

BAIL BOND BOARD MEETING

JULY 18TH, 2024

THOSE PRESENT: Judge Raquel West
Judge Clint Woods
Judge Ransom "Duce" Jones
Valencia Simpson
Becky Bertrand
Keith Day
Kellie Holmes
Rhonda Brode
Tom Roebuck
Quentin Price
Denise Taylor
Leslie Hughes
Captain Morris
Sandra Mott
Tim Funchess

1 JUDGE WEST: We're to call the meeting to
2 order. Thanks everybody for being here. Minutes from
3 last month were sent out. Everybody should have had
4 plenty of time to review those. Any issues with that?
5 If not, we'll just need a motion to approve those.

12:34PM

6 JUDGE JONES: So moved.

7 MR. PRICE: Second.

8 JUDGE WEST: We've got a motion and a
9 second by Judge Jones and by Quentin Price. Any other
10 discussion? All those in favor?

12:34PM

11 (ALL RESPONDED.)

12 JUDGE WEST: All right. Any opposed?
13 They're approved. Let's see, do we have a D.A. report
14 today?

12:34PM

15 MS. MOTT: No report.

16 JUDGE WEST: Okay. Do we have any
17 applications or renewals?

18 MS. BERTRAND: We do.

19 JUDGE WEST: I thought we did. We've got?

12:35PM

20 MS. BERTRAND: The first one can do is
21 Rodney LeBlanc. It was E-mailed out to everyone on
22 7/11. Everything is in order.

23 JUDGE WEST: All right. So we've got
24 renewal for Rodney LeBlanc.

12:35PM

25 JUDGE WOODS: I make a motion to approve.

1 MR. DAY: Second.

2 JUDGE WEST: Got a motion by Judge Woods,
3 second by Keith Day. All those -- any other discussion?
4 All those in favor of approving the renewal for Rodney
12:35PM 5 LeBlanc?

6 (ALL RESPONDED.)

7 JUDGE WEST: Any opposed? All right. That
8 passes.

9 MS. BERTRAND: The next one we have is Lisa
12:35PM 10 Martin. She's going to be an agent for Bakers Insurance
11 Company. She's -- this is her first new original
12 application. It was E-mailed out to everyone.
13 Everything is in order within it.

14 JUDGE WEST: All right. So we've got the
12:36PM 15 application for original for Lisa Martin.

16 JUDGE JONES: So moved.

17 JUDGE WEST: We've got a motion by Judge
18 Jones.

19 MR. DAY: Second.

12:36PM 20 JUDGE WEST: Second by Keith Day. Any
21 other discussion?

22 MS. BERTRAND: After the application is
23 approved, we do have a representative from the insurance
24 company.

12:36PM 25 MR. JOHNSON: Drew Johnson representative

1 from Bakers Insurance.

2 MS. BERTRAND: They will depositing the
3 \$50,000 -- that \$50,000 required deposit that will
4 license her through the --

12:36PM 5 MR. DAY: I -- I didn't see the --

6 MS. BERTRAND: You're breathing on me.

7 MR. DAY: Sorry.

8 JUDGE WEST: Do we need to take a break or
9 something?

12:36PM 10 MR. DAY: My bad.

11 MS. BERTRAND: I mean, you can look at it.

12 MR. DAY: I didn't want to bother you while
13 you're talking.

14 MS. BERTRAND: So, yeah, everything is in
12:36PM 15 order. The only other thing besides the \$50,000 that
16 will be deposited is the power of attorney waiting to be
17 filed in our office. You could be do that today. I've
18 already talked to Lisa about that. And that will be
19 everything to get her going.

12:37PM 20 JUDGE WEST: All right. Sounds good.

21 MS. BRODE: 50,000 CD or cash?

22 MR. JOHNSON: I'm not quite sure if they're
23 going to do a cashier's check or a CD. But I will let
24 them know today, and they will get in touch with y'all
12:37PM 25 immediately. It's up -- I mean, if y'all have a

1 preference, I can let them know.

2 MR. FUNCHES: No preference. No
3 preference. I just need -- if it's a CD, I just need,
4 you know, proof of the CD.

12:37PM 5 MR. JOHNSON: Sure.

6 MR. FUNCHES: I'm the county treasurer by
7 the way.

8 MR. JOHNSON: I'll get your information
9 before I leave and we'll --

12:37PM 10 JUDGE WEST: All right. So it looks like
11 everything is in order, going to be taken care of. Is
12 there motion?

13 JUDGE WOODS: We already --

14 JUDGE WEST: Did we already do that? Oh,
12:37PM 15 sorry.

16 MS. BERTRAND: We were in other
17 discussions.

18 JUDGE WEST: We were in other discussions,
19 that why we were discussing it. All those in favor?

12:37PM 20 (ALL RESPONDED.)

21 JUDGE WEST: Any opposed?

22 All right. That passes. Thank you. Nice
23 to have you, Lisa.

24 All right. Any -- that's it for those,
12:38PM 25 Becky?

1 MS. BERTRAND: Yes, ma'am.

2 JUDGE WEST: Any others? Any complaints?

3 MS. BERTRAND: No, ma'am.

4 JUDGE WEST: Treasurer report.

12:38PM

5 MR. FUNCHES: I passed it out and

6 entertain questions anybody has.

7 JUDGE WEST: Anybody have any questions on
8 the treasurer's report? I think that's just for review.
9 Do we have any request for release of property?

12:38PM

10 MS. BERTRAND: No, ma'am, not at this time.

11 JUDGE WEST: Auditor's report.

12 MS. BRODE: I have distributed it, and I've
13 made it a little easier to read. If you flip over,
14 there is no collateral or anything. It just basically
15 says here's the limit, this is what's out.

12:38PM

16 JUDGE WEST: Awesome.

17 MS. BRODE: That's it.

18 JUDGE WEST: Look at us getting reports
19 going and stuff, finally. Anybody have any questions or
20 anything about the auditor's office report?

12:38PM

21 Okay. I feel like the next thing we
22 discussed last month -- were we going to have more
23 discussion about that this month about defendants being
24 sent to the courthouse after their bonds were forfeited?
25 I can't remember now.

12:39PM

1 MS. BERTRAND: Yes. It was carried over
2 from last time. With the additional -- I don't know why
3 we carried it over or we're missing --

4 JUDGE WEST: Keith, do you remember?

12:39PM

5 MR. DAY: Well, this whole topic came up
6 the week --

7 JUDGE WEST: You were gone.

8 MR. DAY: -- I was out.

9 JUDGE WEST: I was here.

12:39PM

10 MR. DAY: And I didn't really know the
11 details behind exactly what happened, what was going
12 on -- even this is not really the bail bond board issue.

13 JUDGE WEST: It's not.

14 MR. DAY: But I'm glad we're able to

12:39PM

15 discuss these sort of things here, so we can kind of --
16 everybody can kind of hear what's going on. I didn't
17 know exactly what was happening. I know in the past,
18 like, just a couple of weeks ago, we had a guy that
19 didn't show up for court that morning. We called Susan
20 in drug court, told him he was on the way in from
21 Louisiana. She said send him here.

12:40PM

22 JUDGE WEST: Perfect. So here's what --
23 here's where we were having some issues and why we
24 brought up now that I recall from two months ago -- is
25 we were having some people being sent here whose bonds

12:40PM

1 had been forfeited a week before, a month before. And
2 it was causing issues because the bailiffs are all doing
3 their thing in their courts and somebody is required to
4 arrest that person. If it's the day of court, we want
12:40PM 5 y'all to get them up here because nine times out ten,
6 we're not going to forfeit their bond. If they're late
7 or -- whatever it is, if they get here that day, that's
8 not what this was about. It was about not using the
9 resources here when it's been a lot of time passed.

12:40PM 10 MR. DAY: Right.

11 JUDGE WEST: I think we kind of worked that
12 out through discussion. So I don't know that there
13 really needs to be much more.

14 MR. DAY: So -- just to kind of get an
12:41PM 15 idea, so they -- even on day of, I know in the past
16 we've always called first. We won't just send: Hey, go
17 to 252nd, somebody will be there. We usually call
18 Kellie and say: Hey, you know, we've got this guy is
19 going to be late. Then y'all make the determination
12:41PM 20 whether y'all are going to arrest them or go --

21 JUDGE WEST: And we probably would rather
22 that.

23 MR. DAY: Yeah. But anything after that
24 day is what you're saying --

12:41PM 25 JUDGE WEST: Yes.

1 MR. DAY: -- just avoid it.

2 JUDGE WEST: There was some issues with us
3 having to -- the resources of the bailiff in trying to
4 find people to take them into custody and then to get
12:41PM 5 transport. We've got jail dockets every day now in all
6 the different courts. So we've got transports bringing
7 them. It's just -- the place for them after the day of
8 is to go is to the jail.

9 MR. DAY: Right. I just want to make sure.
12:41PM 10 Because that's going to be the first question that's
11 asked when I bring up to bondsmen, well, when is the
12 cutoff, you know.

13 JUDGE WEST: Yeah.

14 MR. DAY: They're going to ask when the
12:41PM 15 cutoff is. Even the day of and you have a talk --
16 especially if you try to send somebody down here at
17 4:30, you know, because we know Kellie leaves at 3:00.

18 JUDGE WEST: Not quite.

19 MR. DAY: But the -- that's going to be the
12:42PM 20 question that I ask.

21 JUDGE WOODS: The day of is fine.

22 JUDGE WEST: I think day of. Thank you.
23 All right. Discuss having a special bond in Jefferson
24 County for out of county charges.

12:42PM 25 MS. BERTRAND: This also is Keith.

1 MR. DAY: This discussion last month, you
2 were going to talk to the sheriff.

3 CAPTAIN MORRIS: I talked to Chief
4 Shaurberger, he said it will be fine if you want to use
12:42PM 5 the bonds with the blank for out of county charges.

6 MR. DAY: What the situation is we have a
7 bond -- you know, a surety bond here for Jefferson
8 County, it says County of Jefferson on it. If someone
9 is in jail on say -- we'll use Hardin County as an
12:42PM 10 example. If somebody is in jail in Jefferson County on
11 a Hardin County charge, we use that same bond but we
12 scratch out Jefferson and write "Hardin" underneath it.
13 There was a situation that came up a couple -- I guess,
14 a couple of months ago now, huh, Lisa? I think it's
12:43PM 15 come up again since where they sent a bond over thinking
16 it was a Jefferson County charge and Jefferson was
17 scratched out and Harris was written in. And they
18 weren't aware it was the Harris County charge. Now, I'm
19 not going to decide who should know what, but I would
12:43PM 20 just wanted to eliminate the jail even being responsible
21 for something like that because if we just send a bond
22 over with a blank on it and we just write in the county,
23 then if the county is wrong then the jail sends the bond
24 back. Or if we send over a Jefferson County bond and
12:43PM 25 it's supposed to be a bond -- a Harris County bond, they

1 send it back. And that eliminates them completely. And
2 the only expense is on the bondsmen because we'll have
3 to get bonds printed up with blanks. Instead of
4 Jefferson County, we'll get some printed up with the
5 blank on it.

12:44PM

6 JUDGE WEST: Do you think that will work,
7 though, will be fine?

8 CAPTAIN MORRIS: Yes, ma'am.

9 JUDGE WEST: Is that something we need to
10 approve?

12:44PM

11 MS. BERTRAND: Yes, ma'am.

12 JUDGE WEST: Or is it --

13 MS. BERTRAND: To change the bond form.

14 JUDGE WEST: Okay. So do you want to --

15 MR. DAY: We're going to two bonds now.

12:44PM

16 One that already has Jefferson on it, and then one that
17 will have the blank.

18 MR. PRICE: How are you going to know
19 whether or not they're actually -- I mean, you're saying
20 that the question comes up because you don't know
21 whether it's Jefferson County or it's Harris County.
22 Where they're bonding, how do you know that you're now
23 not using a Jefferson County bond again --

12:44PM

24 MR. DAY: I could. If I send the Jefferson
25 County bond over there, it's Harris County charge. The

12:44PM

1 jail is going to turn around and send it right back to
2 me.

3 CAPTAIN MORRIS: Send it right back.

4 MR. DAY: Send it right back to me. And
12:44PM 5 that way -- and if I send the bond over there and I
6 write in Harris County and they say this is -- this is
7 supposed to be a Jefferson County charge and they send
8 it back. And that way there is no more -- jail
9 doesn't -- they don't change anything on the bond.

12:44PM 10 MR. PRICE: Okay.

11 MR. DAY: When it comes to that.

12 MR. PRICE: All right. I was confused.

13 MR. DAY: These bonds will only be for --
14 so if somebody has got five Jefferson County charges and
12:45PM 15 one Hardin County charge, we'll send five of the
16 Jefferson County bonds over and one of the bonds that
17 are blank with the "Hardin" written in.

18 JUDGE WEST: So I guess we need to get a
19 new form and we can vote on that at the next meeting.
12:45PM 20 So we just need to leave that on the -- change that
21 agenda item to voting on new bond form and then the rest
22 of that language. Okay? Any other discussion about
23 that? Good, thanks.

24 And then the last thing is considering
12:45PM 25 approval to reword Question 19 and Exhibit 19 on the

1 application for surety license under insurance company,
2 Becky.

3 MS. BERTRAND: Yes, ma'am. So when Lisa
4 submitted her application our question why she submitted
12:45PM 5 a personal financial statement and realized that on
6 Question 19 it did not differentiate between the
7 insurance company and her personally. Because this is
8 an insurance application, it only needs to be approved
9 up from the insurance company's financial standpoint.

12:46PM 10 So the Question 19 says: Do you possess sufficient
11 financial resources to provide indemnity against loss on
12 all bonding obligations that you will undertake if you
13 are granted a license; yes or no? If "yes," attach a
14 completed -- completed sworn complete financial
15 statement as Exhibit 19.

16 Well, that exhibit was a personal financial
17 affidavit. So I believe the -- it needs to be changed
18 to: If yes, attach the most recent quarterly statement
19 of the conditions and affairs of the insurance company.
12:46PM 20 And then the actual Exhibit 19 would actually be their
21 financial statement from the company.

22 JUDGE WEST: All right. So we need a
23 motion.

24 MR. PRICE: I move that we make that
12:47PM 25 change.

1 MR. FUNCHES: I second.

2 JUDGE WEST: All right. Got a motion and a
3 second to make that wording change. Are there any other
4 discussions or questions about this?

12:47PM 5 MS. BRODE: Is No. 19 only for insurance?

6 MS. BERTRAND: This application -- on this
7 specific application, this is only for insurance.

8 MS. BRODE: Okay.

9 MS. BERTRAND: A regular surety has a
12:47PM 10 different application.

11 MS. BRODE: Okay.

12 JUDGE WEST: So the motion would be to
13 change it only on the application that is for the
14 insurance company?

12:47PM 15 MS. BERTRAND: Yes.

16 MR. PRICE: So amended, Your Honor.

17 JUDGE WEST: Thank you. All right.
18 Anything else? All those in favor of making that
19 change?

12:47PM 20 (ALL RESPONDED.)

21 JUDGE WEST: Any opposed?

22 All right. That passes as well. Thanks,
23 Becky, for catching that. That's all I have on the
24 agenda. Is there anything else anybody needs to bring
12:47PM 25 up?

1 JUDGE JONES: I move that we adjourn.

2 JUDGE WEST: All right. Meeting is

3 adjourned.

4 (MEETING ADJOURNED.)

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