

HARRIS COUNTY BAIL BOND BOARD MEETING MINUTES - March 13, 2019

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MEETING MINUTES

1001 Preston Street, 5th Floor

March 13, 2019

1:30 p.m.

HARRIS COUNTY BAIL BOND BOARD MEETING MINUTES - March 13, 2019

A P P E A R A N C E S

Glenn Strickland, Chairman

Troy McKinney, Vice Chairman

Michael Butera, designee for District Attorney Kim Ogg

Sonya Anderson, designee for Dylan Osborne

Kathryn Kase, designee for Lina Hidalgo

Honorable Esmeralda Pena Garcia,

designee for Honorable J. Elaine Marshall

Judith Snively, designee for Marilyn Burgess

Captain Curtis Ruggles, designee for Sheriff Ed Gonzalez

Sergeant Sisto DeLeon, Harris County Sheriff's Office

Leslie Rubio, Recorder, Harris County Sheriff's Office

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P R O C E E D I N G S

1
2 CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: All right. It is
3 1:30 by the official clock. I'd like to call the March
4 meeting of the Harris County Bail Bond Board to order.
5 And I want to go around the table and have the Members
6 introduce themselves. Captain ...

7 CAPTAIN RUGGLES: Curtis Ruggles, Harris
8 County Sheriff's Department.

9 MS. ANDERSON: Sonya Anderson representing
10 county treasurer, Dylan Osborne.

11 MR. BUTERA: Michael Butera from the
12 District Attorney Office.

13 MR. MCKINNEY: Troy McKinney representing
14 the criminal defense lawyers.

15 MS. SNIVELY: Judith Snively representing
16 Marilyn Burgess, District Clerk.

17 CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: And my name is Glenn
18 Strickland representing the bonding community.

19 MR. BUTERA: Can I just make sure?
20 Since we don't have a court reporter,
21 we're recording ...

22 MS. RUBIO: Yes.

23 MR. BUTERA: Okay.

24 CAPTAIN RUGGLES: We're recording it.

25 MR. BUTERA: Just want to make sure.

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1 CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: And in view of that,
2 since what they're doing is they're recording and
3 sending it to the court reporter for transcription.
4 They need for us to say who we are when we make a
5 motion.

6 So if you would -- if you're going to
7 make a motion -- please say your name and then we'll go
8 from there. And that way whenever they hear it, they'll
9 be able to type in who it is, okay?

10 All right. Reading of prior minutes.

11 MR. MCKINNEY: I have a motion to amend the
12 proposed minutes.

13 CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Motion to --

14 MR. MCKINNEY: -- to reflect that I was
15 present but not participating. And I'm Troy McKinney.

16 CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Okay. So
17 Mr. McKinney wants to change it so that he was present
18 but not attending as a Board Member.

19 MR. MCKINNEY: Correct.

20 CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Other than that, are
21 there any other changes?

22 Chair will entertain a motion.

23 MR. MCKINNEY: As amended.

24 CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: I have a motion to
25 approve as amended. Mr. Butera seconds.

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1 All those in favor, please signify by
2 saying aye.

3 THE BOARD: Aye.

4 CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Any opposed?

5 Numbers 1 and 2 under old business. We
6 have letters from the corporate sureties requesting that
7 we table this until next month. There was an issue with
8 the representative whose stepfather was in the hospital
9 and had to leave abruptly.

10 So the Chair would entertain a motion to
11 table those two items.

12 MR. BUTERA: Mike Butera for the DA's
13 Office. I'll make a motion to table Items 1 and 2 under
14 old business

15 MR. MCKINNEY: Troy McKinney, second.

16 CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: All those in favor,
17 signify by saying aye.

18 THE BOARD: Aye.

19 CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Any opposed?

20 Okay. Number 3 --

21 MR. MCKINNEY: Since we're doing a
22 recording -- the court reporter is not here -- you
23 probably ought to say for the record that it passed.

24 CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Say what?

25 MR. MCKINNEY: Probably ought to say for

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1 the record that it passes.

2 CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: You're probably
3 right. That motion passed.

4 And let the record reflect that Judge
5 Garcia is joining us.

6 HONORABLE GARCIA: I swam over.

7 CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: I hear that.

8 All right. We're going to Number 3 under
9 old business. Request made by David Schmidt, DBA ABC
10 Bonding, the License No. 74357, to release multiple CDs
11 from Origin Bank and Amergy Bank totaling the amount of
12 140,000 and leaving the agent in ratio with the
13 treasurer's office. JP letters mailed on January the
14 29th, 2019.

15 (Witness sworn.)

16 CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: State your name --

17 MR. SCHMIDT: My name is David Schmidt.

18 CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: -- for the record.

19 Thank you. Captain ...

20 CAPTAIN RUGGLES: Letters were mailed out
21 to the JP to ensure that there no liabilities owed. We
22 know of no reason why the CD cannot be released.

23 MR. BUTERA: So I don't show any
24 outstanding liability. I would make a motion -- Michael
25 Butera from the DA's Office -- to approve.

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1 MR. MCKINNEY: Troy McKinney, second.

2 CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: All those in favor,
3 signify by saying aye.

4 THE BOARD: Aye.

5 CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Any opposed?

6 Motion passed. Thank you, David.

7 MR. SCHMIDT: Thank you, everybody.

8 CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Okay. Under new
9 business. Request for renewal of license, US Specialty
10 Insurance Company, Agent Steve Rene Cruz DBA Lone Star
11 Bonding Company 2, 1420 Washington Avenue, Houston,
12 Texas 77007. Original Date: 3/14/2017. Expiration
13 date: 3/24/2019. License No. 74579. Phone number --

14 Now, there's a correction to the phone
15 number. This is a typo. It is (713) 228-5500 and this
16 is a two-year license.

17 (Witness sworn.)

18 CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: State your name for
19 the record.

20 MR. CRUZ: Steve Cruz.

21 MR. HEIGHT: Dave Height, vice president of
22 US Specialty Insurance Company.

23 CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Thank you.

24 Captain ...

25 CAPTAIN RUGGLES: Application seems to be

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1 complete. No other questions.

2 MR. BUTERA: I have no questions from the
3 DA's Office.

4 MR. MCKINNEY: I'm assuming that you also
5 want us to amend the phone number that's in the
6 application. It also says 225.

7 CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Yes.

8 MR. CRUZ: Yes.

9 MR. MCKINNEY: Okay.

10 CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Did you make a motion
11 to approve?

12 MR. BUTERA: I did not but I will.

13 From the DA's Office, a motion to
14 approve.

15 HONORABLE GARCIA: Second it.

16 CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: I have a second by
17 Judge Garcia. All those in favor, signify by saying
18 aye.

19 THE BOARD: Aye.

20 CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Any opposed? Motion
21 passes. Thank you.

22 MR. CRUZ: Thank you, thank you.

23 CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Number 2, request for
24 renewal of license, North River Insurance Company, Agent
25 Tessa Sue May-Mohwinkel DBA Advanced Bay Area Bail

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1 Bonds, 1219 Bay Area Boulevard, Houston, Texas 77058,
2 Original Date: 4/11/2017. Expiration date: 4/21/2019.
3 License No. 74583. Phone number: (281) 204-8280.
4 Two-year license.

5 (Witness sworn.)

6 CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: State your names for
7 the record.

8 MS. MOHWINKEL: Tessa Mohwinkel.

9 MS. BROWN: Kiki Brown, vice president of
10 North River -- North River Insurance Company.

11 CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Captain ...

12 CAPTAIN RUGGLES: Sheriff's Office knows of
13 no past due unpaid judgments owed to Harris County as of
14 3/12/2019.

15 MR. BUTERA: No issues from the DA's
16 Office.

17 HONORABLE GARCIA: I make a motion.

18 CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Judge Garcia makes a
19 motion.

20 Ah, letter reflects --

21 MS. KASE: Excuse me.

22 CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: What is your name,
23 please?

24 MS. KASE: Kathryn Kase.

25 CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Kathryn ...

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1 MS. KASE: Kase.

2 CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Kase.

3 MS. KASE: From the County Judge's office.

4 CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: County case from the
5 Kathryn -- Kathryn --

6 MS. KASE: Yes.

7 CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: -- County Judges
8 office is attending our meeting.

9 MS. KASE: Yes.

10 CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: I'll get it right in
11 a minute.

12 MS. KASE: No problem.

13 CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: If I have motion to
14 approve and a second. All those in favor, signify by
15 saying aye.

16 THE BOARD: Aye.

17 CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Any opposed? Motion
18 carries.

19 Request for renewal of license, Tameka
20 Bowen DBA Bowen's Bail Bonds, 2323 Ellis School Road,
21 Baytown, Texas 77521. Original date: 3/11/2008.
22 Expiration date: 3/21/2019. License No. 74490. Phone
23 number: (281) 426-5577. This would be for a three-year
24 license.

25 (Witness sworn.)

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1 CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: State your name for
2 the record, please.

3 MS. BOWEN: Tameka Bowen.

4 CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Say it louder,
5 please.

6 MS. BOWEN: Tameka Bowen.

7 CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Thank you.

8 MS. BOWEN: You're welcome.

9 CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Captain ...

10 CAPTAIN RUGGLES: Just had three questions
11 concerning page 12 on the personal financial statement.

12 Are you the sole owner of the cemetery?

13 MS. BOWEN: Yes, sir.

14 CAPTAIN RUGGLES: Okay. Is the property in
15 Harris County?

16 MS. BOWEN: It's in Chambers County.

17 CAPTAIN RUGGLES: And final question is:
18 Where did you obtain this \$80,500 value amount?

19 MS. BOWEN: For the cemetery. I have an
20 appraisal for it and I cannot -- I couldn't --

21 I looked everywhere for it but it's been,
22 you know, like that for years since I started my
23 application. At that time, I did have the appraisal on
24 file.

25 CAPTAIN RUGGLES: Okay. In closing, the

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1 Sheriff's Office knows of no past due unpaid judgments
2 as of 3/12/2019.

3 MR. BUTERA: Those are -- sorry. From the
4 DA's Office, Michael Butera.

5 So those were my questions as well. I
6 just didn't know where those values came from for the --

7 MS. BOWEN: Yes. I --

8 MR. BUTERA: I saw the equipment and values
9 that you included, but the cemetery value is based on an
10 appraisal.

11 MS. BOWEN: Yes.

12 MR. BUTERA: Do you know when that
13 appraisal was, Ms. Bowen?

14 MS. BOWEN: It was done like when I first
15 did my original license. And like I said, I don't have
16 it but that's where it came from. I had it appraised.

17 MR. BUTERA: Okay. And just for clarity on
18 the record. That property is not the real property that
19 you're putting up as collateral for your license.
20 That's cash --

21 MS. BOWEN: Family property.

22 MR. BUTERA: Okay. You just included this
23 on the Financial Casualty & Surety, Inc., because it's a
24 piece of property that you own.

25 MS. BOWEN: It's mine, yes, sir.

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1 MR. BUTERA: Okay.

2 MR. MCKINNEY: I have a number of
3 questions. First on page 4, Item 2, the name and the
4 date of the DBA is left off. There's no answer to that
5 in the application.

6 MS. BOWEN: Well -- I couldn't hear you.

7 MR. MCKINNEY: On page 4, Item 2, the one
8 that says DBA or name -- under where it says bonding
9 company (inaudible.) is being conducted, there's no
10 entry there and no date filed.

11 MS. BOWEN: Yes, sir. I have a -- there
12 must be a typo. But I have my (inaudible.) right here.

13 MR. MCKINNEY: You did attach a copy of the
14 DBA from the County Clerk's Office.

15 MS. BOWEN: Yes, sir.

16 MR. MCKINNEY: With the January 27th, 2016
17 date that's on that DBA be the date that should be
18 filled in?

19 MS. BOWEN: Yes, sir.

20 MR. MCKINNEY: On Item 2 there?

21 MS. BOWEN: Yes, sir.

22 MR. MCKINNEY: Okay.

23 MS. BOWEN: I'm sorry about that.

24 MR. MCKINNEY: It's okay. Yeah. The --
25 I'm assuming the Bowen Bonding Service

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1 was your father's business.

2 MS. BOWEN: Grandfather's.

3 MR. MCKINNEY: Grandfather's, okay.

4 And you had no -- you worked there but
5 had no interest in the license, right?

6 MS. BOWEN: No. I worked there when I was
7 a teenager.

8 MR. MCKINNEY: I've got a couple of
9 questions about the financial things as well.

10 MS. BOWEN: Okay.

11 MR. MCKINNEY: Is the semi --

12 What county was the cemetery in?

13 MS. BOWEN: Chambers.

14 MR. MCKINNEY: Is it -- is the legal title
15 in your name --

16 MS. BOWEN: Yes, sir --

17 MR. MCKINNEY: -- or someone's else's name?

18 MS. BOWEN: I have that, if you need to see
19 it.

20 MR. MCKINNEY: I would like -- and while
21 you're looking for that -- but documents supporting
22 these things should really be attached to applications.

23 MS. BOWEN: I couldn't hear you.

24 MR. MCKINNEY: Documents supporting the
25 values and the ownership need to be attached to the

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1 applications.

2 MS. BOWEN: Okay. I couldn't find the
3 appraisal but I do have the (inaudible.)

4 MR. MCKINNEY: May I see it?

5 MS. BOWEN: This is actually the appraisal
6 for the house at ...

7 MR. MCKINNEY: So everybody is aware, she
8 handed me a deed for the cemetery that appears to be
9 dated 2007, and it is in her name.

10 Is this an ongoing business or is there
11 just the land?

12 MS. BOWEN: No. It's just land.

13 MR. MCKINNEY: Okay. Below that, you have
14 a value of 53,795 for office.

15 MS. BOWEN: Yes, sir.

16 MR. MCKINNEY: What does that represent?

17 MS. BOWEN: That's for office that I have
18 Harris County appraisal.

19 MR. MCKINNEY: It's a piece of real
20 property?

21 MS. BOWEN: Yes, sir.

22 MR. MCKINNEY: So the record is clear, she
23 handed me a printout from the appraisal district for a
24 piece of property at the address 2323 Ellis School Road,
25 Baytown, Texas 77521. Legal description ...

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1 Rather than read the legal description,
2 some of which -- oh, well, I'll read it.

3 The legality description reads PT TRS 4J
4 & 4W BLK and the number 14, Highland Farms.

5 Is this a building or just a land?

6 MS. BOWEN: It's a building, our office
7 building.

8 MR. MCKINNEY: This is where the bail bond
9 office is located?

10 MS. BOWEN: Yes, sir.

11 MR. MCKINNEY: Is either the cemetery land
12 or the land on the -- where this office is located a
13 homestead?

14 MS. BOWEN: No. I have that -- no, sir.

15 MR. MCKINNEY: I noticed on your
16 liabilities that you did not -- the only liability that
17 you listed was a Sallie Mae liability.

18 Is it true that you have no debts of any
19 kind other than Sallie Mae?

20 MS. BOWEN: No, sir, I don't.

21 MR. MCKINNEY: No credit cards?

22 MS. BOWEN: No. I try to pay off all my
23 credit cards. I don't mess with them.

24 MR. MCKINNEY: Under page 13 under source
25 of income, there's a blank for salary that is left

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1 blank.

2 MS. BOWEN: Yes, sir because I'm a
3 self-proprietor so I don't have a salary.

4 MR. MCKINNEY: Well, how much are you
5 ultimately paying yourself for the business?

6 MS. BOWEN: I think about a thousand or
7 something like that.

8 MR. MCKINNEY: I'm sorry?

9 MS. BOWEN: Maybe a thousand or it just
10 fluctuates depending on what I have to pay.

11 MR. MCKINNEY: Per month?

12 MS. BOWEN: Yes, sir. Because I don't have
13 any overhead or anything or rent for the building or
14 anything.

15 MR. MCKINNEY: Do you have other expenses
16 on that building?

17 MS. BOWEN: No, sir. It's my building.

18 MR. MCKINNEY: You pay utilities?

19 MS. BOWEN: Yes, sir. Just lights and
20 that's it.

21 MR. MCKINNEY: Are the property taxes paid
22 and current on that property?

23 MS. BOWEN: Yes, sir, it is.

24 MR. MCKINNEY: Are the property taxes paid
25 and current on the cemetery?

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1 MS. BOWEN: Yes.

2 MR. MCKINNEY: Did you submit proof of --

3 MS. BOWEN: Well, I didn't know I had to
4 submit that.

5 MR. MCKINNEY: Well, those aren't -- never
6 mind.

7 MS. BOWEN: Yeah. I didn't know I --

8 MR. MCKINNEY: Those are not put up for
9 security.

10 There's no outstanding liens on either
11 the cemetery or the office.

12 MS. BOWEN: No.

13 MR. MCKINNEY: Correct?

14 MS. BOWEN: Yes, sir.

15 MR. MCKINNEY: Okay. I have no further
16 questions other than to tell you -- and hopefully others
17 will hear this as well.

18 On the property licenses when you're
19 filing an application or a renewal, you really need to
20 attach these documents to the application so that we can
21 all see them which avoids us to having to ask the
22 questions.

23 MS. BOWEN: Yes, sir, okay.

24 MR. MCKINNEY: Okay?

25 CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Chair will entertain

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1 a motion.

2 MR. BUTERA: I make a motion to approve
3 from the District Attorney's Office.

4 MR. MCKINNEY: Second, Troy McKinney.

5 CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: All those in favor,
6 signify by saying aye.

7 THE BOARD: Aye.

8 CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Any opposed?

9 Motion carries. Thank you very much.

10 MS. BOWEN: Thank y'all.

11 CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: All right. Any other
12 business?

13 Chair will entertain a motion to adjourn.

14 MR. MCKINNEY: Motion.

15 CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Motion to adjourn.

16 All those in favor, signify by saying
17 aye.

18 THE BOARD: Aye.

19 CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: All right. See you
20 next month.

21 (Meeting adjourned at 1:47 p.m.)

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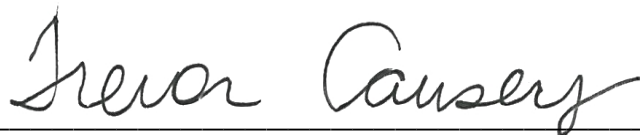
1 STATE OF TEXAS)

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, 2019.

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
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23 Houston, Texas 77008
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