

BAIL BOND BOARD MEETING

FEBRUARY 20, 2025

THOSE PRESENT: JUDGE RANSOM "DUCE" JONES

JUDGE RAQUEL WEST

MS. BECKY BERTRAND

MR. KEITH DAY

MS. HAYLEE FOURNIER

MR. TIM FUNCHESS

MS. KELLIE HOLMES

MS. LESLIE HUGHES

CAPTAIN MORRIS

MS. SANDRA MOTT

MR. QUENTIN PRICE

MS. GLENDA SEGURA

MS. VALENCIA SIMPSON

MS. FRAN LEE

MS. REBEKAH PATIN

MS. TAMARA RITENOUR

MS. DEDE ROJAS

MS. ERIKA BURGE

MS. CHRYSSTAL HEIN

MR. CHRIS ROMANO

MS. MALLORY JACKSON

1 JUDGE WEST: Let's call the meeting to order.

2 MS. SEGURA: Yes.

3 JUDGE WEST: Thank you all for being here. We'll
4 go through this quick. It's freezing, and I have a jury coming
5 back in a few minutes.

6 So, we've got the top of the agenda is the
7 meetings from last month's meeting -- the minutes from last
8 month's meeting. Everyone should have gotten a copy of those in
9 your email. I need a motion to approve.

12:30PM 10 MR. FUNCHESS: Motion to approve.

11 JUDGE WEST: We've got a motion.

12 MR. PRICE: Second.

13 JUDGE WEST: We've got a second, several seconds.

14 | THE REPORTER: I got his.

15 JUDGE WEST: You got Mr. Price's.

16 And all those in favor of approving the meetings
17 from the -- was it November meeting, or was that January?

18 MS. SEGURA: No. It was January. My bad. It
19 was...

12:30PM 20 JUDGE WEST: Okay. I was about to say wait a
21 minute.

22 MS. SEGURA: Yeah.

25 (AYE RESPONSES.)

1 JUDGE WEST: Any opposed?

2 (NO RESPONSE.)

3 JUDGE WEST: All right. That passes. Let's see.

4 We have a report from the district attorney's office.

5 MS. MOTT: We don't have the report yet, but we
6 do have -- I do have a sample report. I don't know if you want
7 to look at it, but I didn't pass it out to everybody. But I've
8 got some reports from the district clerk. I was going to get
9 with Becky -- I meant to get here a little bit earlier, sorry --
10 to see if her reports -- so, we're pretty close. I think we'll
11 have it -- you think we'll have it next month?

12 MS. BERTRAND: Well, when I was doing my testing,
13 it wasn't coming out correct.

14 MS. MOTT: Okay.

15 MS. BERTRAND: And, so, but I've been having to
16 test other stuff that we're fixing to have a push for in
17 criminal. So, sorry. My --

18 MS. MOTT: That's okay.

19 MS. BERTRAND: -- attention's been focused on --

12:31PM 20 MS. MOTT: Yeah.

21 MS. BERTRAND: -- the criminal work.

22 MS. MOTT: So, maybe next month.

23 MS. BERTRAND: It's in progress.

24 JUDGE WEST: Thank y'all. Any applications for
25 approval? I thought I saw --

1 MS. BERTRAND: Yes, ma'am. We have a Chrystal
2 Marie Hein. She's going to be working for Allied, Stan Stanley.
3 The application was sent out to all voting members, and
4 everything's in order.

5 JUDGE WEST: And that's a Chrystal Hein?

6 MS. BERTRAND: Yes.

7 JUDGE WEST: All right. Is there a motion?

8 MS. BERTRAND: Her card is right in front of you
9 that I'll need you to sign.

12:32PM 10 JUDGE WEST: Got you. Okay.

11 MR. PRICE: I move to approve, your Honor.

12 JUDGE WEST: We've got a motion.

13 MS. FOURNIER: Second.

14 JUDGE WEST: Who said that?

15 MS. FOURNIER: County clerk.

16 JUDGE WEST: Oh, thank you. Any other discussion
17 with regard to the approval of Chrystal? All those in favor?

18 (AYE RESPONSES.)

19 JUDGE WEST: Any opposed?

12:32PM 20 (NO RESPONSES.)

21 JUDGE WEST: All right. That passes. Any
22 complaints?

23 MS. HOLMES: No, ma'am.

24 JUDGE WEST: Treasurer's report?

25 MR. FUNCHESS: I passed out my collateral report

1 for y'all's review. I will note that for all those that have
2 pledged collateral with real estate, all those tax statements
3 have been received.

4 JUDGE WEST: Okay. Any questions regarding the
5 treasurer's report?

6 Any requests for release of property?

7 MS. SEGURA: No.

8 JUDGE WEST: Auditor's office report?

9 12:33PM MS. LEE: They've -- it's been passed out. I
10 think she had --

11 JUDGE WEST: Any question or anything we need to
12 point out on that?

13 MS. LEE: No, just it had Chrystal's \$500 is on
14 there.

15 JUDGE WEST: Okay.

16 MS. LEE: Everything else is the same.

17 JUDGE WEST: All right. Any questions about
18 that?

19 (NO RESPONSE.)

20 12:33PM JUDGE WEST: Perfect. So, the last item that I
21 have on the agenda is again to discuss bail bondsmen getting
22 badges. I have reached out to Judge Shelton again about when
23 we're going to have our security committee meeting. He actually
24 sent out an email. The last one I saw was an email that -- to I
25 think his clerk but included everybody on that committee meeting

1 for her to start finding time to at least make them set up the
2 meeting. It hasn't been done as far as I know, but it's going
3 to -- as soon as we have the meeting, I will talk to them about
4 that. And, so, that's kind of where we are on that. It sounds
5 like we're getting maybe closer to actually having a meeting.

6 So, that's all I have on the agenda. Is there
7 any other --

8 MS. LEE: I'm sorry. I missed her note. Butch
9 Doucet's bond's limit needs to be updated.

12:34PM 10 MS. BERTRAND: Well, it's not; and I'll tell you.
11 He is no longer an active bondsman. We've had to dip into that
12 \$50,000 to cover some of the nisi forfeitures that he's owed.
13 I've almost got him cleared off of everything, and he's actually
14 going to be getting some money back in the end.

15 MR. PRICE: Uh-huh.

16 MS. BERTRAND: But, Quentin, I think we just
17 have, what, one or two more cases left?

18 MR. PRICE: I don't know the exact number. I
19 haven't looked at it in the last week or two, but we've been
12:34PM 20 whittling them down. We're going to get him out. I know we're
21 well under what he has on deposit with the treasurer's office --

22 MS. BERTRAND: Yeah.

23 MR. PRICE: -- which is what I was looking for.

24 MS. LEE: So, he's inactive?

25 MS. BERTRAND: Yes.

1 MR. PRICE: Yes.

2 MS. BERTRAND: He has been inactive.

3 MR. PRICE: Yeah. It shows -- yeah. Well, it
4 says default but --

5 MR. BERTRAND: Either one. He's not writing.

6 MR. PRICE: Either one, yeah. And he's not
7 writing. Correct. He can't write.

8 MS. LEE: Sorry.

9 JUDGE WEST: No. You're good. Anything else?

12:35PM 10 Yes, sir?

11 MR. DAY: I want to go back a few months. Last
12 year we had discussed --

13 JUDGE WEST: Nope. If we've already talked about
14 it, we're done.

15 MR. PRICE: Your Honor, I move that we move on.

16 JUDGE WEST: Thank you.

17 MR. DAY: We had discussed an issue at the jail,
18 between the bondsmen and the jail, about having two bonds, one
19 for County of Jefferson and one for County with a blank.

12:35PM 20 JUDGE WEST: Yes.

21 MR. DAY: And my understanding was is that we
22 were going to have two bonds, one of each of those. But I think
23 the next month I wasn't here, and I think just one bond was
24 approved that just had a blank where the county was. Is that my
25 understanding of what happened?

1 JUDGE WEST: Well, what happened, also, was that
2 one of those meetings -- we talked about that. I think Becky
3 went back. We talked about it in July, August and September --

4 MR. DAY: Uh-huh.

5 JUDGE WEST: -- of last year. And one of the
6 meetings I was -- or two of the meetings I was presiding, and
7 then the other Judge Woods was here. And, so, let me look real
8 quick. And, so, in July we talked about getting the new form
9 and then discussing it.

12:36PM 10 All right. So, in August there was discussion,
11 the agenda was to consider and approve the new surety form.
12 That form was here. The form was one -- it just has a blank at
13 the top to fill in is my understanding. So, there would be one
14 form with the blank and you fill in; and that was voted on and
15 approved to have the one form.

16 Is that what -- Becky, is that what you recall?

17 MS. BERTRAND: Yes. But I think the confusion
18 came in if that was going to be a second bond in addition to the
19 first one --

12:37PM 20 JUDGE WEST: Right.

21 MS. BERTRAND: -- or was it going to replace the
22 first one. I think that's where we're at now.

23 JUDGE WEST: It's not clear; and, so, why don't
24 we figure out what's best and get that cleared up. Would it be
25 easier to have one that's made with "Jefferson" and one that has

1 a blank?

2 MR. DAY: Well, I've got representatives from the
3 jail here. So, it would be nice if they can kind of give a
4 little input on this, as well.

5 MS. HUGHES: It's a whole lot easier to have both
6 of the bonds.

7 JUDGE WEST: Two bonds?

8 MS. HUGHES: Two bonds.

9 JUDGE WEST: One that's just "Jefferson," one is
10 blank --

11 MS. HUGHES: Blank.

12 JUDGE WEST: -- for everything else.

13 MS. HUGHES: And with that blank, it's only for
14 out of county only.

15 JUDGE WEST: And we already have that form; and
16 we have the old one, we have the "Jefferson." We have them
17 both, correct?

18 CAPTAIN MORRIS: Yes.

19 JUDGE WEST: All right. So, does anybody want to
20 make -- I think that's easy. We just need a motion, I think,
21 to --

22 MR. PRICE: It's not on the agenda.

23 JUDGE WEST: -- or is it just that we need to
24 clarify?

25 MR. PRICE: Put it on the agenda.

1 MR. DAY: Well, we probably just need to clarify.
2 But while I've got some of the bondsmen here, I just want to --
3 is it okay if we just kind of get their input, as well, a reason
4 why having two is an issue or anything? No? Chris?

5 MR. ROMANO: Well, I mean, all I've got are blank
6 bonds at this point because of that meeting. So, I mean, my
7 question is what's the difference between writing it in or me
8 going to a printer and just putting "Jefferson" on it? I mean,
9 literally there's no difference.

12:38PM 10 MS. HUGHES: 'Cause it really defeats the purpose
11 of us doing the blanks anyway. What's the difference between us
12 putting a line through "Jefferson" and writing, you know, the
13 other county in or just writing in the county? It just defeats
14 the purpose of everything that we done talked about so far.

15 JUDGE WEST: To me, I would think that most of
16 your bonds are Jefferson County bonds.

17 MS. HUGHES: Right.

18 JUDGE WEST: So, my thought would be that it
19 would be more clear and distinctive that this is a Jefferson
12:38PM 20 County bond if it's the one that is already printed that way;
21 and it is out of county so it stands out because it has a line
22 on it --

23 MS. HUGHES: Right.

24 JUDGE WEST: -- and it make it more clear, but I
25 don't know. I don't do that stuff, but that would just be my --

1 CAPTAIN MORRIS: That's exactly what it does.

2 JUDGE WEST: It does?

3 CAPTAIN MORRIS: Yes.

4 JUDGE WEST: Okay. Then I think if it it's more
5 clear for the jail and they're the ones handling all of those,
6 then I don't think -- I mean, is it a big, big deal for you guys
7 to have two?

8 MR. DAY: No. I mean, it's not for me. I
9 mean...

12:39PM 10 MR. ROMANO: Just as long as we can put a
11 sticker, a clear sticker that says "Jefferson" on that line.

12 JUDGE WEST: No. You're going to have two --
13 we're going to use two forms.

14 MR. ROMANO: I know. But all of my bonds,
15 because of that meeting, now at this point we went through all
16 the Jefferson, the ones that are printed. I can just put a
17 clear sticker that has "Jefferson" printed in that clear
18 sticker. You can't see the clear. It'll just say "Jefferson"
19 and put it in that spot.

12:39PM 20 MR. DAY: I don't see an issue. I mean, do y'all
21 see an issue with that, if there's a sticker on there?

22 MS. HUGHES: Well, I don't see an issue; but the
23 thing about it is how long is that going to last?

24 JUDGE WEST: Yeah. I think --

25 MS. HUGHES: You can't just continuously just put

1 a sticker on all the ones you have. You're going to have to
2 have both at some point.

3 JUDGE WEST: Yes. I would agree. Get some of
4 the other ones printed up, I mean, some time frame for that.

5 MR. DAY: 30.

6 JUDGE WEST: 30 days?

7 MR. DAY: 30 days?

8 MR. ROMANO: Have to call the printer 'cause we
9 have three-part bonds.

12:40PM 10 JUDGE WEST: Okay. So, for clarification, then,
11 I don't know that -- because it really wasn't set one way or the
12 other, I think for clarification, it sounds like we're going to
13 have both of the bonds. One will have "Jefferson County"
14 printed on it, so it's clear that it doesn't have a line under
15 it or anything else for the future just for ease of everyone;
16 and then all others will be fill in the blank on the blank one
17 that has the line. And we'll do maybe a 30-day put a sticker on
18 it and use the ones you've got for -- from now through -- I
19 mean, why don't we just say through the end of March? That's
12:40PM 20 about 45 days. Starting April 1st, everybody use the correct
21 ones. Does that sound agreeable?

22 CAPTAIN MORRIS: Yes, ma'am.

23 MS. HUGHES: Yes, ma'am.

24 JUDGE WEST: Is that something that y'all think
25 we need to vote on?

1 MS. HUGHES: I don't think so.

2 MR. DAY: Just clarifying.

3 JUDGE WEST: All right. Done, clarified. Fourth
4 time's a charm.

5 All right. Is there any other business?

6 JUDGE JONES: Move to adjourn.

7 JUDGE WEST: Thank you, sir.

8 MR. PRICE: Second.

9 JUDGE WEST: All right. We're adjourned. Thank
10 y'all so much. Make sure you sign the sign-in sheet.

11 (MEETING ADJOURNED.)

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