

MINUTES

Montgomery County Bail Bond Board

Alexis Van de ven Seda

Presiding Officer

Wednesday, March 19, 2025

THE MONTGOMERY COUNTY BAIL BOND BOARD CONVENED AT 12:01 P.M. 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
- II. ROLL CALL

TIME: 12:00 p.m.

Board members present: Alexis Van de Ven Seda, Surety Representative; Jamie Meinkowsky, Designee for Judge Mark Keough, County Judge; Capt. Jeremiah Richards, Designee for Wesley Doolittle, Sheriff; Vanessa Windham, Designee for Brett Ligon, District Attorney; Judge Kathleen Hamilton, District Court; Judge Echo Hutson, County Court; Melisa Miller, District Clerk; Melanie Bush, County Treasurer; Trent Williams, Designee for L. Brandon Steinmann, County Clerk; Judge Wayne Mack, Justice of the Peace; Judge William Waggoner, Conroe Municipal Court

Board members not present - Amanda Webb-Rowe, Defense Attorney Representative

Non Board members – Sara Forlano, Legal Counsel; Demetrich Carrington 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.)

No one signed up for public comment.

- IV. MINUTES
 - A. Approve minutes for the meeting January 15, 2025.

Captain Richards move to approve the minutes for the January 15, 2025 meeting. Melanie Bush seconded. Judge Mack, Judge Hamilton and Vanessa Windham abstain. All other members were in favor, the motion passed.

- B. Approve minutes for the meeting February 19, 2025.

Judge Hutson move to approve the minutes for the February 19, 2025 meeting. Melanie Bush Seconded. Melisa Miller, Judge Hamilton, Captain Richards and Judge Mack abstain. All other members were in favor, the motion passed.

V. TREASURER

- A. Consider, discuss and take action on the Treasurer's Report for February 2025.

Melanie Bush summarized report. Alexis Van de ven Seda entertained a motion to approve the report. Melisa Miller move to approve the report. Judge Mack seconded. All Board members were in favor, the motion passed.

VI. ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

- A. Review – Funds received for the month of February 2025. Funds Collected \$500.00

- B. Consider:

1. Updated list of Licensed Surety Companies for posting, March 3, 2025.
2. License Expiration Report – Updated 2/28/2025.

- C. Review Bail Bond fee Compliance Audit for 1st quarter – Fiscal Year 2025.

- D. Review Inmate Phone Fee Compliance Audit for 1st quarter – Fiscal Year 2025.

VII. AUDIT SUBCOMMITTEE

- A. Consider, discuss and take action on audit subcommittee's recommendations after audit of bail bond company.

1. Audit – Will Nale, agent for American Surety Company, dba Lucky 7 Bail Bonds, License number 103. Found in compliance.

Melanie Bush summarize and move to accept the in compliance audit recommendation. Judge Mack seconded. All members in favor, the motion passed.

VIII. COMPLAINT SUBCOMMITTEE

- A. Consider and take appropriate action after receiving update and recommendations from the Complaint Subcommittee relating to complaint received February 10, 2025, from Karen Coy against Sondra Morris owner of Bail Bonds by Renell, license number 107 and Ace Bail Bonds of Montgomery County, license number 104.

Judge Hamilton swore in attorney Mike Starzys .Judge Hutson summarized the details of the complaint. The Complaint subcommittee reviewed the background check that was submitted in July 2024 for Ms. Jackson and determined that Ms. Jackson is eligible for employment. Judge Hutson submits subcommittee's recommendations for Sondra Morris to submit employment paperwork for Ms. Jackson within thirty days for review. Judge Mack move to approve the subcommittee's recommendations. Melanie Bush seconded. The motion passed.

IX. LOCAL RULES SUBCOMMITTEE

- A. Update on proposed changes to local rules.

Sara Forlano summarized proposed changes. Changes are still being made. Tabled until next meeting.

X. PRESIDING OFFICER

- A. Hearing on the license renewal application of Will Nale, agent for American Surety Company, dba Lucky 7 Bail Bonds, license number 103.

Swear in representative and proceed to 1)

1. Conduct hearing on license renewal application for Will Nale, agent for American Surety Company, dba Lucky 7 Bail Bonds, license number 103.
2. 1704.159 – Enter an order on action taken on the license renewal application of Will Nale, agent for American Surety Company, dba Lucky 7 Bail bonds, license number 103.

Judge Mack swore in Will Nale and Mike Whitlock. Melisa Miller move to approve the license renewal application. Melanie Bush seconded. All members in favor. Motion passed

- B. Consider, discuss and take action on request by Doug Wyrwich to release property located at 904 11th Street, Texas City, Texas 77539, from collateral pledged for expired license number 47. Mr. Wyrwich request that the Board consider the value increase of three remaining properties pledged for expired license number 47 when reviewing this change. The current outstanding liability for expired license number 47 is \$1,178,557.00. Without increasing the value of other properties the company limit would be \$1,075,800.00. With increasing the value of other properties the company limit would be \$1,344,200.00.

Melanie Bush move to reject the request to release property from collateral. Captain Richards seconded. All members in favor. Motion passed.

C. E-Bonds

Captain Richards summarized current status. Contracts have been submitted to the Auditor's office and the Purchasing department for review. Then contract will be placed on Commissioner's court agenda for approval.

- D. Hearing – Discretionary License Suspension – Carlos Manzano, agent for Financial Casualty & Surety dba Americas Bail Bonds, License number 0109.
1. Conduct hearing and take all appropriate action pursuant to Texas Occupations Code § 1704.252 on License No. 0109, for alleged violations of Montgomery County Bail Bond Board Local Rules found as the result of an audit of bail bond records. Notice of the hearing was provided to Carlos Manzano and Financial Casualty & Surety pursuant to Texas Occupations Code § 1704.254.

After reconvening from executive session, Judge Mack move to defer to next meeting. Melanie Bush seconded. All members in favor. The motion passed.

- XI. EXECUTIVE SESSION – THE BOARD WILL RECESS FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION PURSUANT TO ONE OR MORE OF THE FOLLOWING PROVISIONS OF THE TEXAS GOVERNMENT CODE, TO WIT: CHAPTER 55,SUB-CHAPTER D:

ARTICLE 551.071

- A. Consultation with Attorney regarding investigation into complaint received October 16, 2024, from Luis Antonio Castellanos against Americas Bail Bonds, license number 109.

- XII. RECONVENE BAIL BOND BOARD AND TAKE ACTION ON MATTERS IN EXECUTIVE SESSION.

Board meeting recessed at 12:23 p.m. Board reconvened at 12:46 p.m. (see items D).

- XIII. ADJOURN

Alexis Van de ven Seda entertained a motion to adjourn. Melisa Miller seconded. All Board members were in favor, the meeting adjourned at 12:47 p.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.