

4 BAIL BOND BOARD HEARING

5 JUNE 20, 2024

7 THOSE PRESENT: JUDGE CLINT WOODS

8 BECKY BERTRAND

9 RHONDA BRODE

10 KELLIE HOLMES

11 LESLIE HUGHES

12 CAPTAIN MORRIS

13 QUENTIN PRICE

14 SANDRA MOTT

15 AL REED

16 KEITH DAY

17 LISA MARTIN

18 HAYLEE FOURNIER

19 VALENCIA SIMPSON

20 CLINT TURNER

21 GLENDA SEGURA

22 TAMARA RITENOUR

23 DEDE ROJAS

24 KIMBERLY BROUSSARD

1 JUDGE WOODS: All right. We now call the
2 June 17th, 2024, bail bond meeting to order. No. 1 on the
3 agenda is review minutes from last month's meeting. Have those
4 been posted.

5 MS. BERTRAND: Not till they're approved.

6 JUDGE WOODS: I mean have they --

7 MS. BERTRAND: They've been distributed.

12:34PM 10

11 MR. PRICE: So moved.

12 MR. DAY: Second.

13 JUDGE WOODS: All in favor?

14 (AYE RESPONSES.)

15 JUDGE WOODS: No opposed. That will pass.

16 | Report from the District Attorney's Office?

17 MR. PRICE: None. We still don't have reports.

18 JUDGE WOODS: Okay. Any applications for --

19 MS. BERTRAND: No, sir.

12:34PM 20

20 JUDGE WOODS: -- bondsmen or agents and renewals?

21 | None?

22 | Okay. Consider complaints. Any complaints?

23 MS. HOLMES: No, sir.

24 JUDGE WOODS: Okay. Report from the Treasurer's
25 Office?

1 MR. TURNER: None.

2 JUDGE WOODS: Any release of properties, CDs,
3 cashier's check or cash?

4 MR. TURNER: Oh, oh --

5 MS. BERTRAND: I'm sorry. You have no reports?

6 JUDGE WOODS: A report but -- okay. Any -- there
7 is a report --

8 MR. DAY: Put Clint under the gun here.

9 MR. TURNER: Sorry. I'm new to this.

12:35PM 10 MR. DAY: Well, the good news is Tim only has one
11 birthday a year, right?

12 MR. TURNER: Exactly.

13 JUDGE WOODS: Thank you, sir.

14 MR. TURNER: No problem.

15 JUDGE WOODS: Any question or comments regarding
16 Treasurer's report?

17 MR. BRODE: I do.

18 JUDGE WOODS: Okay.

19 MS. BRODE: Clint, were you going to bring up
20 anything about the collateral in the --

21 MR. TURNER: Okay. So, we're -- there are
22 several -- we have several people with either insurance, CDs, or
23 any kind of collateral, property value, that we don't have
24 updated information on. We have talked to Tim, me and Lisa
25 talked to Tim. So, he is going to start calling people that are

1 missing info; and, so, just if you have old information, we do
2 need updated info. But Tim is going to --

3 MR. DAY: Now, this is on the, like, properties,
4 updated insurance, taxes paid --

5 MR. TURNER: Correct.

6 MR. DAY: -- and all that stuff? Yeah.

7 MR. TURNER: Correct.

8 MS. BRODE: CDs.

9 MR. TURNER: And CDs, as well.

12:36PM 10 MS. BRODE: Renewals.

11 MR. DAY: I guess CDs come up, I guess if you got
12 a number like I do, when they come up for renewals.

13 MR. TURNER: Correct.

14 JUDGE WOODS: If we could get that word out to
15 the bondsmen to update their info on their collateral, that
16 would be great.

17 Any other questions, comments regarding
18 Treasurer's report?

19 Okay. No. 6, release of any properties, CDs,
12:37PM 20 cash, or cashier's checks?

21 MS. BERTRAND: No, sir.

22 JUDGE WOODS: All right. Report from Auditor's
23 Office, any questions or comments regarding Auditor's Office
24 report?

25 MS. BRODE: They've been distributed. Let me

1 know if I left anyone out. I actually was able to do a bondsman
2 and attorney report this month. Becky and I reviewed it because
3 I had a lot of the calculated bond limits based on collateral
4 that were different than the actual bond limits in Odyssey, if
5 you'll notice the green. So, there will be a few bondsmen that
6 will be happy with me for once. Your bonding limits were not
7 high enough. There's only one that was too high and --

8 MS. BERTRAND: He's not here.

9 12:38PM MS. BRODE: -- he's not here. But it's Al and
10 Keith and Shirley Laine. So, as soon as we figure out who can
11 increase the limits, we'll do that and get the collateral to
12 match.

13 Sheriff? Hi.

14 MS. SIMPSON: Hi.

15 MS. BRODE: I was going to ask Chief Shauberger
16 if we could lower Cory Crenshaw's limit back down to his 50,000
17 that he has collateral for, since he's down to 25,000. I didn't
18 know if y'all wanted to keep his bonding limit at 351,000.
19 That's the Sheriff's prerogative. It's just a question.

20 12:38PM CAPTAIN MORRIS: I'll let her know.

21 MS. BRODE: Thank you. And that's it.

22 JUDGE WOODS: Okay. No. 8, discuss defendants
23 being sent to courthouse after bonds are forfeited instead of
24 being sent to the jail.

25 MS. BERTRAND: I think we discussed this last

1 month, but it was kind of tabled because there were some people
2 not here to join in the discussion.

3 JUDGE WOODS: Okay.

4 MR. DAY: Yeah. I wasn't here last month, Judge,
5 when this was brought up. I was going to see if we can table it
6 for another month because I have to sit down, that I need to do
7 with Judge West anyway, it was one of the situations maybe just
8 to kind of get an idea of what exactly is going on, 'cause I
9 know it was brought up by her, so...

12:39PM 10 JUDGE WOODS: Yeah. Okay. Then we'll table that
11 for next month.

12 No. 9, discuss having a special bond in Jefferson
13 County for out of county charges.

14 MR. DAY: All right, Judge. So, this situation
15 came up I think last month, Al, Lisa? So, basically when we
16 send a bond over to the jail, it says at the top "County of
17 Jefferson." If the person's in jail on an out of county
18 charge -- let's say in this situation it was Harris County,
19 okay -- and we were going to post that bond, we would scratch
12:40PM 20 out "Jefferson" and write in "Harris." That's the way the jail
21 has always taken them. For as long as I've been in business is
22 how long it's been done.

23 A situation come up last month with Al that they
24 posted a bond, sent the bond over thinking that it was a
25 Jefferson County charge. Was it one charge or two charges,

1 Lisa?

2 MS. MARTIN: One, I believe.

3 MR. DAY: One charge. Sent the bond over as
4 Jefferson County.

5 MS. MARTIN: I'm sorry, two.

6 MR. DAY: Two. Okay. So, sent two bonds over
7 thinking they were Jefferson County bonds. The guy gets
8 released, the bonds get brought back, and "Jefferson" had been
9 scratched out and "Harris" written in.

12:40PM 10 MR. REED: "Jefferson."

11 MS. MARTIN: No. "Jefferson" was not scratched
12 out, but they scratched out "accusation" and wrote in a number.
13 We had "accusation," and they wrote in a number but didn't put
14 that it was Harris County.

15 MR. DAY: Oh, okay.

16 MS. MARTIN: We didn't know it was Harris County
17 until the day before their court date.

18 MR. DAY: So, yeah, so, which is a pretty big
19 deal.

12:41PM 20 JUDGE WOODS: So, did they miss their court date
21 in Harris County?

22 MS. MARTIN: No.

23 MR. DAY: Yeah. So, obviously it may have worked
24 out in this situation. But what I wanted to see, if possible,
25 with permission from the jail, is to maybe have a bond

1 specifically for out of county bonds and Jefferson County.

2 JUDGE WOODS: Time out.

3 THE REPORTER: Sorry. I've just got to put my
4 power to it. Ready.

5 JUDGE WOODS: All right. Go ahead.

6 MR. DAY: To have a specific bond, it would be
7 set up exactly the way our bond is now, read exactly the same,
8 except at the top it would have "County of" with a blank, with a
9 line, and basically we would send that bond over or we'd just
12:42PM 10 have one bond and say "County of" -- with nothing at the top,
11 and we just fill -- if it's Jefferson County, we just fill in
12 "Jefferson County." That way we only have one bond instead of
13 two separate bonds.

14 MR. REED: Well, we have another issue on our
15 City bonds. They change the court date on our City bonds. So,
16 what are we -- I mean, how far are we going to go with this?

17 MS. MARTIN: Shouldn't be too...

18 MR. DAY: Well, let's deal with this issue first
19 before we jump into --

12:42PM 20 MR. REED: It's still changing bonds --

21 MR. DAY: Well --

22 MR. REED: -- still changing -- scratching out
23 and putting new court dates or new county dates -- courts on
24 there. So, I mean, how far are we going to go? Are we
25 going to get a -- you know, why are they changing our bonds,

1 whether the --

2 CAPTAIN MORRIS: Who is "they"?

3 MR. REED: -- court dates or county name?

4 MR. DAY: Are we talking about the --

5 CAPTAIN MORRIS: Who are you talking about?

6 MR. DAY: -- clerks at the jail?

7 MR. REED: Yes, the jail, the jail --

8 MR. DAY: When they post the bonds?

9 MR. REED: -- changing information on our bonds.

12:43PM 10 No. 1, they changed the county that the bond was on. No. 2,
11 they changed the court date on a City bond. And we're giving
12 the people the right court dates. They're changing them, and
13 people can miss their court dates. So, how far are we going to
14 go with this to cover the inefficiency of the jail?

15 MR. DAY: Well, remind me -- Tamara, remind me on
16 the municipal -- you're talking about City of Beaumont, right?

17 MR. REED: Yes.

18 MR. DAY: Okay. On City of Beaumont we fill
19 in --

12:43PM 20 MS. RITENOUR: When you send the bond over to the
21 jail, you put the court date on there first. Now, Nederland and
22 I think Port Neches, sometimes we can't get the court date. So,
23 it just stays blank and it comes back and we set it. But on the
24 Beaumont bond and Port Arthur, we fill it out, give it to the
25 cosigner. They take it to the jail.

1 MR. DAY: But the court date is -- that used to
2 be, what, ten --

3 MS. RITENOUR: Ten business days.

4 MR. DAY: -- ten business days from the date
5 you're posting the bond, right?

6 MS. RITENOUR: Right. Yes.

7 MR. DAY: So, the only reason that would be
8 changed is if it's calculated wrong, right?

9 MR. REED: No. It shouldn't be changed. If it's
12:44PM 10 right, it shouldn't be changed.

11 MR. DAY: Well, that's what I'm asking. The only
12 reason it would be changed is if it's not right.

13 MR. REED: We're not talking about not right.
14 We're talking about right.

15 MR. DAY: Okay.

16 MR. REED: They are changing our bonds when they
17 should not be changing our bonds at all.

18 MR. DAY: Okay.

19 MS. MARTIN: They told us we was giving them the
12:44PM 20 wrong time. It was only five days instead of ten days. But it
21 was Port Arthur Municipal Court. Port Arthur Municipal Court
22 said that the jail was incorrect, that it's not the five days.
23 The jail said we were wrong, but she said --

24 CAPTAIN MORRIS: Who did y'all speak to?

25 MS. MARTIN: -- first thing that Port Arthur

1 Municipal was -- the first thing she noticed was the date
2 changed on the bond.

3 CAPTAIN MORRIS: I'll take care of that. I just
4 need to know who is -- who spoke up about this five-day thing --

5 MS. MARTIN: Oh.

6 CAPTAIN MORRIS: -- or who even changed the bond?
7 I need to know.

8 MS. MARTIN: This happens, like, when I'm not
9 there; and then my girls tell me about it the next day. So, who
12:45PM 10 is actually doing it at the time, I don't know.

11 CAPTAIN MORRIS: Okay. Don't worry about that.
12 I'll take care of that.

13 MR. REED: But if we're dropping off bonds, how
14 do we know who's changing the dates?

15 CAPTAIN MORRIS: I'll find out.

16 MR. REED: Okay.

17 MR. DAY: Okay. So, go back to the original on
18 the bonds. So, would it be -- if we were to do this, would it
19 be easier to just have one bond with "County of" blank? The
12:45PM 20 reason I said two is that we wouldn't have to go back and change
21 all of our bonds that we've already got printed because we have
22 stacks of bonds preprinted that say "County of Jefferson" and
23 out of county bonds aren't written that often. But we do get,
24 you know, Chambers County bonds, Hardin County bonds, Tyler
25 County, so on, so forth.

1 So, if we had a separate bond that just had
2 "County of" blank at the top with a line, and that way when we
3 send that bond over, we would've filled it in that we know it's
4 Harris County. Because if I send a Jefferson County bond over
5 and it's a Harris County bond, the jail immediately knows not to
6 take it and send it back because it says "Jefferson" on it. You
7 see what I'm saying?

8 JUDGE WOODS: Yes. So, let me be clear on this.
9 So, who's responsible for knowing which county it's going to be?

12:46PM 10 MR. DAY: Well, the bondsman is ultimately
11 responsible for knowing what county it is.

12 JUDGE WOODS: Right.

13 MR. DAY: But if -- I don't know in their
14 situation -- and let me just say, this doesn't happen often, you
15 know, or anything like that, but it's just to -- you know, that
16 way nobody's liable in the future for this, for any mistakes if
17 we had this.

18 MS. MARTIN: It happened again today.

19 MR. DAY: Oh, it happened again today. Okay.

12:46PM 20 MS. MARTIN: A Jasper County charge, they told us
21 it was Jefferson. We sent the bond over there. Well, me, I'm
22 working on the JP that was out of Jasper. Come to find out, the
23 bond we posted was out of Jasper, too. Our jail didn't tell us
24 that. The JP out of Jasper told me that.

25 MR. DAY: Okay.

1 MR. REED: You want to change a bond for that,
2 too?

3 MR. DAY: So, did they change the bond?

4 MS. MARTIN: I haven't gotten back. That was
5 happening as I was leaving the office to come here. They were
6 at the office, and I was on the phone calling the JP as I was in
7 the car. So, I haven't been back to the office yet.

8 MR. DAY: Okay. So, you don't know if they sent
9 the bond back.

12:47PM 10 MS. MARTIN: Yes. I don't know what's happened
11 with that yet.

12 MR. DAY: So, I don't know if the jail in that
13 situation is going to scratch out "Jefferson" and put "Jasper
14 County" on it or if they're going to contact -- but this way, it
15 just resolves the whole situation.

16 JUDGE WOODS: So, I guess that's my question.
17 So, you don't know -- if you're writing an out of county bond,
18 you don't know that information until you contact the jail
19 about --

12:47PM 20 MR. DAY: No. Most -- yeah, until we contact the
21 jail, not unless the defendant tells us, "I'm in jail on two
22 Harris County charges" or "two Hardin County charges," but a lot
23 of times it -- and we should be better about -- it's just when
24 you get a call from Jefferson County jail, you just a lot of
25 times assume it's Jefferson County until we call the jail and

1 they say, "No, these are" -- usually they say, "These are Jasper
2 County charges," or "These are, you know, Hardin County
3 charges." They'll tell us. But if they're swamped and they're
4 busy and we're calling over there to get information, it's
5 missed or even if one of our agents, they tell our agents and we
6 miss it and send over the wrong bond, this way the jail can send
7 it back to us and said, "No, these aren't Jefferson County.
8 Y'all need to send Hardin County bonds over," you know. That
9 way there's no responsibility on anybody that -- well, there's
12:48PM 10 responsibility to fill it in but at least there's not any more
11 mistakes made like that is basically what I'm saying.

12 CAPTAIN MORRIS: But I thought everybody had
13 access to the Odyssey system.

14 MR. DAY: Well, on the Odyssey system --

15 MS. RITENOUR: So, on Odyssey, if you have a
16 client or somebody calls from the jail and let's say it's on a
17 Friday afternoon --

18 CAPTAIN MORRIS: Uh-huh.

19 MS. RITENOUR: -- and they get arrested on a
12:48PM 20 warrant, we're locked out until someone puts in the system I
21 guess that they've been arrested. So, we can't see anything
22 until Monday. So, we call the jail and we ask if -- our staff
23 knows kind of what case numbers look like, but a lot of out of
24 counties don't have -- sometimes they won't have a number that's
25 attached, that they'll assume that it's a Jefferson County.

1 They do ask and sometimes it happens, but if it's -- like I
2 said, if it's a warrant, there's just not -- we can't see
3 anything.

4 MR. DAY: Bear in mind, this is no expense to
5 anybody except the bondsmen; and we would just -- it would just
6 be new bonds. We'd still have our Jefferson County bond. The
7 only difference is the new bond would just have "County of" and
8 just allow us to fill in with the -- and that way the jail
9 doesn't see "County of Jefferson," mark it out and put "Harris,"
10 you know, and it takes all the responsibility off of them if
11 there's a mistake made.

12 I mean, I don't see when whoever gets the bonds,
13 I mean, it's not going to be any different. Well, nobody here's
14 going to get the bond because it's going to go to the county who
15 the bond was for. It's going to go from the Sheriff's
16 Department and be sent to that county. So, I don't see -- I
17 don't see a downside to it. I mean, like I said, there's no
18 expense. Nothing changed in the system with the County, the
19 Sheriff's Department that I can think of. It's just on the
20 expense of a bonds -- the bondsmen getting new bonds printed up.

21 JUDGE WOODS: I guess that's just up to the
22 Sheriff's Department whether they want to accept that type of
23 bond with no county on it. I mean, that's --

24 MR. DAY: Like I said, it's the same. It's the
25 same exact bond. It would just be -- have the county blank. If

1 it's an out of county, we would just fill it in.

2 JUDGE WOODS: So, you're going to do this for all
3 bonds here in the future that once you use up your Jefferson
4 County forms, the future forms will just be blank so --

5 MR. DAY: No. We'll still have our Jefferson
6 County bonds. Bonds that we send over will say "County of
7 Jefferson" on them. These are just for out of county bonds.
8 So, if I've got, say -- say a defendant's in jail and he's got
9 two Jefferson County bonds, two Hardin County bonds. I'm going
12:50PM 10 to send over the two Jefferson County bonds, along with the two
11 other bonds that have "County of" blank and I'm going to fill in
12 "Hardin County." It's going to be the exact same bond. All the
13 wording, nothing's going to change except the top. One's going
14 to say "County of Jefferson"; the other one's going to say
15 "County of" with a blank line that we'll fill in.

16 JUDGE WOODS: Okay. I'm just trying to figure
17 how that fixes the issue because they're the ones changing it.
18 So, if -- what, they're just going to write "Jefferson County"
19 and it's actually an out of county bond. It's still wrong.

12:51PM 20 MS. HOLMES: Right.

21 JUDGE WOODS: You see what I'm saying? So, if
22 it's blank --

23 MR. DAY: No. We wouldn't --

24 JUDGE WOODS: My point is you don't know --
25 they're making the mistake, not you, but if you send it blank.

1 MR. DAY: I wouldn't send it over there blank. I
2 wouldn't send it blank. I would fill in "Hardin County." And
3 that way -- but let's say in Al's instance, okay, he sent over
4 two Jefferson County bonds and they were Harris County bonds.
5 Well, the jail gets those two Jefferson County bonds, says, "No,
6 these are wrong," because they know the new system is you've got
7 to send over the bonds with the line with it filled in. They
8 see "County of Jefferson," they're going to give it back to the
9 client or to the agent and say, "No. These bonds are no good,"
12:52PM 10 and send them back, so, you need to send over the bonds where
11 the case is filled in.

12 (GLENDA SEGURA ENTERS THE HEARING.)

13 MR. DAY: That way now Al and them know, "Oh,
14 wait, these are Harris County bonds? We didn't know that. Now
15 we don't want to" -- you know, "We don't want to do the bonds"
16 or they would send over the new bonds. We wouldn't actually
17 send the bonds over blank. We would send them over filled out
18 but that way the jail knows or we know that they're out of
19 county and the jail knows that we know they're out of county, as
12:52PM 20 well. I know it sounds -- the way I'm describing it is
21 complicated but, I mean, I don't --

22 MS. FOURNIER: What would be the holdup from the
23 jail side if you rejected someone's bond?

24 CAPTAIN MORRIS: It depends on who made the bond.

25 MS. HUGHES: Sometimes the bondsman --

1 CAPTAIN MORRIS: If you send a family member with
2 a bond, I'd say, "No, it's no good," and I send it back to
3 them --

4 MS. FOURNIER: Depends on how long it takes them
5 to get it corrected.

6 MS. HUGHES: If they take it right back then.

7 MR. DAY: It would be like if I sent a bond over,
8 Jefferson County bond over, and it said \$5,000 on it and it was
9 supposed to be a 25,000-dollar bond --

12:53PM 10 MS. HUGHES: We'd give it back to them.

11 MR. DAY: -- you wouldn't take it and fill it in.
12 You'd give it back --

13 MS. HUGHES: Right.

14 MR. DAY: -- and say, "It's a 25,000-dollar
15 bond."

16 MS. HUGHES: Yes, just give it back to them,
17 whoever brought it. Well, and if they drop it off, depending
18 like if we're real busy, they'll drop it off, we'll take it, but
19 then if that person is already gone, then we'll have to call
12:53PM 20 y'all to come back and --

21 MR. DAY: Right.

22 MS. HUGHES: -- get it.

23 MR. DAY: So, you would just call our office and
24 say, "Hey, this is supposed to be a 25,000-dollar bond, not a
25 5,000-dollar bond."

1 MS. HUGHES: Sometimes they come right away;
2 sometimes they don't.

3 MR. DAY: Yeah. And that way it eliminates the
4 jail from writing anything on the bonds. Now, the court date
5 thing, I guess they'll take care of that on their side. But
6 this is just to avoid any situation like this happening with the
7 out of county stuff, 'cause I definitely don't want to be stuck
8 with a Harris County bond. I don't do Harris County. I don't
9 like doing Harris County, and I don't want to be stuck in a
12:54PM 10 situation where I've got two Harris County bonds. And
11 fortunately it worked out for them, but I don't want to deal
12 with -- you know, Quintin's hard enough to deal with.

13 MR. PRICE: I was going to say, I'm easier than
14 Harris County.

15 MR. DAY: I don't want to deal with Harris
16 County.

17 MR. PRICE: I've got to work on that.

18 JUDGE WOODS: Okay. So, do you want to --
19 that's -- like I said, I guess that's up to the Sheriff's
12:54PM 20 Department whether they agree that's fine with them to accept
21 the --

22 MR. DAY: And y'all can, you know, discuss it
23 with the sheriff or --

24 CAPTAIN MORRIS: Yeah. I'm going to talk to her.

25 MR. DAY: -- whoever and bring it up next time in

1 the meantime. I just wanted to kind of put it out there for
2 now --

3 JUDGE WOODS: Sure.

4 MR. DAY: -- just to kind of see what their
5 thought process on it was. Like I said, only -- the bond --
6 nothing would change except that one. So, we would basically
7 have two separate bonds, "County of Jefferson," "County of"
8 blank. But we would never send the "County of" blank bond over
9 to the jail. It would have the bond or the county on the bond.

12:55PM 10 JUDGE WOODS: Okay. All right. I guess we'll
11 table that for next time, follow up on that.

12 Any more old business? Any more new business?
13 Motion to adjourn?

14 MR. DAY: I'll make a motion.

15 MR. PRICE: Second.

16 JUDGE WOODS: Adjourned.

17 (CONCLUSION OF BAIL BOND BOARD HEARING.)

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