

MINUTES
**Montgomery County Bail Bond
Board**
Darin Bailey
Presiding Officer

Wednesday, August 18, 2021

THE MONTGOMERY COUNTY BAIL BOND BOARD CONVENED AT 12:00 NOON ON THE DATE LISTED AT THE TOP OF THIS AGENDA, IN THE ALAN B. SADLER COMMISSIONER'S COURT BUILDING, 501 N. THOMPSON, 4TH FLOOR, CONROE, TX 77301.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: At any time during the meeting the Board may announce it will go into closed session pursuant to Chapter 551 of the Texas Government Code to receive advice from legal counsel or for any other lawful matters that are specifically related to items listed on this agenda. Prior to any such closed session the Presiding Officer, in open session, will identify the agenda item to be discussed and the section or sections of Chapter 551 under which the closed discussion is authorized.

- I. CALL TO ORDER TIME: 12:00 NOON
- II. ROLL CALL

Board Members present: Lt. Jeremiah Richards, designee for Sheriff Rand Henderson, Alexis van de ven Seda, Surety Representative, Darin Bailey, Designee for Mark Turnbull, County Clerk, Judge Wayne Mack, Justice of the Peace, Pct. 1, Representative for Justice Courts and Judges, Jamie Meinkowsky, Designee for Judge Mark Keough, County Judge, Amanda Webb, Criminal Defense Attorney Representative, Paul Damico, Designee for Judge Phil Grant, 9th District Court, Representative for District Courts and Judges, Melanie Bush, County Treasurer, Colleen Rice, Designee for Judge Claudia Laird, CCL#2, Representative for County Courts and Judges, Melisa Miller, District Clerk.

Board Members not present: Judge Mike Davis, Conroe Municipal Court, Vanessa Windham, Designee for Brett Ligon, District Attorney.

Non Board Members present: John McKinney, Asst. County Attorney, Legal Counsel the Board.

Jan Avery, Bail Bond Board Administrator was not in attendance.

PUBLIC COMMENT

(Note: Public must sign registration prior to the start of meeting in order to address the Board. Comments are limited to 3 minutes per speaker.)

III. MINUTES

- A. Approve the minutes for the meeting July 22, 2021. A copy of the Revised Local Rules that were approved with changes is in the packet.

Darin Bailey entertained a motion to approve the minutes, Alexis van de Ven Seda moved to approve the minutes, Amanda Webb seconded. Lt. Jeremiah Richards abstained, all other Board members approved, the motion passed.

IV. TREASURER

- A. Consider, discuss and take action on the Treasurer's Report.

Judge Wayne Mack moved to approve the Treasurer's report, Jamie Meinkowsky seconded. All Board members approved, the motion passed.

V. ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Darin Bailey told the Board this was only the 3rd meeting in 17 years that Jan Avery had missed as Bail Bond Board Administrator. Also stated for the record at this time, Colleen Rice, designee for Judge Claudia Laird, CCL#2, representative for County Judges and Courts joined the meeting.

- A. Review funds received for the month of July 2021. Report attached.
- B. Consider:
 - 1. Updated list of Licensed Surety companies for posting, August 09, 2021 posting date.
 - 2. License Expiration Report – updated 07/31/2021.
- C. Review, discuss, and take action, if any, regarding licensees that have not signed and returned the affidavit acknowledging the Updated Local Rules.

Darin gave the Administrator's report and stated that on Item C – as of today all the affidavits had been received.

PRESIDING OFFICER

- A. Consider, discuss and take action on the request by Les French to have the following Certificates of Deposit released as collateral. CD# 0010708469, 0010688661, 0010709467 for a total of \$50,000.00 plus any interest accrued.

Darin said she had spoken with Jan Avery before the meeting and Les French has adequate collateral after the release of this \$50,000.00. Judge Wayne Mack motioned to approve the release of the CD's totaling \$50,000.00 plus any accrued interest, Lt. Jeremiah Richards seconded. Alexis van de Ven Seda abstained from the vote, all other Board members were in favor, the motion passed.

- B. Consider, discuss and take action on the updated application instructions and the updated application form for Individual and Agent Licenses and renewals for both, with attachments that conform to requirements in the Local Rules adopted 07-22-2021. Copy of application instructions and application form with attachments included in the packet.

The documents will be posted on the website and Jan will also send a link to the licensees which shows highlights on all the changes made to these forms that are in compliance with Updated Local Rules. Darin also mentioned that she had received a few calls asking questions about the rules, she said she has no problem answering any questions if anyone wants to call for clarification.

- C. Consider, discuss, review and take action following Complaint Subcommittee's recommendation on complaint filed by Georgette Whatley against Derrick Dixon received July 14, 2021.

Darin asked Melanie Bush who is the Chairperson of the Complaint Subcommittee if she wanted to address this complaint and what the Subcommittee recommendations are.

Melanie stated the committee had a problem with the page that came up when Google searching Conroe Bail Bonds, it brought up as 1 – Bail Bonds by Renell, 2 – Made Bail.com, and 3 – Conroe Texas 24 hour Bail Bonds. When clicking on 3, it brings you to what appears to be ASAP Bail Bonds with that logo all over the page and in the body it references 1st Choice Bail Bonding. Under the locations at the top the location for Conroe –First Choice Bail Bonds. This is not the correct DBA this license is under. On the footer of the page it shows – 1st Choice Bail Bonds which is not correct either. The application and DBA for this license is – 1st Choice Bail Bonding. The advertising is not consistent and in most instances not correct or in compliance. Also the ASAP Bail Bonds coming up with a google search it is considered misleading to the public.

Steven Bell stated to the Board that they had made changes in January to the webpage and had a hard time getting the complaint to see what the subcommittee or the complaint said at this time before they were to be here for a hearing.

For the record the letter clearly stated this was not a hearing and asked that they attend the meeting to answer any questions the Board may have. I, as the Board administrator provided what I was told to by the Complaint subcommittee which was the letter. When Mr. Bell sent an additional email asking for a copy of the complaint, he also called, I

forwarded the email to John McKinney and told Mr. Bell that he needed to contact John McKinney for any additional information.

In answer to the Mr. Bell and Mr. Dixon stating they had a hard time and had just the previous week received a copy of the complaint, the timeline was this: The letter was sent to Georgette Whatley, Derrick Dixon, Steven Bell, and copied to John McKinney on 08-04-21. The complaint was released to Mr. Bell and Mr. Dixon on 08-05-21 which was 2 weeks (14 days) prior to the meeting as well as within 1 day of the request for a copy of it and when the letter was sent.

After discussion by the Board, Steven Bell, and Derrick Dixon, it was agreed they would be in contact with Melanie Bush the committee chairperson and work on the changes.

Melisa Miller moved to defer action for 30 days while they work on changes, Judge Wayne Mack seconded. All were in favor, the motion passed.

VIII ADJOURN

Alexis van de Ven Seda motioned to adjourn, Lt. Jeremiah Richards seconded. All were in favor, the meeting adjourned at 12:40p.m.

The Agenda is on this bulletin board and may be obtained in the County Clerk's office on the 1st floor of the Court's building at 210 West Davis, Conroe, TX 77301 and in the Commissioner's Courtroom on the day of the meeting.