

Harris County Bail Bond Board Meeting

Harris County Bail Bond Board Meeting

01/09/2018

Q&A

Reporting

1225 North Loop West, Suite 327
Houston, TX 77008
713-467-7900

ORIGINAL

Austin

Dallas

Denver

Fort Worth

Houston



HARRIS COUNTY BAIL BOND BOARD MEETING MINUTES - January 09, 2018

HARRIS COUNTY BAIL BOND BOARD
MEETING MINUTES

1001 Preston Street, 9th Floor

January 9, 2018

1:38 p.m.

HARRIS COUNTY BAIL BOND BOARD MEETING MINUTES - January 09, 2018

A P P E A R A N C E S

Don Smyth, Chairman

Glenn Strickland, Vice Chairman

Michael Butera, designee for District Attorney Kim Ogg

Bill Henderson designee for Judge Ed Emmett

Asst. Chief Schmidt designee for Sheriff Ed Gonzalez

Orlando Sanchez, Harris Country Treasurer

Honorable Esmeralda Garcia, des., for Judge E. Marshall

Carl Pruett, for defense lawyers

Tommy Ramsey, County Attorney's Office

Gregory Cox, Harris County Sheriff's Office

Sergeant D. Meade, Harris County Sheriff's Office

Artra Lewis, Recorder, Harris County Sheriff's Office

HARRIS COUNTY BAIL BOND BOARD MEETING MINUTES - January 09, 2018

P R O C E E D I N G S

1
2 VICE CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: It is 1:38 on
3 Tuesday, January 9th, 2018. My name is
4 Glenn Strickland. I'm going to start the meeting and
5 turn it over to Judge Smyth when he gets here.

6 First thing -- well, let's do an
7 introduction -- self-introduction around the horn.

8 ASST. CHIEF SCHMIDT: Debra Schmidt,
9 Assistant Chief Harris County Sheriff's Office for
10 Sheriff Ed Gonzalez.

11 MR. HENDERSON: Bill Henderson here
12 representing County Judge Ed Emmett.

13 MR. SANCHEZ: Orlando Sanchez, County
14 Treasurer.

15 HONORABLE GARCIA: Judge Esmeralda Pena
16 Garcia, associate presiding judge representing the City
17 of Houston.

18 MR. BUTERA: Michael Butera for the
19 District Attorney's Office, Kim Ogg.

20 MR. PRUETT: Carl Pruett, Criminal Defense
21 Lawyers Association.

22 VICE CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: And welcome to
23 the Board, Carl Pruett. This is his first meeting.

24 My name is Glenn Strickland. I represent
25 the bonding community.

HARRIS COUNTY BAIL BOND BOARD MEETING MINUTES - January 09, 2018

1 First item agenda is reading of prior
2 minutes. Chair will entertain a motion.

3 ASST. CHIEF SCHMIDT: Motion.

4 MR. BUTERA: Second.

5 VICE CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: I have a motion
6 and seconded from Major -- from Chief Schmidt and by
7 Michael. All those in favor, signify by saying aye.

8 THE BOARD: Aye.

9 VICE CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Any opposed?

10 B, old business, request by Safety
11 National Casualty Corporation for the release of
12 collateral pledged for Agent Jesse Andrew Glenn, Jr.,
13 License No. 74438. JP letters sent on 11/17/2017

14 ASST. CHIEF SCHMIDT: Motion -- oh.

15 (Witness sworn.)

16 VICE CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: State your name
17 for the record, please.

18 MR. GUERINOT: Jerry Guerinot, attorney for
19 Andy Glenn.

20 VICE CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Yes, ma'am.

21 ASST. CHIEF SCHMIDT: Nothing from the
22 Sheriff's Office.

23 MR. BUTERA: Nothing from the DA's Office.
24 I make a motion to return the collateral.

25 VICE CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: I have a motion

HARRIS COUNTY BAIL BOND BOARD MEETING MINUTES - January 09, 2018

1 for the DA.

2 ASST. CHIEF SCHMIDT: Second.

3 VICE CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Second by the
4 Sheriff's Department. Any discussion? All those in
5 favor, signify by saying aye.

6 THE BOARD: Aye.

7 VICE CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Any opposed?
8 Thank you, sir.

9 MR. GUERINOT: Thank you very much.

10 VICE-CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: C, new business,
11 election of Bail Bond Board officers for 2018. We're
12 going to push that to the end of the agenda; and
13 perhaps, we'll have more Board Members here. There's a
14 huge wreck on I-10 right at the exit that's just got
15 everybody messed up.

16 Number 2 is request for renewal of
17 license, David G. Schmidt DBA ABC Bonding,
18 400 San Jacinto, Houston, Texas 77002. Original Date:
19 2/8/1995. Expiration date: 2/18/2018. License
20 No. 74357. Phone number: (713) 222-6222. This will be
21 a three-year renewal.

22 (Witness sworn.)

23 VICE CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Thank you. And
24 state your name for the record, please.

25 MR. SCHMIDT: David G. Schmidt.

HARRIS COUNTY BAIL BOND BOARD MEETING MINUTES - January 09, 2018

1 ASST. CHIEF SCHMIDT: Nothing from the
2 Sheriff's Office. The application appears to be
3 complete.

4 MR. BUTERA: Nothing from the DA's Office.

5 VICE CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Chair will
6 entertain a motion.

7 MR. PRUETT: Motion to approve.

8 VICE CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: I have a motion
9 to approve by Mr. Carl, seconded by Judge Garcia. All
10 those in favor, signify by saying aye.

11 THE BOARD: Aye.

12 VICE CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Any opposed?
13 Thank you very much, David.

14 Number 3, request by Financial Casualty &
15 Surety, Inc., for the release of collateral pledged for
16 Agent Keith Woodard, License No. 74489. JP letter on
17 12/28/2017.

18 (Witness sworn.)

19 VICE CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: State your name
20 for the record, please.

21 MS. BAZE: Cia Baze, associate corporate
22 counsel for Financial Casualty & Surety.

23 ASST. CHIEF SCHMIDT: At the appropriate
24 time, I'd like to make a motion to table this pending
25 30-day mail out.

HARRIS COUNTY BAIL BOND BOARD MEETING MINUTES - January 09, 2018

1 VICE CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Now's the time.

2 ASST. CHIEF SCHMIDT: I'd like to make a
3 motion to table this until next month pending the JP
4 letter's 30-day mail out.

5 VICE CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Do I have a
6 second?

7 MR. BUTERA: Second.

8 VICE CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: I have a second
9 by Mr. Butera. Any discussion? All those in favor,
10 signify by saying aye.

11 THE BOARD: Aye.

12 VICE CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Any opposed?
13 We'll see you next month.

14 Number 4, request by Cynthia Bravo for
15 the return of the following real estate pledged for
16 Atlas Bail Bonds, License No. 74548. Number 1 is
17 6670 Limestone Street, Houston, Texas 77092, Lot 38,
18 Block 27, Langwood Section 1. The second item is
19 6742 Feldspar Street, Houston, Texas 77092, Lot 23,
20 Block 19, Langwood Section 1.

21 (Witness sworn.)

22 VICE CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: State your name
23 for the record, please.

24 MS. BRAVO: Cynthia Bravo.

25 ASST. CHIEF SCHMIDT: Nothing from the

HARRIS COUNTY BAIL BOND BOARD MEETING MINUTES - January 09, 2018

1 Sheriff's Office.

2 MR. BUTERA: I would make a motion to table
3 just because it hasn't been on the agenda in time to get
4 with the JP courts. My understanding is there was some
5 judgments that are paid recently at 52 -- I'm not sure
6 which court it was.

7 MS. BRAVO: Yes, 52.

8 MR. BUTERA: Okay.

9 MS. BRAVO: Uh-huh.

10 MR. BUTERA: And there may be others that
11 we've haven't got a respond on yet. So my only request
12 to be that we table it for 30 days as we would do with
13 the return of collateral --

14 MS. BRAVO: Okay.

15 MR. BUTERA: -- till the next meeting in
16 February just so we can check on that.

17 MS. BRAVO: Okay.

18 VICE CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: I'll take a
19 second for discussion.

20 HONORABLE GARCIA: Second.

21 VICE CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: I have a second
22 by Judge Garcia. Ms. Bravo ...

23 MS. BRAVO: Uh.

24 VICE CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Without those
25 two pieces of property, do you have enough collateral on

HARRIS COUNTY BAIL BOND BOARD MEETING MINUTES - January 09, 2018

1 the record to cover your outstanding liability?

2 MS. BRAVO: Yes, I do.

3 VICE CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: So ...

4 HONORABLE GARCIA: Also want to bring up --
5 and I think you're aware with the City of Houston, an
6 amount that is due.

7 MS. BRAVO: Yes. That's due January 20th.

8 HONORABLE GARCIA: Twentieth, yes.

9 MS. BRAVO: Uh-huh.

10 HONORABLE GARCIA: Okay. So by next time
11 having tabled it, it should be cleared out?

12 MS. BRAVO: Absolutely.

13 VICE CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Well, we haven't
14 agreed to table it yet.

15 MR. BUTERA: We're having a discussion,
16 Glenn.

17 VICE CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: No. We're in
18 discussion, that's right.

19 HONORABLE GARCIA: Okay. If --

20 MS. BRAVO: It would be, yes.

21 HONORABLE GARCIA: Oh, okay.

22 MR. BUTERA: So my objection would be
23 what's the -- I think you're trying to make it sound
24 like why are we waiting? Why would you not just give it
25 back? Every release of collateral we've given it a

HARRIS COUNTY BAIL BOND BOARD MEETING MINUTES - January 09, 2018

1 timeframe to, at least, to check with all the courts to
2 make sure that they've covered any judgments before we
3 released. That would be my request.

4 VICE CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: And that is true
5 except that this was collateral that -- on a license
6 that was no longer there. And so it was to clear up any
7 issues that might be outstanding. This lady still has
8 an active license and this is an academic discussion,
9 okay.

10 This lady still has a license and she's
11 got plenty of collateral left to cover her outstanding
12 liability. And to me, this is like returning collateral
13 that's allowed by statutes which she's got enough
14 already up to cover her outstanding liability per
15 statute.

16 MR. BUTERA: I understand. My motion is to
17 table to make sure that there are no unpaid judgments.
18 We never want to return collateral to someone that does
19 have pending unpaid judgments. We haven't had the time
20 it would normally take to check that. And so I'm asking
21 that we table till February to check that.

22 VICE CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Anybody have any
23 other discussion? You've heard the motion. All those
24 in favor, signify by saying.

25 THE BOARD: Aye.

HARRIS COUNTY BAIL BOND BOARD MEETING MINUTES - January 09, 2018

1 VICE CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Any opposed?

2 Ayes have it. We'll table it till February. Thank you.

3 MS. BRAVO: Thank you.

4 VICE CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Judge, welcome.

5 Would you like to take over?

6 CHAIRMAN SMYTH: I don't know if I -- I
7 think we've got to make sure that I can.

8 MR. BUTERA: We've delayed the --

9 CHAIRMAN SMYTH: The vote?

10 VICE CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: We delayed it.

11 CHAIRMAN SMYTH: I was hoping you already
12 done it, okay.

13 VICE CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Well, we've
14 delayed it to the end and we're on Number 5. You want
15 to take it over?

16 CHAIRMAN SMYTH: Okay.

17 VICE CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: You want me to
18 finish? What do you want me to do?

19 CHAIRMAN SMYTH: Yeah. That's -- I
20 apologize for being late. I'm dealing with what some of
21 you have to deal with, all of this e-filing and e-stuff
22 which is absolutely time consuming and it will not make
23 it an happier place to work.

24 So you've taken care of old business.

25 VICE CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: We're at

HARRIS COUNTY BAIL BOND BOARD MEETING MINUTES - January 09, 2018

1 Number 5.

2 CHAIRMAN SMYTH: All right. Well, then
3 tell you what, before I do anything, we've got to put a
4 new chairman for the Bail Bond Board for the year 2018.

5 So any there any nominations?

6 VICE CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: I nominate
7 Judge Smyth.

8 MR. BUTERA: I'll second or Glenn.

9 CHAIRMAN SMYTH: Any other nominations?

10 VICE CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Nomination cease
11 and (inaudible.).

12 CHAIRMAN SMYTH: Okay. Well, the deed is
13 done. Thank you very much. I know I'm honored. And
14 we'll do the best we can.

15 VICE CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: We've got to do
16 vice chair.

17 MR. BUTERA: We've got to do vice chairman.

18 CHAIRMAN SMYTH: And now we've got to do
19 vice chair. Are there any nominations?

20 MR. HENDERSON: I nominate
21 Glenn Strickland.

22 ASST. CHIEF SCHMIDT: Second.

23 CHAIRMAN SMYTH: All right. A motion been
24 made and seconded. All in favor.

25 THE BOARD: Aye.

HARRIS COUNTY BAIL BOND BOARD MEETING MINUTES - January 09, 2018

1 CHAIRMAN SMYTH: Anyone opposed? Hearing
2 no opposition, congratulations.

3 VICE CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: And to you also,
4 sir.

5 CHAIRMAN SMYTH: Thank you.

6 VICE CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: We get a pay
7 raise for this?

8 CHAIRMAN SMYTH: Absolutely.

9 VICE CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: All right.

10 CHAIRMAN SMYTH: I'd be twice what you're
11 making now.

12 VICE CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: All right.

13 CHAIRMAN SMYTH: The good thing about it is
14 you don't have to report that income on your income tax.

15 VICE CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Yeah, okay.

16 CHAIRMAN SMYTH: Regardless of what tax
17 bracket you end up in.

18 All right, ladies and gentlemen, Members
19 of the Board, I'm glad to be here. Sorry I'm late.
20 Like I said, I'm dealing with this e-filing which is not
21 helpful in me being able to multitask.

22 So the next item of business is Number 6.

23 VICE CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Five.

24 CHAIRMAN SMYTH: I thought you -- oh, you
25 haven't done 5?

HARRIS COUNTY BAIL BOND BOARD MEETING MINUTES - January 09, 2018

1 VICE CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: No, sir.

2 CHAIRMAN SMYTH: All right. And just so

3 I'm clear, was -- on 4, was it tabled?

4 VICE CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Tabled it was,
5 your Honor.

6 CHAIRMAN SMYTH: Tabled, okay. All right.
7 I'm up to speed, sort of.

8 Number 5, a notice by Lexington National
9 Insurance Corporation to surrender License No. 74516,
10 the agent, Jose Luis Aguayo effective immediately.

11 That's just a notice only so we just take
12 a note of that.

13 VICE CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: It is. And the
14 only thing that we need to make sure of is that where
15 the files are going to be kept. Because what this is
16 doing is closing this agent and his office.

17 Do we have knowledge of where the files
18 are going to be kept and who's going to be running off
19 the liability?

20 ASST. CHIEF SCHMIDT: The Sheriff's Office
21 does not. In fact, one of the questions I wanted to ask
22 was who was going to be in charge of the files and
23 runoff of the bonds and what location will those files
24 be kept?

25 VICE CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: All right.

HARRIS COUNTY BAIL BOND BOARD MEETING MINUTES - January 09, 2018

1 Deputy Cox.

2 DEPUTY COX: I can testify to that. They
3 emailed me instead of putting it in a letter. Because
4 they sent me the letter and I told them that we needed
5 that information. And what they emailed was is that
6 Scott Williams will do the runoff. Glenda Tanner --
7 Glenda Tanner was going to do the kind of surrenders
8 that needed to be done but the files will be kept in
9 Aguayo's office that he has now.

10 VICE CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Okay.

11 MR. BUTERA: So they're going to maintain
12 his office location.

13 DEPUTY COX: Yeah.

14 MR. BUTERA: Current office location.

15 CHAIRMAN SMYTH: Okay. So the record will
16 be clear, that the files will be kept in Mr. Aguayo's
17 office and it's Scott Williams and Linda Tanner --

18 MR. BUTERA: Glenda -- Glenda Tanner.

19 CHAIRMAN SMYTH: It's Glenda?
20 Glenda Tanner with a "G" are going to take care of the
21 rest of the matters.

22 Okay. Anything else? Anybody have any
23 questions about Item 5?

24 Okay. Item 6, notice by Lexington
25 National Insurance Corporation to close the satellite

HARRIS COUNTY BAIL BOND BOARD MEETING MINUTES - January 09, 2018

1 office of Agent Dale Coburn located at 407 Fannin
2 Street, Tomball, Texas.

3 VICE CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Notice.

4 CHAIRMAN SMYTH: It's notice only. Any
5 kind of -- any questions about that one?

6 ASST. CHIEF SCHMIDT: Are they surrendering
7 the phone number also? Just curious about that.

8 CHAIRMAN SMYTH: I don't -- I have no
9 knowledge one way or the other.

10 VICE CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Dale Coburn is
11 here. Dale, why don't you come up?

12 MR. COBURN: You need me up there?

13 VICE CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Please.

14 CHAIRMAN SMYTH: All right. Yeah. Go
15 ahead. Let's do it.

16 MR. COBURN: I'm swearing myself in.

17 CHAIRMAN SMYTH: There you go. Identify
18 yourself by name.

19 MR. COBURN: My name is Dale Coburn.

20 CHAIRMAN SMYTH: So recognized.

21 (Witness sworn.)

22 CHAIRMAN SMYTH: Thank you, sir. There's a
23 question about the same type of questions there was with
24 respect to the previous item, 5, that is surrendering.
25 The phone number was a different item. But are you

HARRIS COUNTY BAIL BOND BOARD MEETING MINUTES - January 09, 2018

1 surrendering the phone number or anything like that?

2 MR. COBURN: No. I'm keeping my phone
3 number, no.

4 CHAIRMAN SMYTH: So -- but you're just
5 closing the office at that location.

6 MR. COBURN: Yeah. I have -- my main
7 office is here at 601 Sawyer Street and that's already
8 listed as my main office. It's just a satellite office.

9 CHAIRMAN SMYTH: Right. And everything
10 will be there -- everything that's needed by this Board
11 and the Sheriff's Department can get you at your main
12 office?

13 MR. COBURN: Yes, it is now.

14 CHAIRMAN SMYTH: Okay. And the numbers
15 that you currently have.

16 MR. COBURN: Correct.

17 CHAIRMAN SMYTH: Okay.

18 MR. HENDERSON: Do you have separate
19 numbers for the Tomball office?

20 MR. COBURN: No, it's the same number.

21 MR. HENDERSON: Okay.

22 MR. COBURN: Yeah, I had another company
23 that I no longer have but the number that I have now
24 from my bonding business is the same one that I'm using
25 at -- was using out there.

HARRIS COUNTY BAIL BOND BOARD MEETING MINUTES - January 09, 2018

1 CHAIRMAN SMYTH: Anybody else have any
2 questions?

3 ASST. CHIEF SCHMIDT: Nothing further.

4 CHAIRMAN SMYTH: Mr. Pruett, you got any
5 questions?

6 MR. PRUETT: None at all.

7 CHAIRMAN SMYTH: Okay. All right. Well,
8 thank you very much.

9 MR. COBURN: Thank you.

10 CHAIRMAN SMYTH: We appreciate the
11 information. Number 7, request by International
12 Fidelity Insurance Company to open a satellite office
13 using phone number (281) 351-1521 at the follow location
14 for Agent Judy Grandmanson-Warren, License No. 74322.
15 The location being the 407 Fannin Street in Tomball,
16 Texas 77375. Both of you folks identify yourself.

17 MR. GOOD: Ken Good.

18 CHAIRMAN SMYTH: And ...

19 MS. WARREN: Judy Grandmanson-Warren.

20 CHAIRMAN SMYTH: Your hands are raised.

21 (Witness sworn.)

22 CHAIRMAN SMYTH: Okay.

23 ASST. CHIEF SCHMIDT: I have a question.
24 Has this phone number ever been approved by the Board?

25 MS. WARREN: Not that I'm aware of, no,

HARRIS COUNTY BAIL BOND BOARD MEETING MINUTES - January 09, 2018

1 ma'am. This is an old number. That's the Tomball
2 number that goes with that location.

3 CHAIRMAN SMYTH: You've been here when
4 Mr. Coburn testified and just try to connect the dots to
5 show me you're --

6 MS. WARREN: Sure.

7 CHAIRMAN SMYTH: Obviously, you're taking
8 over that location that he is closing.

9 MS. WARREN: Yes, sir.

10 CHAIRMAN SMYTH: And he was taking the
11 phone number -- the number that he had is his number.
12 He said he's taking it with him or using that same
13 number.

14 MS. WARREN: Well, I think he has his own
15 phone number. This was a number, I think, at one time
16 that was -- if he could speak to that 'cause ...

17 CHAIRMAN SMYTH: Well, it's either a new --
18 It's either a new number that you now
19 have or it's an old number that he's leaving behind or
20 something. I don't know.

21 MS. WARREN: It's ...

22 MR. COBURN: I can --

23 CHAIRMAN SMYTH: Yes, sir.

24 MR. COBURN: If I may ...

25 CHAIRMAN SMYTH: Yes, sir.

HARRIS COUNTY BAIL BOND BOARD MEETING MINUTES - January 09, 2018

1 MR. COBURN: I've already spoken. I can
2 explain. I had two licenses over a year ago, I believe.

3 I can't remember the right time. My property license, I
4 worked it all off and I no longer own that license. And
5 I've been working for the Lexington insurance license,
6 74500. But the number that Judy is wanting to use is
7 one -- that's one of my numbers but it's not being used
8 for bail bonds. It's not -- I'm not using it for my
9 bonding company. It was one I had way back. And still
10 have that number but if a Board approves, I think she
11 wants to take that number.

12 MR. BUTERA: Did you ever use it for any
13 bonding business, Mr. Coburn?

14 MR. COBURN: Under my old license, yes,
15 which has not been in effect for over a year -- it's
16 over a year.

17 MR. BUTERA: Sure.

18 MR. COBURN: It's -- yeah.

19 MR. BUTERA: But the answer to the question
20 then, had it been approved by the Board was "yes" for
21 your old bonding license that is now no longer --

22 MR. COBURN: That is correct.

23 MR. BUTERA: Okay.

24 MR. COBURN: Okay. Thank you.

25 CHAIRMAN SMYTH: Does that answer your

HARRIS COUNTY BAIL BOND BOARD MEETING MINUTES - January 09, 2018

1 question?

2 ASST. CHIEF SCHMIDT: Yes, sir. Thank you.

3 CHAIRMAN SMYTH: Okay.

4 VICE CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Motion to
5 approve.

6 MR. PRUETT: Second.

7 CHAIRMAN SMYTH: Motion been made and
8 seconded to approve the opening of the satellite office
9 listed and the number that's also listed for
10 Ms. Grandmason-Warren was License No. 74322. All those
11 in favor.

12 THE BOARD: Aye.

13 CHAIRMAN SMYTH: Anyone opposed?

14 MS. WARREN: Thank you.

15 CHAIRMAN SMYTH: Hearing no opposition --

16 MS. WARREN: Thank you.

17 CHAIRMAN SMYTH -- it is granted.

18 MR. GOOD: Thank you.

19 MS. WARREN: Thank you.

20 CHAIRMAN SMYTH: Thank you. Next item,
21 Number 8. Request for payment, Court Reporter
22 Clearinghouse, in the amount of \$524 for services
23 rendered for Tuesday, October the 10th, 2017.

24 It's a request. Do we need any
25 information? Everybody --

HARRIS COUNTY BAIL BOND BOARD MEETING MINUTES - January 09, 2018

1 ASST. CHIEF SCHMIDT: So we can pay the
2 bills.

3 CHAIRMAN SMYTH: Questions about that?
4 Everybody ready to pay the bills? Anybody have a
5 motion?

6 VICE CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Motion.

7 ASST. CHIEF SCHMIDT: Second.

8 CHAIRMAN SMYTH: Motion been made and
9 seconded regarding Item No. 8 to pay the bills of this
10 Board.

11 MR. HENDERSON: That was just one meeting?

12 MR. SANCHEZ: That's one.

13 CHAIRMAN SMYTH: One meeting.

14 MR. SANCHEZ: We're in the wrong business.

15 VICE CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Listen, we
16 have a -- we have a -- we've agreed and established a
17 long time ago that bills from Court Reporter's
18 Clearinghouse, if they're under \$500, they can just pay
19 them. If it's over \$500, it requires our approval.

20 MR. HENDERSON: So was that a longer than
21 usual meeting? Is that why?

22 VICE CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: I guess so. I
23 don't really remember October meeting.

24 ASST. CHIEF SCHMIDT: I don't remember.

25 VICE CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Do you remember,

HARRIS COUNTY BAIL BOND BOARD MEETING MINUTES - January 09, 2018

1 Chief?

2 ASST. CHIEF SCHMIDT: No.

3 VICE CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: See, I don't
4 remember that particular meeting.

5 ASST. CHIEF SCHMIDT: I remember last
6 month's.

7 VICE CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Yeah. Me, too,
8 but I don't really remember the October meeting.

9 HONORABLE GARCIA: So as someone who is new
10 on the Board, so all our of meetings are recorded by the
11 court reporter and that's what we're paying?

12 VICE CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Yes, ma'am.
13 This -- this lady right here.

14 HONORABLE GARCIA: Ah, okay. And that's
15 what we're paying.

16 VICE CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Yes, ma'am.

17 HONORABLE GARCIA: Okay.

18 MR. SANCHEZ: I have a question just out of
19 curiosity. Is it statutory?

20 MR. BUTERA: Yes, we do have to make a
21 record of all of our meetings. It can be made in
22 different ways. We normally have a tape recording going
23 as well as a backup. That could be our only method; but
24 a good example is this month, it is not working. So we
25 normally try to have the transcription service and that

HARRIS COUNTY BAIL BOND BOARD MEETING MINUTES - January 09, 2018

1 is a backup. And we do have to have a record of our
2 meeting.

3 MR. SANCHEZ: Why don't we get two tape
4 recorders? It's a lot cheaper.

5 MR. BUTERA: We do use -- I mean, I've used
6 our transcripts in the past to go back and certainly
7 take a look at what happened. Certainly much easier to
8 look at a 50- or 100-page transcript than to look at a
9 tape recorder. And I don't want to speak out of turn,
10 but I believe these funds come from the fund that we set
11 up that is funded by application fees.

12 VICE CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: That's correct.

13 MR. BUTERA: So we're funding our own
14 existence here. It's not like we're --

15 MR. SANCHEZ: I understand but in the event
16 you wanted a transcription, couldn't you just have the
17 tapes transcribed?

18 MR. BUTERA: We could. I'd hate to have
19 that delay if we actually needed the -- I mean,
20 personally, I would want to see the transcript and have
21 that accessible to everyone. I mean, that's a
22 possibility.

23 CHAIRMAN SMYTH: Anybody else have any
24 questions before we vote on that item? Motion been made
25 and seconded but I'm not going to cut you off.

HARRIS COUNTY BAIL BOND BOARD MEETING MINUTES - January 09, 2018

1 Mr. Pruett ...

2 MR. PRUETT: Pay the bills.

3 CHAIRMAN SMYTH: Okay. In that case,
4 you'll get an opportunity. All in favor of paying the
5 \$224 to Court Reporter's Clearinghouse for the services
6 rendered for the Tuesday --

7 VICE CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: 524.

8 CHAIRMAN SMYTH: 524. I almost saved you
9 some money -- 524 for the services rendered on Tuesday,
10 October 10th, 2017, all in favor.

11 THE BOARD: Aye.

12 CHAIRMAN SMYTH: Anyone opposed? Hearing
13 no opposition, the bill will be paid.

14 Number 9, request by Sergeant Meade for
15 approval of 130 cases of bail bonds totaling \$9,512.10
16 to be paid from the Bail Bond Board account. Copy of
17 this budget report is attached.

18 And I -- let me -- I'll ask a question if
19 anybody else will. Is that -- is that the --

20 That's the papers that are filled out?
21 There we are.

22 SERGEANT MEADE: Yes, sir.

23 CHAIRMAN SMYTH: I assume as an officer of
24 this Court, you're under oath, correct?

25 SERGEANT MEADE: Yes, sir. I don't want to

HARRIS COUNTY BAIL BOND BOARD MEETING MINUTES - January 09, 2018

1 say I do, but I --

2 VICE CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: You're talking
3 about Doug Meade?

4 CHAIRMAN SMYTH: Yeah, yeah. So yeah,
5 you're considered to be under oath as an officer of the
6 court and the county. Just --

7 I show my ignorance. Is this cases of
8 form that are used --

9 SERGEANT MEADE: For bail bonds, yes, sir.

10 CHAIRMAN SMYTH: For bail bonds that you
11 use to have them sign each and every one.

12 SERGEANT: Yes, sir. In your files, your
13 court files, when a defendant post bond, the original
14 bond itself goes in your court file -- in the case file.

15 CHAIRMAN SMYTH: Yeah. That's about to
16 become history on this e-filing. We don't see anything
17 on the computer. But you've got to have the original
18 one to have it to scan.

19 So how many forms are in a case, if you
20 know?

21 SERGEANT MEADE: In one case? In one box,
22 900. There's nine in a pack. A shrink pack is a
23 hundred bonds.

24 CHAIRMAN SMYTH: How long does it take you
25 to get through that 130? Best guess.

HARRIS COUNTY BAIL BOND BOARD MEETING MINUTES - January 09, 2018

1 SERGEANT MEADE: Well, almost two years.

2 CHAIRMAN SMYTH: Okay.

3 SERGEANT MEADE: I think last time, the
4 order was April 2016.

5 CHAIRMAN SMYTH: Well, you're right.
6 Almost two years.

7 MR. HENDERSON: Glenn, are we going to be
8 writing less bonds in the next two years?

9 CHAIRMAN SMYTH: Well, I'm going to -- I'm
10 going to ask the questions Glenn wants to ask.

11 Does this pay for those bonds that are
12 the unsecured sheriff office bonds?

13 SERGEANT MEADE: No, sir.

14 CHAIRMAN SMYTH: Okay. So that doesn't
15 come out of the Bail Bond Board --

16 SERGEANT MEADE: No, sir.

17 CHAIRMAN SMYTH: -- account or being paid
18 for by the bondsmen of Harris County for their fees and
19 stuff like that.

20 SERGEANT MEADE: No, sir.

21 CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: That comes out of a
22 different -- okay. Just checking.

23 MR. PRUETT: Not (inaudible.)

24 MR. BUTERA: And Doug, does this last page
25 in our packet represent the current account balance for

HARRIS COUNTY BAIL BOND BOARD MEETING MINUTES - January 09, 2018

1 this --

2 SERGEANT MEADE: Yes, sir.

3 MR. BUTERA: So the current account balance
4 is \$86,256.15?

5 SERGEANT MEADE: Yes, sir.

6 MR. BUTERA: And our expenses out this
7 basically would just be what? The transcription service
8 and the ordering of the bonds. Is that about it?

9 SERGEANT MEADE: Pretty much, not unless
10 you want to attend a class, a --

11 MR. BUTERA: Right. So we've done that in
12 the past with Mr. Moore.

13 SERGEANT MEADE: Yes, sir.

14 MR. BUTERA: And the Board has paid for our
15 continuing education course.

16 SERGEANT MEADE: Yes, sir.

17 MR. BUTERA: Okay.

18 MR. PRUETT: What my question would be
19 is -- we're -- if they remove a foot to e-file bonds
20 like he was talking about regarding the e-filing that
21 we're starting to going to do in all of the criminal
22 courts now?

23 CHAIRMAN SMYTH: What my question was
24 everything's going to e-file so they'll be -- this stuff
25 is going to be -- I'm sure, it ends up in the clerk's

HARRIS COUNTY BAIL BOND BOARD MEETING MINUTES - January 09, 2018

1 office. It's going to get scanned and put on the
2 computer.

3 MR. PRUETT: True. But if we're going
4 to -- if there is a move of foot to go to e-filing bonds
5 as supposed to presenting the quadruplicate forms that
6 we currently use ...

7 MR. BUTERA: You mean the origination will
8 be electronic and never on paper.

9 SERGEANT MEADE: Well, I'm sure that
10 everybody is looking to be efficient; but I mean, I
11 don't know.

12 CHAIRMAN SMYTH: That will never work.
13 I'll just tell you.

14 SERGEANT MEADE: I'm sorry?

15 CHAIRMAN SMYTH: I don't think you could
16 ever have somebody sitting at a computer doing all the
17 bonding business that you guys do, whatever nature or
18 source on the computer screen. You're going to have to
19 have documents that can be put in the -- put in later
20 either by transcription or duplication or something.

21 VICE CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: And I would like
22 to address that. As Judge Smyth pointed out, there's a
23 number of inherent problems with doing that, attaching
24 powers from the insurance companies and then you got the
25 \$15 that we pay into the indigent fund and the longevity

HARRIS COUNTY BAIL BOND BOARD MEETING MINUTES - January 09, 2018

1 fund for assistant DAs. There's just a number of
2 issues. Plus as you're certainly aware, it's got to be
3 signed and notarized.

4 MR. PRUETT: Right.

5 VICE CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: How do you deal
6 with all of that? This is being done in two counties in
7 Texas and I think that there's a lot of problems going
8 on with that.

9 MR. PRUETT: Probably but we -- if we're
10 moving towards that way is what -- that was my question.

11 VICE CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Yeah. Not to my
12 knowledge.

13 MR. PRUETT: If we're going to be moving
14 towards e-filing bonds or not.

15 VICE CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: I hope not.

16 CHAIRMAN SMYTH: I don't think -- I don't
17 think that you're going to have to worry about having to
18 throw these boxes and stuff away from pay for them.

19 MR. PRUETT: Not for two years.

20 CHAIRMAN SMYTH: They're coming for --
21 yeah. They got to work out the bugs in the current
22 system before they even start thinking about that.

23 VICE CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: And it might be
24 that we don't use them to write bonds. That always
25 possible.

HARRIS COUNTY BAIL BOND BOARD MEETING MINUTES - January 09, 2018

1 MR. PRUETT: True.

2 CHAIRMAN SMYTH: So anybody else got any
3 issues before we bring it up?

4 VICE CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Motion.

5 ASST. CHIEF SCHMIDT: Motion.

6 CHAIRMAN SMYTH: Motioned and seconded,
7 correct? All right. The motion's been made and
8 seconded to pay \$9,512.10 for 130 cases of bail bond
9 forms out of the Bail Bond Board account. All in favor.

10 THE BOARD: Aye.

11 CHAIRMAN SMYTH: Anyone opposed?

12 MR. PRUETT: Nay.

13 CHAIRMAN SMYTH: Okay. It passes. You can
14 continue to do your job.

15 SERGEANT MEADE: Thank you.

16 CHAIRMAN SMYTH: Thank you. All right.
17 Anybody has anything? Any old business anywhere?

18 VICE CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: This thing
19 that's printed at the bottom of the agenda, that was put
20 there for Mr. McKinney. And since he is no longer here,
21 can we eliminate this from the agendas?

22 CHAIRMAN SMYTH: Well, we think at some
23 point we need to have a discussion to see how far we've
24 gotten.

25 VICE CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Well,

HARRIS COUNTY BAIL BOND BOARD MEETING MINUTES - January 09, 2018

1 Mr. McKinney was Chair.

2 CHAIRMAN SMYTH: All right.

3 VICE CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: And he never
4 hold any meetings.

5 CHAIRMAN SMYTH: He didn't? Well ...

6 Well, we need to seek -- if there's
7 some -- we've got new blood here. If there's something
8 in our bail bond rules and we know there are some things
9 on some of the forms that are -- could be better done
10 -- at least that's my opinion.

11 VICE CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: There are a
12 number of issues --

13 CHAIRMAN SMYTH: So do we want to continue
14 trying to make this a better system? I guess that's it.
15 If so, Mr. McKinney's not here so we need to get -- have
16 him replaced and actually get something moving.

17 VICE CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Here's the
18 problem. This has been an issue that we've tried to do
19 in the last few years. Because there's a number of
20 things in the statutes that don't correlate to the local
21 rules and we talked about getting those things and
22 putting them in lockstep. However, when you have so
23 many people on the committee -- you've got the Sheriff's
24 Department, DA's Office, the bonding community, the
25 lawyer -- it's hard for everybody to get together at one

HARRIS COUNTY BAIL BOND BOARD MEETING MINUTES - January 09, 2018

1 point and time.

2 MR. BUTERA: Well, just -- now that Glenn
3 has put on the record that our local rules are in
4 violation of the statute, let me just put on the record
5 that I disagree with that. There's nothing in our local
6 rules that go against the statutory authority of the
7 Occupations Code.

8 VICE CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: I said they're
9 in conflict.

10 MR. BUTERA: I don't know what else that
11 would mean. But I'm just saying for myself or I don't
12 think we operate with any conflicts within the
13 Occupations Code. There are certainly things that can
14 be tweaked and cleaned up. I'm not aware of conflicts
15 between our local rules and Occupations Code.

16 Could you be more explicit about what
17 we're talking about?

18 VICE CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: If I had the
19 local rules here -- I could have but I did not bring
20 them. Sergeant Meade ...

21 SERGEANT MEADE: Yes, sir.

22 VICE CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: We discussed
23 this several times. Am I incorrect in what I said?

24 SERGEANT MEADE: I'm sorry. I can't
25 hear --

HARRIS COUNTY BAIL BOND BOARD MEETING MINUTES - January 09, 2018

1 VICE CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Am I incorrect
2 in what I said, that there's some conflicts between the
3 local rules and the statutes?

4 SERGEANT MEADE: I don't know if there's
5 conflict. I understand what the DA is saying. I don't
6 know that there's conflicts. I just -- it needs -- the
7 rules, I believe, need to be reviewed to ensure that
8 it's not harming any bonding companies or anything like
9 that or if it is in conflict of -- every local rule
10 needs to be reviewed, is what I'm saying. It is
11 outdated.

12 VICE CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Okay.

13 MR. BUTERA: Well, we don't have it on the
14 agenda for discussion but if we want to continue with a
15 committee, that's certainly fine.

16 CHAIRMAN SMYTH: Well, the committee
17 obviously --

18 MR. BUTERA: Right.

19 CHAIRMAN SMYTH: It's not doing anything so
20 it's not doing any harm yet and we need to decide
21 whether or not we really do need to review the local
22 rules with a committee and make them, if it can be done,
23 more streamline and more effective in doing the job that
24 it's supposed do for the community and bondsmen as well
25 as citizens that rely on them.

HARRIS COUNTY BAIL BOND BOARD MEETING MINUTES - January 09, 2018

1 MR. BUTERA: Absolutely. Just to be clear,
2 I think it's definitely worthwhile to revisit the local
3 rules, rewrite where necessary, clean them up. I just
4 want to say, for the record, I don't think we have any
5 existing local rules that conflict with the state law
6 that are an issue for the Board in that sense. But
7 absolutely, could we clean them up and look at those
8 things? Sure.

9 VICE CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: And it's been
10 quite a while since I've looked at them and I thought I
11 remembered them -- some of the local rules being in
12 conflict. Who knows? I could be wrong. But looking at
13 the local rules and adjusting them certainly would not
14 hurt anything.

15 CHAIRMAN SMYTH: And I'm sure the
16 County Attorney always keeps a watchful eye on whatever
17 local rules we adopt and let's us know if we're stepping
18 over the line so -- and that's something to look at and
19 make sure we're not.

20 MR. PRUETT: Correct.

21 CHAIRMAN SMYTH: See. Okay. Well, you
22 want to add that as -- we can put that on either -- any
23 party that's interested when it comes time to put the
24 agenda, get it on the agenda as new business and we can
25 start talking as far as this one here committee that's

HARRIS COUNTY BAIL BOND BOARD MEETING MINUTES - January 09, 2018

1 formed since the Chairman is no longer there.

2 why don't we just go ahead and delete

3 ~~this item until we vote again and either we're going to~~
4 do something or not. We go on like it's always been
5 done just the way your grandfather did it so ...

6 MR. PRUETT: So is there a committee for
7 the review of the local rules?

8 CHAIRMAN SMYTH: There was.

9 MR. PRUETT: There was.

10 CHAIRMAN SMYTH: And Troy McKinney was
11 heading that up. And like I said, we had put a
12 representative -- a bonding community, the District
13 Attorney's Office, the Sheriff's Office. We kept it as
14 small as it could be in order to be effective and not
15 run into the problem of, you know, you can't get
16 everybody there. Don't have to be done on a daily
17 basis. Like I say, apparently they were deciding that
18 the best time to do it would be right after the regular
19 meeting, take care of whatever it is that they're
20 working on. I'm not on the committee so ...

21 MR. PRUETT: Yeah. I seem to remember the
22 last time the local rules were revised by a committee
23 was sometime in the mid-80s.

24 VICE CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: There have been
25 tweaks since then.

HARRIS COUNTY BAIL BOND BOARD MEETING MINUTES - January 09, 2018

1 MR. PRUETT: There have been some tweaks
2 that -- there was a -- there's been some additions to
3 it, rather, that the Board voted on to add certain rules
4 but a lot of the rules were just there as a result of
5 some type of committee that was formed back in the
6 mid-1980s, I believe, and added to subsequent there --
7 thereto.

8 CHAIRMAN SMYTH: And I guess -- obviously,
9 they didn't -- hadn't put anything together for review
10 by Mr. Ramsey for the County Attorney's Office to then
11 come before the Board. So nothing -- a lot of
12 conversations, a lot of thinking, perhaps, but nothing's
13 been done yet.

14 Okay. So did you have a motion regarding
15 the item at the bottom, the asterisks? Mr. Strickland?

16 MR. HENDERSON: That's -- hold on a second.
17 That's not an item that's on the agenda.

18 CHAIRMAN SMYTH: Well, no but I mean --

19 MR. HENDERSON: I don't think we can take
20 any action on that.

21 CHAIRMAN SMYTH: Well, he wanted -- he
22 wanted it removed from the bottom so we don't have to
23 vote on it. And you know, I guess you could add
24 anything you wanted to at the bottom. Since it's not a
25 voting item, a request or a notice or anybody other than

HARRIS COUNTY BAIL BOND BOARD MEETING MINUTES - January 09, 2018

1 some on the committee.

2 All right. Anybody have another motion

3 that might be voted on?

4 MR. HENDERSON: Motion to adjourn.

5 MR. BUTERA: Second.

6 CHAIRMAN SMYTH: Motion's been made and
7 seconded to adjourn the January 9, 2019 meeting of the
8 Harris County Bail Bond Board. (Sic.) All in favor.

9 THE BOARD: Aye.

10 CHAIRMAN SMYTH: Anyone opposed? Hearing
11 nothing, we are now adjourned at 2:12.

12 (Meeting adjourned at 2:12 p.m.)

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

HARRIS COUNTY BAIL BOND BOARD MEETING MINUTES - January 09, 2018

1 STATE OF TEXAS)

2 COUNTY OF HARRIS)

3
4 I, Trevor Causey, do hereby certify that the
5 facts as stated by me in the caption hereto are true;
6 that the above and foregoing transcript of the
7 proceedings was taken in stenograph, reduced to
8 typewriting under my direction, and is a full, true and
9 correct transcript of the proceedings.

10 I further certify that I am not, in any
11 capacity, a regular employee of the party in whose
12 behalf this transcript was taken, nor in the regular
13 employee of any attorney; and I certify that I am not
14 interested in the cause, nor of kin or counsel to any of
15 the parties.

16 GIVEN UNDER MY HAND, on this, the 16th day of
17 April, 2018.

18 

19 Trevor Causey
20 Notary Public in and for
The State of Texas
My Commission expires 5/24/2021

21 Court Reporter's Clearinghouse
22 Firm Registration No. 62
1225 North Loop West, Suite 327
23 Houston, Texas 77008
Phone: 713 467-7900

