

Harris County Bail Bond Board Meeting

Harris County Bail Bond Board Meeting

03/13/2018

Q&A
Reporting

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HARRIS COUNTY BAIL BOND BOARD MEETING MINUTES - March 13, 2018

HARRIS COUNTY BAIL BOND BOARD
MEETING MINUTES

1001 Preston Street, 9th Floor

March 13, 2018

1:32 p.m.

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1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2 VICE CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: All right. I'd
3 like to have everybody's attention, please. It's now
4 1:32, and I would like to call the March 13th, 2018
5 meeting of the Harris County Bail Bond Board to order.
6 Starting on my left, Mr. Pruett, would you announce
7 yourself, please?

8 MR. PRUETT: Carl Pruett.

9 MR. BUTERA: Michael Butera representing
10 the District Attorney's Office.

11 MR. SANCHEZ: Orlando Sanchez, County
12 Treasurer.

13 HONORABLE RODRIGUEZ: Armando Rodriguez,
14 Justice of the Peace.

15 HONORABLE GARCIA: Esmeralda Garcia, City
16 of Houston Municipal Courts.

17 MR. HENDERSON: Bill Henderson for County
18 Judge Ed Emmett.

19 ASST. CHIEF SCHMIDT: Debra Schmidt, Harris
20 County Sheriff's Office.

21 VICE CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: And my name is
22 Glenn Strickland representing the bonding community.

23 No. 1 under reading of prior minutes.
24 Chair will entertain a motion.

25 MR. PRUETT: So moved.

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1 MR. BUTERA: Last month, Judge Fields, I
2 believe, said we would carry it for 90 days and then it
3 got put on this month's agenda. Since we're actively
4 working on it and it seems like something can possibly
5 happen before April -- although I'm not saying it
6 will -- then I will move that we table and carry it to
7 April.

8 VICE CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: I have a motion
9 to table for 30 days.

10 HONORABLE RODRIGUEZ: Second.

11 VICE CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Second by
12 Rodriguez. Any discussion? All those in favor, signify
13 by saying aye.

14 THE BOARD: Aye.

15 VICE CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Any opposed?
16 Number 2. Request by Sarah Husbands for
17 the release of \$40,000 pledged for Pasadena Bail Bonds,
18 License No. 74428. JP letter sent 1/19/2018.

19 Sarah, why don't you step up over here,
20 please.

21 (Witness sworn.)

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

24 MS. HUSBANDS: Sarah Husbands.

25 VICE CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Okay. Chair,

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1 Bonds, 2911 Hardy Street, Houston, Texas 77009.

2 Original Date: 4/13/2010. Expiration date: 4/23/2018.

3 License No. 74511. Phone number (713) 759-1000.

4 Three-year renewal.

5 (Witness sworn.)

6 VICE CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: State your name
7 for the record, please.

8 MR. MUHARIB: Wisam Muharib.

9 MR. BELL: Steven Bell representing
10 Accredited Surety & Casualty and Wisam in this matter.

11 VICE CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Thank you.

12 Around the horn.

13 ASST. CHIEF SCHMIDT: No issues from the
14 sheriff's office.

15 MR. BUTERA: Same from the DA's office.

16 VICE CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Chair will
17 entertain.

18 MR. PRUETT: I'll make a motion.

19 VICE CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: I have a motion
20 to approve by Mr. Pruett.

21 MR. SANCHEZ: Second.

22 VICE CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Second by
23 Mr. Sanchez. Any discussion? All those in favor,
24 signify by saying aye.

25 THE BOARD: Aye.

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1 MR. BUTERA: Nothing -- nothing --

2 VICE CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: I'll give her a
3 letter of recommendation, okay.

4 MR. BUTERA: So I make the motion to
5 approve.

6 VICE CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: I have a
7 motion --

8 ASST. CHIEF SCHMIDT: Second.

9 VICE CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: -- by
10 Mr. Butera. Second by Assistant Chief. Any discussion?

11 All those in favor, signify by saying
12 aye.

13 THE BOARD: Aye.

14 VICE CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Any opposed?
15 Thank you very much, Tina.

16 MS. LYLES: Thank you.

17 VICE CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Number 3, notice
18 by First Community Insurance Company to surrender
19 license 74570, Agent Mike Cox. The agent will continue
20 to maintain records at his location at 1215 Prairie
21 Street, Houston, Texas 77002. That is a notice. Duly
22 noted.

23 Number 4, request by Chief Schmidt for
24 discussion on using electronic devices such as iPads for
25 the disseminations of monthly agendas. So Chief ...

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1 end of the day when you crunch all the numbers, it would
2 take three years for it to pay for itself and then it
3 will be a cost savings for the taxpayers of Harris
4 County and also for the bonding agents who are required
5 to make all these copies and delivers to us. I think
6 it's time that we consider moving into a little bit more
7 of a technological savvy arena when it comes to how we
8 distribute these agendas.

9 And I'm open for discussion and questions
10 and ideas, thoughts.

11 MR. SANCHEZ: I guess my question is: Why
12 iPads? I mean, we can get it on the phone or laptops or
13 you can send electronically anywhere. I don't think we
14 need to buy iPads.

15 ASST. CHIEF SCHMIDT: Well ...

16 MR. BUTERA: We have county laptops that we
17 could bring or I have a personal device that I'd be
18 willing to use. I think the hiccup is just in, to me,
19 how to capture things electronically and deliver them
20 electronically. They're far too large for email.

21 ASST. CHIEF SCHMIDT: Uh-huh.

22 MR. BUTERA: And I just envision maybe web
23 site, a portal that we could set up that would have to
24 be --

25 ASST. CHIEF SCHMIDT: Dropbox.

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1 MR. BUTERA: Members would still have -- if
2 they wanted to --

3 MR. HENDERSON: That defeats the whole
4 purpose, if I'm going to print out everything --

5 MR. SANCHEZ: Not if you're the only one.
6 What she's saying is everybody.

7 MR. HENDERSON: Okay.

8 MR. SANCHEZ: You know, if you want to
9 print it, print it.

10 VICE CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Okay. What --
11 you know, we talked about this a couple of years ago,
12 and the deal was that the file was too large to send
13 electronically. Remember that, Judge?

14 MR. BUTERA: By email, it certainly would
15 be. You have attachment restrictions and you know, this
16 is a small agenda. We have much bigger agendas than
17 this. So you could not attach this to a message and
18 send it. That would not be a possibility. But if it
19 was the county's IT department or whoever was going to
20 work -- since y'all gather and distribute -- could post
21 it on, you know, your server, set up just as an
22 interface for the Board Members where it would have a
23 secure access to the agenda. It could be divvied up by
24 month and you could access the document either as a
25 whole or this could be one file or a particular file for

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1 different.

2 MR. BUTERA: That's the district clerk's
3 office. I mean, that's how it's received --

4 MR. DANIEL: Sheriff's office.

5 MR. BUTERA: -- and kept, yeah. I mean,
6 the sheriff's office accepts them but you're the
7 repository for them. So -- but back to agendas. That
8 would be a potentially way to ...

9 ASST. CHIEF SCHMIDT: You know, we could
10 set up like a Dropbox account with a -- that's password
11 protected that everyone could go to. You know, the iPad
12 idea is just to make it easy for everyone. You may not
13 want to tote, you know, a full size laptop to a meeting.
14 If you forgot your packet, for example, could provide
15 you with an iPad that has documents loaded on it. It's
16 more for convenience.

17 MR. DANIEL: Well, if we set up a spot on
18 our web site, then everybody that has a log-in can -- if
19 we could tie it to a unique log-in so that only those
20 log-ins can see what's in that spot.

21 ASST. CHIEF SCHMIDT: That'd -- that'd be
22 great. I mean, that would be an instant fix.

23 MR. SANCHEZ: And in fact, with a laptop
24 now, with these televisions, we can just project the
25 agenda up here. We don't -- nobody needs a laptop or a

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1 to write on the document with a pen electronically and
2 make notes.

3 MR. PRUETT: You can still print it out.

4 VICE CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Yeah. Let me
5 ask you this --

6 ASST. CHIEF SCHMIDT: You don't even have
7 to print it out.

8 VICE CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: You said that
9 these were \$444.

10 ASST. CHIEF SCHMIDT: Uh-huh.

11 VICE CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Could we buy
12 those?

13 ASST. CHIEF SCHMIDT: Yes. That's what I'm
14 proposing, that the --

15 VICE CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: No, no. I,
16 mean, the individuals. If we didn't want to do what
17 Mike was saying, bring our own -- if we wanted to buy
18 that -- because I've got an iPad that's six years old --

19 ASST. CHIEF SCHMIDT: Uh-huh.

20 VICE CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: -- way behind
21 the times. Chris Daniel would throw it out of the
22 window, okay. But can I buy one of those for \$444?

23 ASST. CHIEF SCHMIDT: Probably not. This
24 is a government quote. So this was done through the
25 sheriff's office. So we get government pricing on it.

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1 maintained electronically.

2 ASST. CHIEF SCHMIDT: Yes.

3 MR. BUTERA: But I just threw out a
4 question to list that maintain across the state, asked
5 if any other counties were doing -- and we only got one
6 response because I just sent it out today. But Travis
7 County, for example, gives the applicant the option of
8 either submitting "X" number of papers copies or one
9 electronic submission and I think all of their
10 applicants appreciate it and submit it electronically.

11 ASST. CHIEF SCHMIDT: Yes.

12 MR. BUTERA: All of the Board Members
13 appreciate it and access it electronically. So it's
14 even something we considered in the rules.

15 ASST. CHIEF SCHMIDT: It is a help for the
16 bonding community as well because they don't have to
17 make all the paper copies and --

18 VICE CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: No -- no
19 argument about that at all. Mike, when you're talking
20 about that, do they send in their application one copy
21 electronically and then does that turn around and
22 emailed to everyone?

23 MR. BUTERA: I had a follow-up question. I
24 don't know the answer to that yet, but I don't think so
25 because it's not possible, just limitations on size

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1 if they're on the portal before the meeting, we can view
2 them.

3 MR. BUTERA: Yes --

4 HONORABLE GARCIA: Then when we come here,
5 we open up. But I was going to suggest maybe a few
6 iPads for some of us who may not carry it that day or
7 were somewhere else and not going back to the office to
8 get the one. If you provided some, then that would --
9 that would help and you kind of -- you're kind of mixing
10 the need.

11 MR. PRUETT: You'd have -- you'd have
12 access before --

13 HONORABLE GARCIA: Before the meeting.

14 MR. PRUETT: -- before Artra would have a
15 chance to distribute it manually.

16 MR. BUTERA: Yes. Now, Sergeant Meade and
17 Greg Cox run around to everyone's location and deliver
18 them a paper copy. So you'd have access to the
19 electronic files before you would have normally received
20 the paper. You have plenty of time to prep.

21 VICE CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Whenever you
22 would set this up, Chief Schmidt, would you set it up
23 under one file like March 13th agenda and you open that
24 up and then each one of these items has got its own
25 file, not just one lump.

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1 ASST. CHIEF SCHMIDT: I'm -- I'm open to
2 suggestion. I just brought this Board as a way to
3 perhaps save some time and money for -- for everyone.

4 VICE CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Anybody else?

5 MR. PRUETT: How long would it take for the
6 IT people to get something set up on your web site?

7 MR. DANIEL: I need to find out. It should
8 be relatively quick because it shouldn't take a whole
9 lot of programming to have a spot to upload and then
10 view. And it would be a specific tab, kind of like how
11 if you log in as an attorney right now, you get dockets.

12 MR. PRUETT: Right.

13 MR. DANIEL: But if you're the public, you
14 don't get dockets. It'd be one of those tabs.

15 MR. PRUETT: Kind of like the way the DA
16 puts things on a portal but they have the shield there
17 and they have to remove them.

18 MR. DANIEL: Right. Or it just doesn't
19 appear.

20 VICE CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Steve, you have
21 something to add?

22 MR. BELL: I was just going to suggest one
23 thing because this will become -- had become an issue.
24 All places have us submit an original and a redacted
25 copy to put into the portal. That way, social security

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1 "application should be submitted via electronic means,
2 one redacted copy, one non-redacted copy". To me, that
3 would be put into the local rule so we would notify
4 everyone how, you know, the expectation is for --

5 VICE CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: I certainly
6 don't disagree with you; however, I go back to thinking
7 that what we should do is try the concept before we take
8 that step.

9 MR. BUTERA: Okay. We don't have anything
10 governing how to do it but ...

11 MR. HENDERSON: Why don't we just table it
12 and let Chief Schmidt and Mr. Daniel work it out next
13 month. Get something set up, sent it to us for the
14 meeting and we discuss it at the next meeting. If it
15 works, then we can or you know, go for it at that time.

16 VICE CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Everybody what
17 to do that?

18 HONORABLE GARCIA: Yes.

19 VICE CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Chair will
20 entertain a motion to table this.

21 MR. HENDERSON: So moved.

22 VICE CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: I have a motion
23 to table, and I need a second.

24 MR. DANIEL: Second.

25 VICE CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: I have a second

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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 13th day of
17 March, 2018.

18 

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

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