

**ARKANSAS PROFESSIONAL BAIL BOND COMPANY AND PROFESSIONAL
BAIL BONDSMAN LICENSING BOARD
November 14, 2003**

Chairman Don Smith called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m.

Chairman Smith introduced and welcomed the Board's newest member, Mr. Rex Morris who replaced Gary Edwards when his term expired on September 30, 2003.

Roll call was taken and the following members were present: Don Smith, Frank Sturgeon, Eugene Reynolds, Marc Oudin, Phyllis Carruth, Rex Morris, and Xollie Duncan. Also present were Assistant Attorney General Alice Lightle, Executive Director, Linda Longstreth, Board staff and members of the audience.

Following a review of the Board Minutes for October 10, 2003. Sturgeon moved to approve. Oudin seconded. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

License Approvals:

Thirty-Nine (39) non-controversial license applications and two (2) non-controversial tentative license applications were submitted for Board approval. Longstreth informed the Board that the transfers reflected as moving to First Arkansas Bail Bonds, Inc. were mostly transfers of licensees previously employed by J & J Bail Bonding prior to J & J's nine-month suspension was upheld by the Arkansas Court of Appeals. Longstreth explained that the agents listed were not actively involved in the decision making aspects of J & J Bonding. Reynolds objected to Clifford Cage and requested that the Board refuse his license application. He circulated a letter from Renny's Bail Bond Co. to Mr. Cage for the Board's information. Oudin asked that the Board approve tentative applicant Gary Morris, an applicant with Bail Bond Financing, prior to the Board office receiving his FBI record check. He explained that the first set of prints was not acceptable and that the second set had been forwarded to the FBI; however, Mr. Morris has been in the system since September. Longstreth explained that after the second refusal, a name check can be performed; however, Mr. Morris' second set of prints has not been rejected. The Board opted to follow precedence and require that the FBI clearance on Gary Morris be obtained before issuing the license. Longstreth explained that Mr. Cage's file contained a letter from Renny's Bail Bonds concerning bonds that had not been turned in. Mr. Reynolds explained that Clifford Cage never did address the issues. Sturgeon moved to deny the bail bond license of Clifford B. Cage. Carruth seconded. Motion carried. Sturgeon moved to approve the listed license approvals with the exception of Mr. Cage. Sturgeon moved to approve the tentative licenses as listed. Oudin seconded. Motion carried

Controversial License/Jarena K. Garrett

Longstreth advised the Board that Jarena Garrett applied for an Arkansas bail bondsman license with Will Oliver/Liz Frawley Bail Bond Co. A letter from the Pulaski County Sheriff's Office objecting to Ms. Garrett was included in the packet. Ms. Garrett and counsel, Mr. Hall, were present and came forward to respond to Board questions. The Court Reported was present to record the information. After questions and discussion, Reynolds moved to approve the license

of Jarena Garrett, Oudin seconded. A roll call vote was taken. Morris-yes, Sturgeon-no, Carruth-no, Duncan-no, Reynolds-yes, Oudin-yes, Smith-yes. Motion carried four to three.

Controversial License/Rodney G. Bridgman

Longstreth informed the Board that Rodney Bridgman's record was included in the Board packet. The charge was a misdemeanor battery; however, since the charge involves violence, the Board is requested to approve licensing. The motion to approve Rodney Bridgman was put forth and seconded. Motion carried. Carruth opposed.

Controversial License/James M. Houston

Longstreth explained that Mr. James Houston was the owner of J & J Bail Bonding, Inc. and that he was being listed as controversial so that the Board could determine whether he acquiesced in the failure of J & J Bonding and whether it wants to grant a license to Mr. Houston under First Arkansas Bail Bond, Inc. A Court Reporter was present to record the proceedings. Mr. Houston was present with counsel, Mr. Stewart Vess, to respond to questions from the Board. After questions and discussion, Sturgeon moved to deny the bail bondsman license of James Houston. Carruth seconded. A roll call vote was taken. Oudin-no, Reynolds-no, Duncan-yes, Smith-yes, Carruth-yes, Sturgeon-yes, Morris-no. Motion carried four to three.

Forfeitures:

The Forfeiture Report was provided for the Board's information. Longstreth requested that the Board vote to suspend the bail bond company license of those companies listed with forfeitures due and payable between November 11, 2003 and December 12, 2003. Carruth moved to suspend the bail bond company license of any company with forfeitures due and payable between November 11, 2003 and December 12, 2003, if the company fails to pay by close of business on the day the forfeiture is due. Oudin seconded. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

October Vouchers Paid:

Longstreth presented the October vouchers paid and offered to respond to questions. There being none, the Board proceeded.

Moye Bail Bond Company:

Longstreth informed the Board that Jim Moye, owner of Moye Bail Bond Co. was killed in a motorcycle accident and that his wife, Debbie was scheduled for surgery in November. With that in mind the Board was asked to allow Moye Bail Bond Co. to submit its license renewal after the December 1, 2003 deadline without penalty. Oudin moved to allow the submission of the Moye Bail Bond Co. renewal packet after December 1, 2003 without penalty. Reynolds seconded. Motion carried.

Reconsideration of Education Deadlines:

Longstreth advised that questions had arisen concerning the discontinuance of both beginning and continuing education and the applicant exam process for the months of November and December. Mr. Oudin asked to have the Board revisit the issue to determine whether it wanted to amend its earlier decision. After discussion, Sturgeon moved to leave the education and examination process in tact. Carruth seconded. Motion carried. Oudin objected.

Quarterly Reports:

The quarterly reports were presented for informational purposes only. Longstreth advised that there would probably be changes to the figures during renewal process when companies are required to reconcile their figures.

Bondsmen On Active Military Duty:

The Board was advised that there was at least one (1) bondsman on active military duty in Iraq during most of 2003. His service prevented him from acquiring his education credit necessary for renewal of his bail bondsman license. The Board was asked to determine whether it was willing to make a deviation from standard procedural requirements to accommodate the young people serving in the military. Sturgeon moved to allow military personnel to renew their licenses absent the education requirement. Oudin seconded. Motion carried.

Public Comments:

Chairman Smith asked for Public Comments. There being none the meeting was adjourned to hearings.

Submitted for approval:

This 12th day of December, 2003 _____
Chairman