

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

Thursday, July 22, 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

II. ROLL CALL

Board Members present: Melisa Miller, District Clerk, Melanie Bush, County Treasurer, Alexis van de Ven Seda, Surety Representative, Darin Bailey, Designee for Mark Turnbull, County Clerk, Paul Damico, Designee for Phil Grant, 9th District Court, representative for District Courts and Judges, Amanda Webb, Criminal Defense Attorney Representative, Jamie Meinkowsky, Designee for Mark Keough, County Judge, Vanessa Windham, Designee for Brett Ligon, District Attorney.

Board Members not present: Judge Wayne Mack, Justice of the Peace, Pct. 1, Representative for Justice Courts and Judges, Judge Mike Davis, Conroe Municipal Court, Colleen Rice, Designee for Judge Claudia Laird, CCL# 2, Representative for County Courts and Judges, Lt. Jeremiah

Richards, Designee for Sheriff Rand Henderson.

Non Board Members present: John McKinney, Asst. County Attorney and Legal Counsel to the Board, Jan Avery, Bail Bond Board Administrator.

III. 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.)

Georgette Whatley made a few suggestions on the Revised Local Rules to the Board.

Mari van de Ven asked a few questions on the Revised Local Rules.

IV. MINUTES

A. Approve the minutes for the meeting June 16, 2021.

Alexis van de Ven Seda moved to approve the June 16, 2021 meeting minutes, Vanessa Windham seconded. Paul Damico and Amanda Webb abstained from the vote. All other Board members approved, the motion passed.

V. TREASURER

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

Amanda Webb moved to approve the Treasurer's report as presented, Alexis van de Ven Seda seconded. All Board members were in favor, the motion passed.

VI. ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

A. Review funds received for the month of June 2021. Report attached.

B. Consider:

1. Updated list of Licensed Surety companies for posting, July 09, 2021 posting date.
2. License Expiration Report – updated 06/30/2021.

VII. PRESIDING OFFICER

- A. Hearing on license renewal application: Stephanie Lucado, agent for Banker's Insurance Company, dba Stephanie's Bail Bonds License 0084.

Swear in Stephanie Lucado and representative from Banker's Insurance Company Insurance Company if present and proceed to a)

Darin Bailey swore in Stephanie Lucado and Drew Johnson (representative for Bankers Insurance)

- a) Conduct hearing on the license renewal application for Stephanie Lucado, agent for Banker's Insurance Company dba Stephanie's Bail Bonds.
- b) 1704.159 – Enter an order on action taken on the license renewal application of Stephanie Lucado, agent for Bankers Insurance Company dba Stephanie's Bail Bonds, License 0084.

Alexis van de Ven Seda moved to approve the license renewal of Stephanie Lucado, agent for Bankers Insurance, License 0084, Melanie Bush seconded. All Board members were in favor, the motion passed. The license renewal was approved.

- B. Consider, discuss and take action on the request by Douglas Wyrwich # 0047 to add property collateral. The property is Lot 83 of Hidden Forest Estates, Section One (1) a subdivision in Montgomery County Texas. The current value shown on the property according to the appraisal district is \$8,550.00 x 10 = \$85,500.00.

Mr. Wyrwich was not in attendance and some of the Board members had questions on the property. Darin Bailey moved to defer this item

to the next meeting, Paul Damico seconded. All Board members were in favor, the motion passed.

- C. Consider, discuss and take action on the request by Patrick Steirman to change his dba from Ace's Bail Bonds to Conroe Bail Bonds. Copy of the Assumed name certificate dated June 02, 2021 is in the packet.

Melisa Miller moved to approve the request by Patrick Steirman, License 0063 from Ace's Bail Bonds to Conroe Bail Bonds, Jamie Meinkowsky seconded. All Board members were in favor, the motion passed.

- D Review, consider, discuss, and take action, if any, on the recommended proposed changes to the Local Rules by the Local Rules Committee. The Final Draft Local Rules dated 07/22/2021 is in the packet along with a list of the proposed changes.

Darin Bailey stated that everyone on the Local Rules Sub Committee, Melisa, Miller, Alexis van de Ven Seda, herself, John McKinney and Jan Avery all worked very hard on the revisions to the Local Rules over many months.

Amanda Webb had the following questions on the Revised Local Rules:

Section 2.3.B- On the recommendation letters "family member" should be defined – wording will be changed to add after "a family member" **"(falling within the third degree by consanguinity or with the second degree by affinity"**.

Section **2.4.D** – No change

Section **2.5.B.5** – end sentence with, and proof of no liens. **(Took off etc.)**

Section 3.1.C.2. Add parole officers? After probation department, add **"parole division"**.

Section 3.1.C.3 – Do we need to add municipality – New sentence reads – is also employed **by any city or county agency** or department that has a representative serving on the Bail Bond Board.

Section 4.1 – Need to change the wording to reflect what the 3 day notification is addressing. Changed to: Licensees must notify the Board **in writing within three (3) days of an arrest of a crime of moral turpitude or a felony.**

Section 4.2 - Changed the wording: Licensees must notify **in writing within three (3) days of knowledge an arrest of a crime of moral turpitude or a felony of any employee.**

Amanda stated that there is no enforcement provision for any of the violations. John McKinney stated that it defers to the enforcement in the Occupation Code.

Sentence added under Section 1.1 – Authority and Scope of Rules. **All investigations and enforcement of these Rules shall be done in accordance with Chapter 1704.**

Georgette Whatley's comments – Paul Damico stated that he agreed with adding Licensees and employees – The Board discussed and decided that it should state as follows: **7.1.B – Licensees and employees must clearly state the full name of the organization for all inbound and outbound communications to eliminate confusion by the public.**

Mari van de Ven asked about the use of internet? The board agreed that is publicly available information which we can't monitor nor are we the authority to enforce anything to do with anything available on the internet.

Paul Damico – 6.1 C. – questioning subscription services – we defined that if it is a free site we can't do anything about it. We had already added under **6.1.B. – comply with skip tracing services – DPPA and GLBA.** If it's a federal crime we do not have the authority.

Georgette Whatley mentioned that is not how they are getting the information but how they are using it. The Board stated we are not the correct authority to address that.

Section 1.3.D.3. – Melanie wanted to discuss this section. – This does not exclude a family member presenting bonds. This does not make the family member an employee. She stated she sees it could be a problem giving the bond to a family member to take to the jail. Georgette stated they normally try to take the bonds over when they can. A bond runner being used would be defined as an employee and be subject to all the other rules. This is not limiting or making it mandatory that an employee or the Licensee takes the bonds.

The **1.3.D.3.** – Employee means someone hired by a Licensee.

John stated that the Board could approve the Local rules subject to the changes discussed and approved, then sign the document, it will then be posted for the 10 days prior to going into effect.

Alexis van de Ven Seda moved to approve the Revised Local Rules with the changes as discussed, Amanda Webb seconded. All Board members were in favor. The motion passed.

The changes discussed and approved by the Board after completion with those changes will be posted for the required 10 days. Local Rules adopted and approved July 22, 2021 will go into effect August 02, 2021.

VIII ADJOURN

Melisa Miller moved to adjourn, Amanda Webb seconded. All were in favor, the meeting adjourned at 12:49p.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.