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Juvenile Welfare Board Meeting: 1948: 07: 23: Minutes

Juvenile Welfare Board of Pinellas County.

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A special meeting of the Juvenile Welfare Board was held in St. Petersburg in Dr. Williams' office on July 23, 1948, at 4:15 P. M. to consider the case of Virginia Bilderback Jackson, who had embezzled over $1800.00 of the Board's money. Those present were Judge White, Judge Marshall, Mr. Fuguitt, Mr. Belcher, Mrs. Holland, Miss Phillips, Mrs. Bartlett and Dr. Williams.

Dr. Williams, in reviewing the case, stated that he had employed Mrs. Jackson through the Florida State Employment Office, that she had furnished good recommendations which he had investigated; however, that between June 29, 1948 and July 15, 1948, she had succeeded in fraudulently cashing checks known on this date to be $1884.79, although the Board had stopped payment on four checks totalling $784.79 of this amount, and had recovered $800.00 in cash found on the Jacksons when they were arrested in Mobile, Ala.

Judge White was of the opinion that the Board has full responsibility on the payment of these checks; first, because they were properly signed and endorsed, and second, because the endorsee was the payee. He further stated that it would take an act of the legislature to grant a bill of relief for those who had in good faith suffered the loss, namely, the three men legally responsible for the signing of checks. He said that the bonding company would not be responsible for this kind of loss.

After discussion by all members, Judge White moved that the Board proceed at once to ascertain the full amount of defaultcation by Virginia Bilderback Jackson; and thereupon the members of the Board, individually, proceed to make good the sum misappropriated. Mr. Fuguitt seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

MOTION: Members pay individually

MOTION: To release non-payment checks

Judge Marshall then moved that the Bank of Clearwater be notified to pay those checks the Board had stopped payment on, namely, #457 to Virginia Bilderback Jackson for $234.79; #458 to Virginia Bilderback Jackson for $275.00; #459 to Virginia Bilderback Jackson for $75.00; #460 to Virginia Bilderback Jackson for $200.00. Mr. Belcher seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Members then discussed ways and means of protecting themselves in the future from a recurrence of this kind. It was agreed (1) to have all checks signed by Dr. Williams; (2) to have a typed list showing the payee, the amount, and the number, accompany the checks to the legal signers; (3) to have the signers sign together. Mr. Fuguitt so moved, Miss Phillips seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

MOTION: Future method of signing
Judge White stated that he would sign no more checks; and that because of his heavy duties he could attend no more meetings of the Board.

MOTION: Mr. Belcher moved and Judge Marshall seconded, that Bond for Dr. Dr. Williams be bonded for $1000.00, as the members Williams of the Board were. The motion carried unanimously.

It was suggested that telegrams be sent to secure information on three known checks still outstanding.

Judge Marshall presented a bill for $1620.10 from Mr. Rogero for the new Chevrolet car purchased by the Board. He moved the payment of this bill. Mr. Belcher seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 5:40 P. M.