

**MINUTES OF THE QUARTERLY MEETING OF THE HOPKINS COUNTY BAIL
BOND BOARD**

On this the 23rd day of October, 2020, the following officials of Hopkins County, Texas met remotely using Zoom:

County Judge, Robert Newsom
County Court at Law Judge, Clay Harrison
8th Judicial District Judge, Eddie Northcutt
County Clerk, Tracy Smith
JP 1 Judge, BJ Teer
County Treasurer, Danny Davis
District Attorney Will Ramsay
Amy Griggs, County Attorney's Office
CCL Coordinator, Lindsay Smith
Double C Bail Bonds, Cindy Horton
Brison and Brison Bail Bonds II, John Baumgartner

And the meeting being called to order at 2:03 p.m., Judge Newsom, Chairman of the Hopkins County Bail Bond Board, presided over this organizational meeting, whereupon the following resolutions were duly adopted upon motion made, seconded and unanimously carried, to wit:

- I. Announcement by the Chairman that the meeting has been duly called to order and quorum was present.**
 - (1) Chairman Judge Newsom called the meeting to order.

- II. Approval of the Minutes from Previous Quarterly Meeting on July 24, 2020.**
 - (1) After reviewing the minutes from the previous meeting, a motion to approve the minutes was made by Judge Northcutt and seconded by Judge Harrison. Motion was called to a vote and carried unanimously. Motion passed and minutes were approved.

- III. The Hopkins County Bail Bond Board to Discuss and/or Take Appropriate Action on procedure for tracking outstanding liability amounts for bail bond license holders.**
 - (1) Judge Northcutt presented circumstances and a recent case example which raised concerns about the need to track the liability amounts and County's current practice for this.
 - a. Presented idea for a countywide software to track the liability amounts, to which the Sheriff's Office could input money amount for new bonds and Clerks' Offices could remove amounts once a case is resolved. Designee of the Board could then monitor if all license holders are making bonds within their liability limits.
 - (2) County Clerk, Ms. Tracy Smith, replied there is a current software but may not monitor total liability amounts. The Clerks' offices can only access bond amounts for filed cases.
 - (3) Ms. Cindy Horton requested a way to monitor liability amounts for rejected cases since this is not obtainable through the Clerks' Offices.
 - a. Judge Northcutt proposed the Sheriff's Office could be a point of contact to send notice of rejected cases to bondsmen
 - (4) Ms. Tracy Smith said the liability amounts were a concern years ago and previous County Clerk worked to update all amounts. The case management side of the software may not be communicating with the Sheriff's Office side.
 - (5) Ms. Griggs explained some ongoing issues with monitoring these amounts and that it needs to be undertaken as a project regularly.
 - (6) Judge Northcutt did not request any action taken on this item. He said he would continue to explore the issue, speak with Net Data about possible solutions and add an actionable item to a future agenda, if needed.
 - (7) Judge Teer explained the JP's process for notification of dismissals
 - a. District Attorney, Mr. Ramsay confirmed notifications of rejected cases go to the JP's Offices
 - (8) Treasurer, Mr. Davis, said current software should have the ability to open program to all departments to make and track changes.
 - (9) Judge Newsom closed this item. No Action was taken on this matter.

- IV. The Hopkins County Bail Bond Board to Take Comments from the Public and Discuss Future Agenda Items**

- (1) John Baumgartner asked for a temporary license for a new employee since the application wasn't submitted in enough time to make the formal agenda.
- a. Mr. Baumgartner explained both Hunt and Collin Counties allow temporary licenses until action can be taken at the next meeting.
 - b. Judge Northcutt recognized the potential challenges that quarterly meetings pose to day-to-day operations of bonding companies, and expressed support for temporary license if within proper authority of the Board.
 - c. Mr. Baumgartner clarified that the new employee would not answer phones at this time. She would prepare and turn in paperwork, possibly collect money but would not negotiate with clients.
 - d. Judge Northcutt made a motion to grant a temporary license for this employee until the next meeting. Judge Teer seconded the motion. Motion was called to a vote and carried unanimously. Motion passed and temporary license was granted.
 - e. Judge Newsom instructed Mr. Baumgartner that this was a temporary license and he needed to add it to the agenda for the next meeting.

V. Bail Bond Board to Adjourn.

- (1) There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned by Judge Newsom at 2:33 p.m.

MINUTES APPROVED:

To certify which, witness my hand this 29 day of January, 2021.


Judge Robert Newsom

Chairman of Hopkins County Bail Bond Board