmen can't go get them and have them in
25 court and what we wanted -- what I want is if someone's in

1 custody, I want them getting some type of credit potentially or
2 a hold on them or something if they're somewhere else. And, so,
3 instead of forfeiting, because they can't physically do it, it
4 was just raising the bond so if they get out over there, we get
5 them, we get them in our custody, and then if there's some
6 issues and somebody wants to reduce it back down, a lawyer files
7 or -- we can do those things. But it was -- to me the bond
8 forfeiture was more of a penalty and that -- but you're
9 penalizing what everybody's saying, I agree with, you're
01:18PM 10 penalizing both parties really for something that neither of
11 them even -- they shouldn't have gotten arrested but, I mean, if
12 you're going to blame it on a defendant for getting arrested,
13 then we're kind of skipping to guilty without the presumption of
14 innocence, too. You know what I mean? So, you don't know what
15 they got arrested for. You don't know what happened; and, so,
16 there's all these penalties being imposed on both.

17 So, I liked the at large without proper bond. I
18 think it makes sense in my head the way it works. If we have
19 the opportunity and I can do that and there's not something that
01:18PM 20 says I "shall" do something else, then I'll probably keep doing
21 that.

22 What I will do for you guys is I will make a time
23 to speak with Judge Stevens and Judge Holmes and Judge Woods
24 on -- and everybody really can make their own mind up; but I'll
25 make sure they understand what we've talked about, that they can

1 do it either way, what it means both ways, and that it's really
2 up to us. And then it'll be up to each of us Judges.

3 MR. DAY: Well, and to give you a scenario,
4 somebody's in jail. I go file a release of surety on them so I
5 don't incur the bond forfeiture. He gets brought back to
6 Jefferson County jail, and guess what? I'm going to repost his
7 bond --

8 JUDGE WEST: Right.

9 MR. DAY: -- and I've just circumvented the whole
01:19PM 10 deal.

11 JUDGE WEST: Sure. And nobody --

12 MR. GALMOR: I can say in Chambers County, this
13 is the way they do it; and I've had it happen to me. What
14 happens is as soon as it looks like somebody might not come
15 to court, whether they're in jail or not, the bondsman goes up
16 and files an AFRS to avoid the forfeiture. And, so, what you've
17 got is the person comes to court an hour later and they've
18 already turned in an AFRS. Now they're asking the Judge to undo
19 the -- I mean --

01:19PM 20 JUDGE WEST: Nobody wants that.

21 MR. GALMOR: -- I've experienced that there, and
22 I don't think it's a good way to do it.

23 JUDGE WEST: No, that's not a good way to do it
24 because I can tell you that I'm not going to sign releases all
25 the time like that just because there's the "maybe they're

1 somewhere else" kind of thing. None of us will probably --

2 MR. GALMOR: The Court can hold -- if someone's
3 in jail somewhere, I think the Court sua sponte can raise the
4 bond until at least the Court determines why are they in jail
5 somewhere else, was the offense committed while they were on
6 bond.

7 JUDGE WEST: And that's what I do. I mean,
8 that's me calling the at large without proper bond is something
9 happened, they're in jail for some reason. We need to figure it
01:20PM 10 out. I want something to hold them there until we either get
11 them back or we figure it out.

12 MR. DAY: And the reason I said revoke the -- I
13 think wasn't it Judge Gist that used to -- Al, that used to
14 revoke bonds when they didn't -- when he didn't want to charge
15 the bondsmen --

16 MR. ROMANO: Bondsmen, yeah.

17 MR. DAY: -- with a -- yeah, maybe that's same as
18 at large without proper bond.

19 JUDGE WEST: I was about to say --

01:20PM 20 MR. DAY: He used to call it a bond revocation is
21 what he --

22 JUDGE WEST: I don't know what a bond revocation
23 technically is.

24 MR. DAY: Yeah. It might be a term --

25 JUDGE WEST: Maybe.

1 MR. DAY: -- he just said, but it may be the same
2 thing as what you're doing.

3 MR. REED: What if someone's in the hospital?
4 Does that fall under the same jurisdiction?

5 MR. DAY: No.

6 JUDGE WEST: So, no, for sure not.

7 MR. PRICE: It's under the same provision. It's
8 under the same provision, but that's one of the exoneration,
9 complete exoneration of the bondsman. I mean, there's
01:21PM 10 certain -- death, sickness, I mean, they're listed out.

11 JUDGE WEST: I mean, and that's something I know
12 I ask for and you guys get us all the time. If I forfeit a bond
13 and then there's proof that you guys get us later that day or
14 the next day or whenever, then we recall that bond forfeiture
15 immediately as soon as we have that documentation, so -- Kellie,
16 were you going to say something?

17 MS. HOLMES: No.

18 JUDGE WEST: No.

19 MS. HOLMES: I forgot.

01:21PM 20 JUDGE WEST: Yes, you were. You forgot. Okay.

21 MS. LENE: So, I'm trying to get this straight so
22 I can tell Lisa and my boss. I'm trying to write everything
23 down --

24 JUDGE WEST: Sure.

25 MS. LENE: -- as fast as I can. So, if they're

1 in rehab and it's not Court appointed --

2 JUDGE WEST: Court ordered.

3 MS. LENE: Or Court ordered --

4 JUDGE WEST: You can't choose as a defendant to
5 not show up to court because you think you're doing something
6 more important, no matter what it is. Obviously everybody wants
7 people to go to rehab. But a lot of people go to rehab so they
8 don't have to go to court; and then they come to court later and
9 go, "Look. I did all these great things." And that is great,
01:22PM 10 but absolutely not. You cannot voluntarily as a defendant say
11 "I'm going to go to some program" or "I've got a job." It's the
12 same thing really. You can't just voluntarily say I'm going to
13 go do something that --

14 MS. LENE: Right.

15 MS. HOLMES: And that's not new. It's always
16 been that way.

17 MS. LENE: Just trying to get it straight in my
18 head.

19 JUDGE WEST: Anything else? Is there a motion to
01:22PM 20 adjourn?

21 MR. DAY: Are you going to -- are you going to
22 bring that up at the next meeting, table that to the next
23 meeting? You're going to talk to the other Judges first?

24 JUDGE WEST: Yeah. I don't think that's
25 something we vote on or do anyway. I mean, we can talk about it

1 again; but I don't think that's a Board --

2 CHIEF SHAUBERGER: It's not a Board decision.

3 MR. DAY: Right. No, I know.

4 JUDGE WEST: -- situation. I'll let you know
5 what they say, you know.

6 MR. PRICE: It's what the State says.

7 JUDGE WEST: Yeah, I'll talk to them before the
8 next meeting; and I'll let everybody know kind of what their
9 positions are, if they'll tell me, so that I can relay that back
01:23PM 10 to you guys.

11 MR. DAY: Okay.

12 CHIEF SHAUBERGER: I'll make a motion to adjourn.

13 JUDGE WEST: All right. We've got a motion to
14 adjourn.

15 MR. DAY: Second.

16 JUDGE WEST: We're adjourned. Thanks, everybody.

17 (CONCLUSION OF THE MEETING.)

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