



## ALABAMA PROFESSIONAL BAIL BONDING BOARD

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### MINUTES Board Meeting

May 12, 2023

The Alabama Professional Bail Bonding Board met on Friday, May 12, 2023, at the Board's office located at 2777 Zelda Road, Montgomery, Alabama. The following Board members were in attendance: Mr. Chris McNeil (Board Chair), Ms. Carla Woodall (Board Secretary), Mr. Barry Johnson (member), Mr. Gustavus Maxie (member), Ms. Jennifer Collard (member), Mr. Victor Howard (member), Ms. Alesia Kyser (member), and Judge Spiro Cheriogotis (member). Board member absent was Mr. Jimmie Lay (Board Vice Chair). Others present at the meeting were Mr. Keith Warren (Executive Director), Ms. Tara Hetzel (Assistant Attorney General-Board Legal Counsel), Mr. Mike James (Investigator), Ms. Karen Harlow (Legal Assistant), Ms. Brenda Holden (Licensing Specialists) and Ms. Renee' Reames (recording secretary).

Mr. McNeil, Board Chairman, called the meeting to order at 10:40 a.m. Mr. Warren called Board member roll and reported that a quorum was present to conduct Board business. An opening prayer was given at the beginning of the meeting. Mr. Warren read the opening statement concerning Roberts Rules of Order and the Alabama Open Meetings Act. Chairman McNeil welcomed everyone attending the meeting.

Public notice of this regularly scheduled meeting was submitted to the Secretary of State [www.sos.alabama.gov](http://www.sos.alabama.gov) in accordance with the requirements of the Alabama Open Meetings Act and published on the Board's web site at [www.apbb.alabama.gov](http://www.apbb.alabama.gov).

Ms. Kyser left the meeting briefly at 10:31 a.m.

#### APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chairman McNeil presented a copy of the May meeting agenda for the Board's approval. A copy of the agenda was provided to the Board members prior to the meeting for their review.

MOTION: Mr. Johnson made a motion to approve the May meeting agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Judge Cheriogotis and unanimously approved by the Board (agenda available for viewing in the Board's Official Book of Minutes).

#### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chairman McNeil presented a copy of the February 17, 2023, Board meeting minutes for the Board's approval. A copy of the minutes was provided to the Board members prior to the meeting for their review.

MOTION: Mr. Maxie made a motion to dispense with the reading of the minutes and approve the February meeting minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Johnson and unanimously approved by the Board (minutes available for viewing in the Board's Official Book of Minutes).

Ms. Kyser joined the meeting at 10:37 a.m.

#### BOARD CHAIRMAN REPORT

Chairman McNeil reported on the SB213 and amendments. A copy of the amended legislative bill was provided to the members. Chairman McNeil led discussions regarding Section 15-13-118 regarding conditional forfeiture indicating deletions to this section. Ms. Woodall recommended that the word "not" remain in the language regarding "... the arrest and delivery of the defendant to the authorized jail as stated

in Section 15-13-117, shall not exonerate the surety” and retain the discretion of the Judge in the matter and proposed the time period expanded to 120 days. Various other sections of the proposed legislation was discussed and recommended modifications were discussed.

Ms. Collard joined the meeting at 11:06 a.m.

#### EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

Mr. Warren presented the Executive Director Report to include the financial activities of the Board for the period ending April 30, 2023, and he provided copies of the cash reconciliation report and detailed list of obligations vs. budget. He commented on the annual meeting travel expenses that would be paid with existing 2023 funds, and any expenditures beyond budgetary limitations, would be presented to the Board of Adjustments for payment with 2024 funds Mr. Warren reviewed the activities performed by staff since the last Board meeting held in February.

MOTION: Mr. Lay made the motion to accept the financial report as presented. The motion was seconded by Ms. Woodall and unanimously accepted by the Board.

Mr. Warren reported that the State Association would be nominating candidates for the Governor to appoint concerning terms that were scheduled to expire in October. He also reported on the audit of the Board based on the one-year Sunset of the Board. He indicated that more information would be provided to the Board at the next meeting.

#### LEGAL COUNSEL REPORT

Ms. Hetzel reported that the Investigative Committee (I.C.) had met and reported on the IC recommendations for Board approval. Judge Cheriogotis and Chairman McNeil abstained from voting on the actions by the Board (list of case provided in the Board’s official Book of Minutes).

Case 2023-016BR – close case as unfounded.

MOTION: Mr. Maxie made the motion to approve the recommendations of the I.C. to close the case as unfounded. The motion was seconded by Ms. Woodall and unanimously approved by the Board.

Case 2023-017 - accept withdrawal of the complaint.

MOTION: Mr. Johnson made the motion to approve the recommendations of the I.C. to accept the withdrawal of the complaint by the complainant. The motion was seconded by Mr. Maxie and unanimously approved by the Board.

Case 2023-020 - issue a letter of concern regarding the payback of bond security.

MOTION: Mr. Maxie made the motion to approve the recommendations of I.C. to issue a letter of concern. The motion was seconded by Mr. Johnson and unanimously approved by the Board.

Case 2023-021 – close case as unfounded.

MOTION: Mr. Howard made the motion to approve the recommendations of the I.C. to close the case as unfounded. The motion was seconded by Mr. Maxie and unanimously approved by the Board.

Case 2023-022 – close case as unfounded.

MOTION: Mr. Maxie made the motion to approve the recommendations of the I.C. to close the case as unfounded. The motion was seconded by Ms. Woodall and unanimously approved by the Board.

Case 2023-023 – close case as unfounded.

MOTION: Ms. Woodall made the motion to approve the recommendations of the I.C. to close the case as unfounded. The motion was seconded by Mr. Howard and unanimously approved by the Board.

Case 2023-024 – close case as unfounded.

MOTION: Mr. Howard made the motion to approve the recommendations of the I.C. to close the case as unfounded. The motion was seconded by Ms. Woodall and unanimously approved by the Board.

Ms. Hetzel reported on the IC recommendation concerning Mr. John Robinson (original complaint case 2022-035) in having filed two lawsuits against the Board to include (1) a temporary restraining order that was dismissed by the Judge, and (2) appealed Board orders to revoke his license, which was pending in Court.

Background Committee – Mr. Warren presented an application where the applicant had received a limited order of relief regarding two convictions. The Board discussed having jurisdiction to deny the license based on the felony conviction and/or review of the details of the violations regarding its relevance to bail bonding profession. It was the recommendation of the Committee to proceed with obtaining documentation of applicant's completion of training requirements and background history information, etc. Chairman McNeil deferred the matter to the next Board meeting.

Discussion of Active Bonds and Escrow of Expired Company Licenses – Mr. Warren reported that this matter was under review by the Rules Committee.

#### NEW BUSINESS

Specifications for Request for Proposals (RFP) for Administrative Services Contract – Ms. Hetzel reported that RFP specifications for administrative services contract was due.

Mr. Warren and staff left the meeting at 12:04 p.m.

Ms. Hetzel reviewed the proposed specifications for administrative services. The Board appointed a subcommittee to assist Ms. Hetzel with the Request for Proposal process. The subcommittee consisted of Carla Woodall, Spiro Cheriogotis, Gus Maxie, and Chris McNeil.

Mr. Warren and staff joined the meeting at 12:20 p.m.

#### OTHER BUSINESS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chairman McNeil called for any other business and there were none.


Next Board Meeting: Chairman McNeil reminded the members that the next meeting of the Board was scheduled August 11, 2023, at 10:00 a.m. at the Board's office.

Adjournment: There being no further business, Ms. Woodall made the motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Judge Cheriogotis and unanimously approved by the Board. Chairman McNeil adjourned the meeting at 12:22 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

  
Chris McNeil, Board Chairman

/rr

  
Carla H. Woodall, Board Secretary