

BAIL BOND BOARD MEETING

OCTOBER 19, 2023

THOSE PRESENT: Judge Clint Woods
Beck Bertrand
Rhonda Brode
Tim Funchess
Dustin Galmor
Captain Aaron Morris
Al Reed
Tom Roebuck
Glenda Segura
Valencia Simpson

1 JUDGE WOODS: Let's start. Now call the
2 October 17th [sic], 2023, bail bond meeting to order. I
3 do believe we have a quorum, so we moved forward with
4 item number one, review minutes from last month. Those
12:34PM 5 have not been post. It's my understanding, I think --

6 MS. SEGURA: No, they have not.

7 JUDGE WOODS: No.

8 MS. SEGURA: That's it.

9 JUDGE WOODS: Did I read the wrong thing?

12:34PM 10 I printed it October 17th. It's 19th.

11 MS. SEGURA: That's when I posted it.

12 JUDGE WOODS: Start over. Review
13 minutes -- item number one review minutes from last
14 month's meeting. Those haven't posted at this time. I
12:34PM 15 think it was mistaken. They thought it was next --
16 Brandi thought it was next week, so she didn't get it
17 done. She's working on it now. So post those for next
18 month's meeting.

19 Item number two report from the district
12:35PM 20 attorney's office that's been passed -- do we have a
21 report from the district attorney's office?

22 MS. BERTRAND: No.

23 MS. SEGURA: No.

24 JUDGE WOODS: All right. No report. All
12:35PM 25 right. Number item number three any consideration or

1 approval applications of the bondsmen?

2 MS. BERTRAND: No, sir.

3 JUDGE WOODS: Okay. Number four, any
4 complaints again bondsmen?

12:35PM

5 MS. SEGURA: No.

6 JUDGE WOODS: Number five, report from
7 treasurer's office, that's been passed out. Any
8 questions or comments regarding that report? All right.
9 Hearing none, moving on. Number six, item number six,

12:35PM

10 release of any property or CDs, cashier's check, or
11 cash.

12 MS. SEGURA: No.

13 JUDGE WOODS: Okay. Number seven report
14 from the auditor's office. Any questions or comments on
15 the auditor's office report?

12:35PM

16 MS. BRODE: Yes, sir. I've distributed
17 them, and I asked MIS if they would be coming today.
18 And they didn't know about the meeting. So she gave a
19 quick little update on it. As far as I know, they have
20 everything except the releases report which isn't

12:36PM

21 hundred percent part of the liability. They should all
22 be working from their accusations not outstanding,
23 giving back everything at 6:00 a.m. The only two I hear
24 from regularly is Lisa and Tamara. No complaints about
25 reports. So I would ask how is the bail bond -- how the

12:36PM

1 reporting are looking? Is everything working and do we
2 get them everything they promised? I am verifying that
3 the collateral matches the surety limits. And if that's
4 not a hundred percent, so I'll have to get back with MIS
12:36PM 5 and find out what's going on there. And Glenda, I'll
6 probably get with you.

7 MS. SEGURA: Okay.

8 MS. BRODE: According to -- with my report,
9 we didn't collect a lot of the fees last years so we had
12:37PM 10 a loss of almost \$5,000. I'm sure we'll be doing better
11 this year. Every -- a lot of the bondsmen have paid
12 through the month of August. There are just a handful
13 of people that owe, and I will be asking for them to be
14 put on default because their invoices said pay before
12:37PM 15 this date or you will be put on default.

16 JUDGE WOODS: Okay.

17 MS. BRODE: I gave them an extra week.

18 JUDGE WOODS: Okay.

19 MS. BRODE: We even have some September
12:37PM 20 invoices paid. So I think it's doing -- everyone is
21 doing well. There is just a few hiccups. Thank you.

22 JUDGE WOODS: Okay. Any other comments
23 regarding the auditor's report? Okay. Moving on item
24 number eight extend grace period from bondsmen's
12:38PM 25 liability? Do we need to do that?

1 MR. REED: I think, Keith had talked to
2 Judge West. And I think she indicated through Keith
3 that it was going to be extended another month.

4 JUDGE WOODS: Okay. You agree -- okay.

12:38PM 5 All right. Do we need to vote on that or we just extend
6 it?

7 MS. BERTRAND: Just extend.

8 JUDGE WOODS: All right. Then we'll extend
9 it one more month, and we'll go over that again next
10 month. All right. Any other comments regarding the
11 extension? All right. Hearing none, we'll move to
12 number nine, consideration of approval of the change of
13 local policy regarding the bondsmen giving notice to the
14 board if someone were to be terminated or no longer
15 employed with their business.

16 MS. BERTRAND: So we covered that last
17 meeting. And I did -- after Judge West approved the
18 form, the wording, sent it out to all the bondsmen. I
19 have received everyone's back. They are now clear to
12:39PM 20 start pulling the information from the portal.

21 JUDGE WOODS: Okay. Good deal. Any
22 comments about that? From the bondsmen, none. Okay.
23 Moving onto number ten, requirement to sign
24 confidentiality agreement. Which I guess that
12:39PM 25 bootstraps into what we just talked about. So everybody

1 is on board with -- all the bondsmen are on board with
2 that, Mr. Reed; is that correct? I'm assuming?

3 MR. REED: I'll probably -- all the
4 bondsmen will stay in tune with what's going on,
12:39PM 5 up-to-date with it. But you have a lot of them that
6 don't. But I think Keith makes a concerted effort to
7 try to get them informed.

8 JUDGE WOODS: Sure.

9 MS. BERTRAND: Well, in addition to that,
12:40PM 10 we also last month talked about adding an entire local
11 rules, this provision of it's now required that they
12 fill out this if they want access to the portal. So I
13 did E-mail it out to Judge West and you, and I never
14 heard anything back to change anything. So the section
12:40PM 15 pertaining to online access was added under Section D,
16 Bonding Business, on the newly revised local rules on
17 page 15. So basically what we discussed in last month's
18 meeting, the wording and what this is saying was added
19 into our local rules.

12:40PM 20 JUDGE WOODS: Okay. And is that something
21 we need to vote on to add or it's already been added and
22 it's just there?

23 MS. BERTRAND: It's already been added,
24 yeah.

12:40PM 25 JUDGE WOODS: Okay. Anything questions or

1 comments about the new change to the rules? Okay. All
2 right. Item number 11 discuss out-of-county bonds, how
3 are they counted if they are, in fact, counted against
4 their liability here in this county? Yes, sir.

12:41PM

5 MR. REED: Okay. To my knowledge, I had a
6 discussion with Keith. And again Keith spoke with Judge
7 West. And I think they're going to do away with that
8 with the out-of-county bonds --

12:41PM

9 JUDGE WOODS: And I've been forwarded
10 the --

11 MR. REED: -- liability.

12:41PM

12 JUDGE WOODS: Correct. I've been forwarded
13 the e-mail. Judge West forwarded me Keith's e-mail
14 stating his comments on -- in that regard. And I tend
15 to agree read with him. And I can either read it into
16 the record or I can tender it as an exhibit, his E-mail,
17 and just summarize it, if that's how we want to do it.
18 And basically, he believes it should be counted against
19 their liability, and that would be the responsibility of
20 whatever county they post the bond in to satisfy that
21 bond if it were to be forfeited, so...

12:42PM

22 MR. REED: Right.

12:42PM

23 JUDGE WOODS: I guess, the only recourse we
24 would have as a county here is that bondsmen could be
25 suspended or we could question him why it hasn't not

1 been paid. And if there is not a good reason, then we
2 actually suspend him here for their writing liability
3 purposes here.

4 MR. REED: Judge, I think how that works is
12:42PM 5 if we in default in another county, this county will put
6 us in default.

7 JUDGE WOODS: Correct.

8 MR. REED: Then when they go to renew your
9 license, you're still in default with another county but
12:42PM 10 you're not able to renew your license.

11 JUDGE WOODS: Correct. That's the way I
12 understood Keith's E-mail to read, exactly what you just
13 said.

14 MR. REED: Okay.

12:42PM 15 JUDGE WOODS: And I agree with that. I
16 don't even think legally there is -- we don't even have
17 a say on that, honestly. I mean, that's not our fight
18 on -- we don't have a dog in that fight.

19 MR. REED: Right.

12:43PM 20 MR. ROEBUCK: Maybe we have a disagreement.

21 JUDGE WOODS: I don't --

22 MR. ROEBUCK: It seems to me the default
23 provision is a good -- good rule.

24 MR. REED: Well, the thing about it is if I
12:43PM 25 default in Harris County, they can't come over here in

1 Jefferson County and get the funds out of the -- from
2 Jefferson County. That's already placed in Jefferson
3 County. So they put us in default. Jefferson County
4 puts us in default.

12:43PM

5 MR. ROEBUCK: I don't know how you write a
6 bond in another bail bond board county without being
7 licensed in that county.

12:44PM

8 MR. REED: I think now -- if they're in
9 Jefferson County jail with a Harris County charge, then
10 we're able to write.

11 MS. BERTRAND: And the same thing if they
12 write in a smaller county --

13 MR. REED: Right.

12:44PM

14 MS. BERTRAND: -- the same example, and it
15 may not be a bail bond board county. So you've got the
16 two different scenarios, which in that instance it's
17 just notifying the sheriff of that county and tell
18 them -- you know, what the situation is. Because it's
19 up to the sheriff at that point to not accept anymore
20 bonds from him in their county.

12:44PM

21 MR. GALMOR: But there is no collateral on
22 hand that you could still get a judgment on.

12:44PM

23 MR. REED: On non-bail bond county, you're
24 only working on a financial statement. There is no
25 money put up, no property put up, just a financial

1 statement.

2 MS. BERTRAND: And the sheriff either
3 approves you or he doesn't approve you to write bonds in
4 his county.

12:45PM 5 JUDGE WOODS: But like I said, our recourse
6 is we just don't renew their license or suspend their
7 license if we find out, they're, in fact, default in
8 another county on an out-of-county bond.

9 MR. REED: Yes.

12:45PM 10 JUDGE WOODS: Do you agree with that
11 scenario, Mr. Roebuck?

12 MR. ROEBUCK: Yeah.

13 JUDGE WOODS: Is that something we need to
14 vote on as a policy, or is it just something that --

12:45PM 15 MR. REED: I don't -- I don't think that --
16 we just kind of kicked it around.

17 JUDGE WOODS: Right.

18 MR. REED: It was never voted on.

19 MS. BERTRAND: It's nothing in our local
12:45PM 20 rules.

21 JUDGE WOODS: I didn't think there was.

22 MS. BERTRAND: I don't think that we --
23 that's something we can as a board do because it's set
24 out 17.04 already.

12:46PM 25 JUDGE WOODS: Right. And it's a

1 case-by-case basis anyway, so we would have basically a
2 hearing to --

3 MS. BERTRAND: Right.

4 JUDGE WOODS: -- determine, hear from the
12:46PM 5 bondsman, why you're in default. And they may or may
6 not have a good reason. I don't know. You know, if
7 they don't, well, then we can take it upon ourselves to
8 vote to have them suspend or --

9 MS. BERTRAND: Right. And I mean, you can
12:46PM 10 go to the extreme they've appealed that case on a bill
11 review of or something.

12 JUDGE WOODS: Right.

13 MS. BERTRAND: So I mean -- it would be
14 case-by-case.

12:46PM 15 MS. BRODE: I know that MIS is currently
16 looking on finding a way for the bonds not to get from
17 municipality, and that would be the same as
18 out-of-county bonds whenever they figure that out.

19 JUDGE WOODS: Okay.

12:46PM 20 MS. BRODE: Until then, there is not much
21 we can do.

22 JUDGE WOODS: I gotcha.

23 MS. BERTRAND: Just adjust it on your list
24 as y'all have been doing.

12:46PM 25 JUDGE WOODS: It's -- anybody have a number

1 about how many out-of-county bonds are written in our
2 county? Is it a lot or --

3 MS. BERTRAND: Deedee, how many do you
4 write a month?

12:47PM 5 UNKNOWN VOICE: A month, not a lot.

6 MS. BERTRAND: It's not a lot.

7 JUDGE WOODS: Yeah.

8 MS. BERTRAND: I would have to say a lot of
9 the times, the hold has gone down to be transported, you
10 know.

11 JUDGE WOODS: Right.

12 MS. BERTRAND: I think the sheriff
13 department can speak on that, but I don't see a lot of
14 out-of-county bonds coming out in any of my reports.

12:47PM 15 JUDGE WOODS: Okay.

16 CAPTAIN MORRIS: A lot of those no bonds,
17 come --

18 JUDGE WOODS: There is not even --

19 CAPTAIN MORRIS: -- all there is,
12:47PM 20 especially when they allow our magistrate to set a bond
21 for them. You may have it, but it's not very often.

22 JUDGE WOODS: Right. I didn't think it
23 was. I was just curious. Anymore questions or comments
24 regarding that item number ten? Any other more new
12:48PM 25 business? Any old business we need to discuss? Motion

1 adjourn.

2 MR. FUNCHESS: Motion.

3 MR. REED: I second.

4 JUDGE WOODS: All right. We're adjourned.

12:48PM

5 (Meeting adjourned.)

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