

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

On this the 24<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2020, the following officials of Hopkins County, Texas met remotely using Zoom:

County Judge, Robert Newsom  
County Court at Law Judge, Clay Harrison  
8<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Judge, Eddie Northcutt  
County Clerk, Tracy Smith  
JP 1 Judge, BJ Teer  
Treasurer/Veterans Service Office, Danny Davis  
Sheriff's Office, Whitney Waller  
District Attorney, Will Ramsay  
District Clerk, Cheryl Fulcher  
CCL Coordinator, Lindsay Smith  
Bondsman Representative, CJ Duffey  
Double C Bail Bonds, Cindy Horton  
Denny Downing  
Brison and Brison Bail Bonds II, John Baumgartner

And the meeting being called to order at 2:09 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**

(1) Chairman Judge Newsom called the meeting to order.

**II. Approval of the Minutes from Previous Quarterly Meeting on January 24, 2020.**

(1) After reviewing the minutes from the previous meeting, a motion to approve the minutes was made by Judge Teer and seconded by C.J. Duffey. 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 the Renewal Application for Double C Bail Bond.**

(1) Ms. Cindy Horton appeared before the Hopkins County Bail Bond Board with a renewal application for Double C Bail Bond. Mr. Danny Davis confirmed the renewal fee was paid by Ms. Horton. Ms. Tracy Smith informed the board everything was in order for the application. Ms. Whitney Waller confirmed everything was in order with the Sheriff's Office. Motion to approve the renewal application was made by Whitney Waller and seconded by Tracy Smith. Motion was called to a vote and carried unanimously. Motion passed and the renewal application for Double C Bail bonds was approved.

**IV. The Hopkins County Bail Bond Board to Discuss and/or Take Appropriate Action on name change request for Brison & Brison Bail Bonds II (John Baumgartner)**

(1) Mr. John Baumgartner appeared before the board and requested approval for a name change for his business from Brison and Brison Bail Bonds II to Not Guilty Bail Bonds. He informed the board he would change all advertising as soon as possible to comply with the Texas Occupational Code. Motion to approve the name change was made by Will Ramsay and seconded by Judge Teer. Motion was called to a vote and carried unanimously. Motion passed and the name change was approved.

**V. The Hopkins County Bail Bond Board to Discuss and/or Take Appropriate Action on request for Release of CD for Brison & Brison Bail Bonds II (Denny Downing)**

(1) Mr. Downing appeared before the board and requested a partial release of his CD. Ms. Tracy Smith explained that some cases on Mr. Downing's list may be disposed of already. Mr. Danny Davis clarified this request was separate from the request for a release made last year. Ms. Tracy Smith showed 3 pending misdemeanor cases and possibly 1 felony. Mr. Downing asked for \$35,000 or \$40,000 as the partial release amount.

(2) Mr. Ramsay asked for status of the felony case. Ms. Tracy Smith advised the total pending bond amounts to be \$33,000. Mr. Duffey stated \$50,000 is required to be on file with the county. Judge Newsom confirmed that Mr. Downing is no longer making bonds with the County. Discussion occurred between Mr. Davis and Mr. Downing about whether or not \$50,000 should remain on file until all liability is cleared. Mr. Duffey read 1704.210 supporting that \$50,000 should remain on file with county. Judge Northcutt stated

this law is applicable to Mr. Downing because he has active bonds in the county. Mr. Ramsay proposed releasing part of the money to still leave the county with \$50,000. Judge Teer made a motion to release any amount over \$50,000 to Mr. Downing but to keep the \$50,000 on file until all bonds are cleared. Motion was seconded by CJ Duffey. Motion was called to a vote and carried unanimously. Motion passed.

**VI. The Hopkins County Bail Bond Board to Discuss and/or Take Appropriate Action on CLE requirement for bail bond license holders during COVID-19.**

- (1) Ms. Cindy Horton told the board that information can be found by logging onto the PBTX website. New classes start May 8<sup>th</sup> in Midland, Texas. Mr. Duffey advised these classes could be open to anyone and possibly an attorney could provide a class locally. No action was taken on this.

**VII. The Hopkins County Bail Bond Board to Discuss and/or Take Appropriate Action on upcoming election for licensed bail bond sureties representative.**

- (1) Ms. Lindsay Smith explained the online procedures called for an in-person election in June at the Sheriff's Office. She wanted to ask the board if any modification needed to be made to the election procedures due to Covid-19.
- (2) Judge Northcutt made a motion to allow the election to be held remotely through Zoom. Judge Teer seconded the motion. Motion was called to a vote and carried unanimously. Motion passed and authorization for remote election was granted.

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

- (1) Mr. Danny Davis asked for further information about the CD from Mr. Downing.
- (2) Ms. Lindsay Smith informed the board of the next meeting date, July 24.
- (3) Mr. Duffey said he would be renewing his application on the 24<sup>th</sup>.

**V. Bail Bond Board to Adjourn.**

- (1) There being no further business to discuss, meeting was adjourned at 2:34 p.m.

**MINUTES APPROVED:**

To certify which, witness my hand this 24 day of July, 2020.



Judge Robert Newsom

**Chairman of Hopkins County Bail Bond Board**