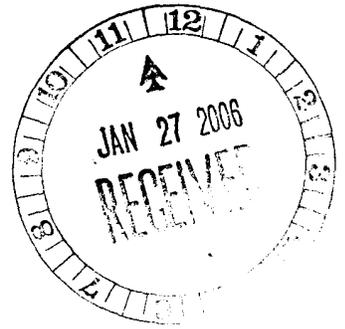


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January 27, 2006

VIA HAND DELIVERY

The Honorable Vernon A. Williams
Secretary
Surface Transportation Board
1925 K Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20423-0001

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Re: STB Docket No. AB-1066X *215672*
Central Illinois Railroad Company – Discontinuance Of Service Exemption – In Peoria County, IL

STB Docket No. AB-878 *215671*
City Of Peoria and The Village of Peoria Heights, IL – Adverse Discontinuance—Pioneer Industrial Railway Company

Dear Secretary Williams:

Pioneer Industrial Railway Co. (“PIRY”) writes to clarify two points made in the above proceedings. In STB Docket No. AB-1066X, in a letter dated January 19, 2006, the attorney for the City of Peoria and Central Illinois Railroad Company (“CIRY”), Mr. Thomas McFarland, stated the following:

There was no contention in the record of the discontinuance proceeding that discontinuance should not be allowed unless and until service from the west was tested and found to be adequate. Mr. Happach states that such has been Carver Lumber’s position from “several years ago,” but that position was not expressed in the record of the discontinuance proceeding so that the parties could comment on it and the Board could consider it. It would not be appropriate to stay the Board’s decision for an indefinite time while the adequacy of service from the west is tested.

Mr. McFarland’s statement, while perhaps technically accurate with respect to statements in the AB-1066X discontinuance proceeding, is misleading. In a filing dated July 30, 2004

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January 27, 2006

Page 2

(received August 4, 2004) in Finance Docket No. 34518, Central Illinois Railroad Company – Operation Exemption (the docket whereby CIRY received authority to operate over the Kellar Branch), the General Counsel of PIRY, Mr. Dan LaKemper, submitted a copy of the operating contract between the City, CIRY and CIRY's shareholders, DOT Rail Service, Inc. That contract and the July 30th filing made clear that there was to be up to a 60-day period after the connection was built before the operating contract would expire. This 60-day period corresponds precisely to the amount of time that Carver Lumber had requested be allowed in order to test the new service from the west before the City tore up and salvaged the Kellar Branch. Thus, contrary to Mr. McFarland's comments, it was entirely appropriate for the Board to postpone the effective day of the decision granting the discontinuance authority in order to allow time for the connection to be built and to be tested and the issue was indeed part of the record before the Board.

In STB Docket No. AB-878, PIRY has petitioned to reopen the Board's August 10, 2005 decision granting the Cities' request for an adverse discontinuance on the basis that the Board's August 10th decision was premised on numerous findings that have not borne true. In its petition to reopen, PIRY noted in footnote two that Don Gibson, a CIRY vice-president at the time of the Cities' application, had been indicted in a murder-for-hire plot. Mr. Gibson has now pled guilty to a lesser felony. See attached article from the Peoria Journal Star.

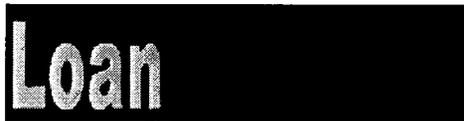
Sincerely,



William A. Mullins

Enclosures

cc: Daniel A. LaKemper, Esq.
All Parties of Record



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Gibson pleads to lesser charge

Granville rail company owner avoids jury trial on murder-for-hire charge

Tuesday, January 24, 2006

Advertisement

BY ERINN DESHINSKY
OF THE JOURNAL STAR

OTTAWA - A Granville businessman accused of solicitation of murder for hire pleaded guilty to a lesser charge Monday before jury selection for his trial.

Donny Gibson, 65, pleaded guilty to solicitation before LaSalle County Circuit Court Judge H. Chris Ryan. Gibson was charged in May with solicitation of murder for hire, but he pleaded to a lesser offense of solicitation for trying to hire an undercover LaSalle County sheriff's deputy to commit residential burglary.

He could receive four to 15 years in prison for the offense and must serve the full term.

Sentencing is scheduled for March 31.

Gibson, who owns DOT Rail in Granville, was arrested May 16. He is accused of trying to hire an undercover officer to kill Nicole Sigler and a business associate. Authorities say Sigler threatened to tell Gibson's wife about his attempts to start a relationship with Sigler.

Gibson was accused of offering to pay \$2,200 to have the two killed and also expressed his desire to have his wife and brother-in-law killed.

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Gibson's attorneys tried without success Friday to block crucial video and audio tapes from being used in the trial.

"The highlight of our case were the tapes," said Assistant State's Attorney Brian Towne. "We worked very hard on the case. We were very comfortable with our case."

Towne said the prosecution accepted the plea, because he could never be certain of what a jury would make with the evidence. He said the plea guarantees Gibson would go to jail.

"There's certainly a peace of mind for all the witnesses in the case," Towne said. "In light of the age of the defendant, we thought this was an appropriate sentencing range."

Gibson could have received 20 to 60 years in prison if found guilty of the original charges.

Gibson's family and his defense attorney, Bruce Self, declined to comment Monday.

Erinn Deshinsky can be reached at 686-3041 or state@pjstar.com.

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