

BAIL BOND BOARD MEETING

FEBRUARY 26, 2026

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THOSE PRESENT: Judge Raquel West
 Judge Ransome "Duce" Jones
 Judge Craig Lively
 Erica Bell
 Becky Bertrand
 Haylee Fournier-Williams
 Keith Day
 Tim Funchess
 Kellie Holmes
 Captain Morris
 Tom Roebuck
 Glenda Segura
 Lolita Senigaur
 Chief Shauberger
 Valencia Simpson

1 JUDGE WEST: I'm going to call the meeting to
2 order. Thank you-all for being here.

3 The first item on the agenda is to review and approve
4 the minutes from the last meeting. Those were emailed out
5 sometime ago, I think.

6 MR. FUNCHESS: I make a motion to approve them.

7 JUDGE LIVELY: Second.

8 JUDGE WEST: We've got a motion and a second.
9 Is there any discussion? All those in favor of approving the
10 minutes?

11 (RESPONSES MADE)

12 JUDGE WEST: Any opposed? All right. That
13 passes.

14 Any new applications? I think we've got at least a
15 couple, right?

16 MS. BERTRAND: We have one. It's a brand-new
17 application. It was submitted by the Sharon McCleveland. She
18 will be writing under an insurance company, under Financial
19 Casualty; and they're here if anyone has any questions.

20 JUDGE WEST: Anyone have any questions?
21 Everything is in order?

22 MS. BERTRAND: Everything is in order.

23 JUDGE WEST: Okay. We'll need a motion for
24 that.

25 JUDGE JONES: So moved.

1 MS. WILLIAMS: Second.

2 JUDGE WEST: I've got a motion and a second.
3 Any other discussion with regard to that application? All those
4 in favor?

5 (RESPONSES MADE)

6 JUDGE WEST: Any opposed? All right. That
7 passes and approved.

8 MS. McCLEVELAND: Thank you.

9 JUDGE WEST: Thanks for being here.
10 Any complaints?

11 MS. HOLMES: No, ma'am.

12 JUDGE WEST: Treasurer's report.

13 MR. FUNCHESS: I have passed out the
14 treasurer's report, if y'all want to look at it. If you have
15 any questions, you can let me know. I will update you on the
16 taxes that are paid on -- or collateral that's put up in the
17 form of real estate. Everybody has paid their taxes?

18 JUDGE WEST: Good. Anyone have any questions
19 about that report? Thank you, Mr. Funchess.

20 Any release of property requests?

21 MS. SEGURA: Yes. Keith Day.

22 JUDGE WEST: So we've got a request from
23 Keith Day to release a physical property, physical address
24 3846 8th Avenue in Port Arthur and everything will be in order
25 as far as --

1 MS. SEGURA: Yes, he's in good standing.

2 JUDGE WEST: -- being in good standing with
3 this bond? Anyone have any questions about that?

4 CHIEF SHAUBERGER: I make a motion.

5 JUDGE LIVELY: Second.

6 JUDGE WEST: We've got a motion and a second.
7 Any other discussion about that release of property? All right.
8 All those favor?

9 (RESPONSES MADE)

10 JUDGE WEST: Any opposed? All right. I will
11 sign that release of 3846 8th Avenue in Port Arthur.

12 Auditor's office report.

13 MS. BELL: I have the print-outs on the table
14 right there if anyone is interested. Nothing new to report.
15 Everything is fine.

16 JUDGE WEST: Anyone have any questions or want
17 to take a minute to look at that report? Okay.

18 That's it for the agenda. I hate to ask the
19 question: Is there any other business that we need to take care
20 of? And I feel like there is. What do we have?

21 JUDGE LIVELY: Well -- no.

22 JUDGE WEST: I was like, well, this is serious.
23 You're standing up.

24 MS. BERTRAND: I do want to bring to the
25 Board's attention, it was just recently brought to my attention,

1 the Class Cs are -- Class C bonds, there is a couple issues
2 going on with them. The first thing is they are actually
3 reporting on the bondsman's report and going against them. I
4 just want to clarify on the Class Cs if we are still wanting
5 those to go against. And I thought we said no.

6 JUDGE WEST: We did say no.

7 MS. BERTRAND: Okay. With that being said --
8 and I haven't had to chance to talk to you, Captain Morris, but
9 I think Leslie may have mentioned it. We're having a lot of
10 issues with the bonds when they're filed at the jail, they're
11 not using the correct code. So Keith's office upon reviewing
12 their entire accusation bonds report, he's broken it down to how
13 much money should not be reporting and that number is --

14 MR. DAY: \$40,789.

15 MS. BERTRAND: So in the beginning, in the
16 conversion part of it, there was a different employee out there
17 and she was given the report and was supposed to go through the
18 bonds and make sure they were properly marked Class C versus the
19 other one. Kind of looking at the older ones, not all of them
20 were corrected. Looking at some of the newer ones, they're just
21 not using the correct bonding code. So we know that that's a
22 big part of the issue that we really need to look at soon and
23 going forward.

24 The next thing is I did talk to Mary yesterday
25 and we're going to try to get the bondsmen a separate report

1 that will just have your Class Cs on it and it won't be on the
2 accusation report. So hopefully that will be able to
3 distinguish the two different bond types.

4 Does anyone have any questions on that?

5 JUDGE JONES: What's the solution?

6 MS. BERTRAND: Well, the solution is so that
7 the Class C bonds don't go against a surety's liability report,
8 is that there's a special code when they're booked in and
9 posting that Class C bond, that it actually says Class C out
10 next to the side of it.

11 All other bond types will just have the
12 bondman's name. So it's just a matter of who is entering the
13 information in, what they're selecting.

14 JUDGE WEST: So maybe some training out there
15 again at the jail to make sure. That's a lot of money for all
16 those -- the bondsmen.

17 CAPTAIN MORRIS: I'm just wondering if it's
18 some older stuff that's really doing that total.

19 JUDGE WEST: But it's got -- they've got to be
20 -- the older ones have to be fixed and then the newer ones have
21 to be done right. That's super important.

22 MS. BERTRAND: And I know Leslie. Leslie and I
23 talk pretty often. She's having to fix a lot of issues. I
24 don't know if you are both aware of that, but she's having to
25 clean up a lot of issues from the data entry that's being done.

1 And this is going to be a lot. And once we identify those Class
2 Cs, it's going to be a lot of bonds that need to be switched.
3 And this is talking about for each bondsman. That's going to be
4 across the board.

5 MR. DAY: Now, let's take care of what we were
6 talking about, the accusation, as well. Because I did -- Tamara
7 did a brief rundown of our accusation report and this is just
8 quick looking at it, we've got over \$840,000 that needs to be
9 taken off our accusation docket. But once we're done with the
10 report, it's probably going to be well over \$2 million that
11 needs to be taken off our liability report for the accusations.
12 So where will that --

13 MS. BERTRAND: Well, where are you getting
14 those big numbers from?

15 JUDGE WEST: So when you -- well, let me ask
16 this, too, real quick. When you say your accusations, those are
17 people that you've bonded but the case has not been filed or --

18 MR. DAY: Right.

19 JUDGE WEST: -- what do you mean?

20 MR. DAY: Some of the cases weren't filed, but
21 it's not just -- these are on accusation docket. Like this one
22 right here, for instance, this is on our accusation docket but
23 this is a Brazos County charge. They charged us for two
24 30,000-dollar bonds. We only wrote one. And, I mean, I can go
25 through here. I've got another 1500-dollar bond that's the case

1 is on our accusation docket, but the case has been filed. So
2 it's also on our regular docket, as well. And we've got few of
3 those. One we did a -- like here we did a voluntary surrender
4 on a guy that was an accusation and it's not off our docket. So
5 it's a lot of things like that that --

6 JUDGE WEST: Those things that you're talking
7 about, who makes -- physically who makes those? The jail does
8 that, inputs that, as well?

9 MS. BERTRAND: Leslie would have to go back and
10 make that bond inactive. Once she does that, it comes off their
11 report.

12 JUDGE WEST: Sounds like Leslie needs some
13 help.

14 MS. BERTRAND: Any more questions on the
15 accusations? Because I have another situation, too.

16 MR. DAY: No. But, I mean, you can understand
17 our concern, \$2 million is --

18 JUDGE WEST: Any amount, even the \$40,000.

19 MR. DAY: Yeah, even that but, I mean,
20 especially with some of these bonds being set higher by the JPs
21 right now.

22 JUDGE WEST: Yeah, they definitely need to -- I
23 mean, when you're talking about somebody's money and their
24 bonding ability, it's got to be done correctly and the old ones
25 need to be fixed as quickly as possible, yeah.

1 CHIEF SHAUBERGER: Well, who is notifying the
2 jail that these cases are being --

3 MS. BERTRAND: As they're bringing it to my
4 attention, I notify Leslie and we send a lot of communication
5 and e-mail and I'll say, "Hey, this should be a Class C," and
6 she will --

7 CHIEF SHAUBERGER: Well, I understand the Class
8 C issue.

9 JUDGE WEST: The other issue.

10 CHIEF SHAUBERGER: But the accusations where
11 the cases are not getting filed or that are getting filed and
12 they haven't come off.

13 MS. BERTRAND: This is the part I'm unsure
14 about because they'll file the voluntary surrender, the
15 magistrate signs it. I don't know at what point where that
16 paper goes to the next person to have it removed. That's a
17 process I don't know.

18 CAPTAIN MORRIS: As far as to remove it?

19 MS. BERTRAND: To make that bond inactive once
20 the magistrate signs and says --

21 MS. WILLIAMS: Who changes the bond status.

22 CAPTAIN MORRIS; That would be Leslie, too.

23 JUDGE WEST: What did you say?

24 CAPTAIN MORRIS: That would be Leslie. Leslie
25 does those.

1 CHIEF SHAUBERGER: But how is she getting
2 notified?

3 CAPTAIN MORRIS: But they would have to get a
4 warrant put out for those.

5 JUDGE WEST: No. A voluntary surrender is
6 different than an AFRS. So an AFRS is where you're going to get
7 a warrant. A voluntary surrender --

8 CHIEF SHAUBERGER: That's what I'm saying, how
9 are we getting notified of the voluntary surrender?

10 MR. DAY: Well, that could --

11 CHIEF SHAUBERGER: It's not the AFRS because
12 there's a warrant issued; so she knows to inactivate it.

13 MR. DAY: Right. If it's an accusation,
14 there's not going to be warrant issued, right. I mean, if you
15 do an AFRS because there is no case. But this goes back to the
16 over 60-day bond thing that we had, you know, years ago when we
17 switched that. So that's when this came into play.

18 MS. BERTRAND: So what the bondsmen do is they
19 have a form and they fill it out. If the case is not filed,
20 there is a middle box for the magistrate to sign and that's
21 where he approves it or whatever. It's the point where the
22 magistrate signs it, I don't know what he's doing with it, if
23 he's communicating it to Leslie.

24 CHIEF SHAUBERGER: That's what I'm trying to --

25 JUDGE WEST: So what -- who signs those? What

1 magistrate? Does it go to whoever, whatever judge or --

2 MS. BERTRAND: I've seen them be signed by all
3 different magistrates.

4 MS. WILLIAMS: They call it a voided bond,
5 right?

6 MS. BERTRAND: Yeah.

7 JUDGE WEST: So is it just -- because I don't
8 get any of those, do I?

9 MS. BERTRAND: No, because the case isn't
10 filed.

11 MS. WILLIAMS: You won't get them.

12 JUDGE WEST: So we need to talk to Derouen and
13 find out what he and the others that are doing magistrations are
14 doing with those and where they're going.

15 MS. BERTRAND: Yes.

16 JUDGE WEST: Okay.

17 MS. BERTRAND: So the next thing I want to
18 bring up is -- and I don't think this happens very often but
19 this is kind of new territory for us because we actually don't
20 have a written process for this but Keith's office posted a
21 500,000-dollar bond based on what a JP judge magistrate set it
22 at. Then it was later discovered that the judge put the comma
23 in the wrong place and it should have been a 50,000-dollar bond.

24 MR. LIVELY: Ooops.

25 MS. BERTRAND: Keith's office rewrote that

1 bond. This person is no longer here in our area or --

2 MR. DAY: No. We didn't rewrite it, but it
3 just got reduced down and so we still have him on bond.

4 MS. BERTRAND: But y'all had to make a new bond
5 because that 500,000 has already been accounted for and it's in
6 the system.

7 MR. DAY: Right.

8 MS. BERTRAND: What happened was that judge
9 sent out an e-mail to his office saying, "Whoops, I made a
10 mistake. It should be \$50,000."

11 And so, this is a process we don't have, that
12 we've never discussed. But what I have discussed with Mary is
13 that communication somehow needs to get to the jail. Again, the
14 jail would treat that as -- make that bond inactive to allow the
15 new bond to attach to that arrest. Because you know per arrest,
16 there is only one bond per arrest on your charges. So this is
17 the only way we can allow an additional bond be attached to that
18 arrest and that offense is she will have to make that bond
19 inactive in order for the new one, the new \$50,000 one to be
20 received.

21 So I'm not clear what the process should be
22 when an error does happen because the last time I checked with
23 Leslie a couple of days ago, she still hasn't received anything
24 from that judge saying this was a mistake. So I don't know how
25 to rectify that part.

1 MR. DAY: We sent her the original. It's a --
2 the copy that he sent us, and we sent that to her. We didn't
3 know that was going to be sufficient or not.

4 JUDGE WEST: So the judge that made the mistake
5 fixed it.

6 MS. BERTRAND: But he hasn't communicated that
7 to the jail.

8 JUDGE WEST: Okay. So that's another -- is
9 that judge a judge judge or a magistrate?

10 MS. BERTRAND: JP.

11 JUDGE JONES: That's a judge judge. I can't
12 get my mind wrapped around a judge making a mistake.

13 JUDGE WEST: I can tell you I make them. So I
14 can send out, also, I guess -- and, Judge Jones, maybe between
15 you and I, we can send out something to the JPs and I'll also
16 send this to Derouen in case it's any of them that also -- I
17 mean, because I've seen some mistakes. And so we can get
18 Derouen to send something out to everyone who actually
19 magistrates. Then we can also send to the other -- but I
20 thought JPs aren't supposed to be setting bonds.

21 JUDGE JONES: Yeah, there's some of them are.

22 MS. HOLMES: I was thinking that.

23 JUDGE JONES: They should. They don't. I
24 won't. I'm old.

25 JUDGE WEST: Well, let me ask you this: Was

1 this done as a magistration, he made -- he went out and did a
2 magistration or he set this bond on an arrest warrant?

3 MS. BERTRAND: On a magistration, to my
4 knowledge.

5 JUDGE WEST: Okay. That's fine. He's supposed
6 to set it on a magistration. Never mind. All is good.

7 So then this is another Derouen. I'll talk to him to
8 also send out to all of them that if there is a mistake and they
9 make some modification, it's not a matter of just calling the
10 jail or writing something out, it has to get to, in writing, to
11 Leslie.

12 MS. BERTRAND: Yes.

13 MS. SEGURA: Yes.

14 MS. BERTRAND: Leslie needs a raise.

15 MS. WILLIAMS: I make a motion.

16 JUDGE WEST: I got to write this. I'm going to
17 forget.

18 MS. BERTRAND: She's still e-mailing me even
19 when she's off on vacation.

20 JUDGE JONES: That's dedication.

21 JUDGE LIVELY: Duce and I decided we will just
22 hold our Class Cs with no bonds. That way you won't have that
23 problem.

24 MR. DAY: Now, hang on a second.

25 MS. BERTRAND: So the issue is -- the obvious

1 issue is this 500,000 is what's going on Keith's liability
2 instead of what should be there, the 50,000.

3 JUDGE WEST: Sure. Now, can y'all take that
4 back with you and get at least that one fixed pretty quick, that
5 big amount fixed out at the jail, get Leslie to take care of it?

6 MS. BERTRAND: I'll send them the number.

7 JUDGE WEST: Yeah, if you'll send them that and
8 then go ahead and maybe forward any e-mail with any other
9 information about -- if all the bondsmen have done some type of
10 list like you have, Keith, and maybe they can get that. And if
11 they haven't, they need to get a list together of their Class Cs
12 and get that list to the jail so that they have something to
13 work off to get those fixed. And then I would just say from
14 today forward, obviously whoever is putting those in, needs to
15 be aware of the importance of that being correct and how little
16 mistakes can add up to lot of money. But if y'all will get that
17 list and everybody get a list to them, I think --

18 CHIEF SHAUBERGER: I think part of the
19 confusion, too, is we still have the two separate options. We
20 can't get them to remove it on Class Cs.

21 MS. BERTRAND: What do you mean two separate
22 options? There is two entries that they can select; one is for
23 the regular bonds, Class A, B and above, and the other one is
24 Class C.

25 CHIEF SHAUBERGER: But they had to move one of

1 them up in the list because they were getting them confused.

2 MS. BERTRAND: Well --

3 JUDGE WEST: I would get with Mary on that.

4 MS. BERTRAND: Well, you can. And the
5 discussion, I think that was had, is now we can move all the
6 Class Cs up to one section and then -- but then they'll have to
7 scroll down further or to keep them the same because it says
8 Keith Day, I think Professional Bail Bond or Keith Day,
9 Professional Bail Bonds Class C. One of the suggestions that
10 came up was to move the Class C part to the front of it but then
11 that's going to separate them. So, yeah, it's -- you would just
12 get with Mary and tell her what your preference is.

13 JUDGE WEST: If y'all think there is some way
14 that's going to bring it to whoever's attention that's putting
15 them in and make it more clear --

16 CHIEF SHAUBERGER: Well, we've talked to Mary
17 about doing that before, putting the Class C at the beginning
18 but it hasn't been done yet. Because when you're going down the
19 list, it say Keith Day, Professional Bail Bond. They don't read
20 it all the way through or see it, they click on it and puts it
21 under --

22 JUDGE WEST: Yeah, they will just have to
23 scroll to find each of the Class C separate from -- but that's
24 fine if that helps.

25 CHIEF SHAUBERGER: We can get with Mary.

1 JUDGE WEST: I'll mention it to Mary, also. I
2 have to talk to her about something else, and you can, too.
3 Okay. Sounds good. All right.

4 Is that it?

5 MS. BERTRAND: Well, this one more thing was
6 brought up by Stan Stanley's office to me two days ago.

7 CHIEF SHAUBERGER: Is it about the jail?

8 MS. BERTRAND: No.

9 MS. WILLIAMS: No.

10 MS. BERTRAND: This is about the DA's office
11 and I don't see anyone here from the DA's office. So --

12 MR. DAY: Can you specify you said Stan
13 Stanley's office and not Keith Day's office because I'm -- seems
14 like I'm the only one having problems.

15 MS. BERTRAND: Allied Bail Bonds. So in the
16 Government Code, Section 41.25(8)(f), the 15-dollar fee can be
17 refunded upon certain circumstances to a bondsman and the Board
18 has approved a form for the bondsman to fill out and submit that
19 to our office and our office will go back and verify all is
20 correct and we'll cut them a check.

21 The issue has come up that by the time the
22 bondsman gets the notification from the DA's office that it's
23 going to be a no bill, refusal or whatever -- and I'll just give
24 this instance. The bondsman was given notice on February 14th
25 of 2025. The case was refused on January 4th, 2024. The only

1 have 181 days to submit their request to get their refund; so
2 you can see by the time they got their information --

3 JUDGE WEST: Well, this sounds like a
4 conversation we need to have when the DA's office is here.

5 MS. BERTRAND: Yes. I just want to bring it to
6 the Board's attention.

7 JUDGE WEST: I'll talk to -- we're having a big
8 meeting next week, I'll bring that up.

9 MS. BERTRAND: And that's a wrap for me.

10 JUDGE WEST: So DA's office notice when
11 refusals, timely. They only have 181 days, right?

12 MS. BERTRAND: Yes, ma'am.

13 JUDGE WEST: Okay. Great. I have all kinds of
14 stuff to do. I'm scared to ask. Is that -- is there anything
15 else?

16 MS. BERTRAND: That's a wrap for me.

17 MR. FUNCHESS: I make a motion to adjourn.

18 JUDGE WEST: Okay. We've got a motion to
19 adjourn. The meeting is adjourned. Thank you-all very much.
20 If y'all didn't sign in, please come sign in before you leave.

21 (MEETING ADJOURNED)

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