

BOSSIER PARISH POLICE JURY
BENTON, LOUISIANA
MINUTES
February 6, 2008
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The Bossier Parish Police Jury met in regular and legal session on the 6th day of February, 2008, at 2:00 p.m., in the Police Jury Meeting Room, Bossier Parish Courthouse, Benton, Louisiana. The President, Mr. Jimmy Cochran, called the meeting to order. The invocation was given by Mr. Eddy Shell and the pledge of allegiance was led by Mr. Brad Cummings. The Secretary-Treasurer, Ms. Cheryl Martin, called the roll as follows:

Mr. William Altimus	Mr. Brad Cummings
Mr. Rick Avery	Mr. Jerome Darby
Ms. Wanda Bennett	Mr. Wayne Hammack
Mr. Glenn Benton	Mr. Winfred Johnston
Mr. Barry Butler	Mr. Hank Meachum
Mr. Jimmy Cochran	Mr. Eddy Shell

Others present were Mr. Bill Altimus, Parish Administrator; Mr. Patrick Jackson, Parish Attorney, Mr. Joe E. "Butch" Ford, Jr., Parish Engineer; Ms. Cheryl Martin, Secretary-Treasurer.

Motion was made by Mr. Avery, seconded by Mr. Darby, to amend the agenda to add Ms. Pam Glorioso and Ms. Arlena Acree. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion was made by Mr. Avery, seconded by Mr. Darby, to amend the agenda to add Mr. Glenn Higdon. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. John Burns requested that he be allowed to speak during any discussion regarding the employment by the police jury of Mr. Billy Montgomery.

Mr. Jon Walden, Executive Director of the Cypress-Black Bayou Recreation and Water Conservation District, introduced himself to the jury and expressed appreciation for the jury's assistance in various improvement projects at Cypress Park. He stated that he looks forward to working with the police jury.

Ms. Arlena Acree, Shreveport Film Office, and Ms. Pam Glorioso, discussed the proposed making of a television series regarding the family who owns and operates Vexcon, Inc., which is an exterminating service located at 1201 Linton Road, Benton. Ms. Glorioso advised that the property is currently zoned R-A, and the location of a business here is a violation of the R-A zoning classification. She stated that the owners applied to the Benton MPC for a zoning amendment to change the zoning classification to B-2, but the application was denied. Ms. Glorioso requested that the police jury consider a temporary use approval to allow the film company to place a production trailer on the property.

Ms. Bennett stated that the owners of Vexcon were unaware of the zoning regulations when they built their office at this location and did not realize that they were in violation. A mobile home is located on the property which is also a violation of regulations which prohibit two structures on one lot. The owner has attempted to resolve the matter and bring his property in compliance with all regulations. Ms. Bennett stated that she feels an amicable resolution can be reached which will allow the film company to proceed.

Ms. Arlena Acree stated that the City of Shreveport has a resolution to suspend certain ordinances on a case-by-case basis for films. Mr. Jackson stated that he will review the resolution.

Mr. Bill Bretherton, owner of Vexcon, Inc., stated that he was unaware of any zoning violations at the time he built the office building on his property and stated that he has tried to resolve the matter with the Benton-Parish MPC.

Ms. Renee Hall encouraged the jury to act quickly to resolve this matter, advising that the film industry is beneficial to the local economy.

Ms. Lucy Cooper stated that she is a neighbor to the Brethertons and is very much in favor of the proposal.

Ms. Nancy Penwell, Benton-Parish MPC, stated that the MPC has no provisions for a temporary use. She stated that the MPC denied the request based on spot zoning, advising that the property is located in an area that is primarily residential.

After discussion, **motion was made by Ms. Bennett, seconded by Mr. Hammack, to allow the temporary location of a film production trailer/office on the site until August 1, 2008, and to continue to work to resolve the matter of non-conforming zoning at this location. Motion carried unanimously.**

Mr. Glenn Higdon, 365 Cane Bend, discussed properties in the Cane Bend Subdivision which are owned by the police jury through the FEMA buy-out program. He stated that his property adjoins two acres owned by the police jury that he has maintained and advised that four-wheeler traffic is causing rutting on the lots. Mr. Higdon requested that the police jury consider a long-term lease agreement to allow him to continue to maintain the property and to give him the authority to restrict others from using the property. Mr. Jackson, Parish Attorney, is to work out an agreement with Mr. Higdon.

Sealed bids were opened and read aloud for the purchase of one (1) new 2008 model Paratransit Van, as follows:

Bidder:	Bid Amount:
Alpha Van Lift and Mobility	\$37,375.00
Rountree Ford Lincoln Mercury	\$39,413.00

Motion was made by Mr. Cummings, seconded by Mr. Darby, to take the bids under advisement, to be tabulated and awarded at the February 20, 2008 regular meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Sealed bids were opened and read aloud for the purchase of three (3) Ultra Low Volume Cold Aerosol Sprayers of various flow rate requirements, as follows:

Bidder:	Bid Amount:
Clark Mosquito Control	\$13,386.00

Univar USA, Inc. \$16,335.00

Motion was made by Mr. Avery, seconded by Mr. Cummings, to take the bids under advisement, to be tabulated and awarded at the February 20, 2008 regular meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion was made by Mr. Avery, seconded by Mr. Altimus, to schedule a public hearing on March 5, 2008, to consider the application of Ken and Renee Mekelburg to the Bossier City-Parish MPC for a zoning amendment to change the zoning classification of Lot 2, Unit 4, Willow Chute Commercial Subdivision, Bossier Parish, LA, from R-A, Residential-Agriculture District, to B-3, General Business District, for an addition to a mini-storage facility. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion was made by Mr. Avery, seconded by Mr. Benton, to approve Plan Change No. 4 on the Wemple Road Extension Project, and to authorize the President to execute necessary documents. Motion carried unanimously. Mr. Ford, Parish Engineer, stated that the plan change results in an additional \$1,233.35, and provides for the removal of existing markings on Benton Road for new turn lanes to Wemple Road. He further stated that the new road can not be opened until traffic signals are installed.

RESOLUTION

BE IT RESOLVED by the Bossier Parish Police Jury in regular and legal session on this 6th day of February, 2008, that Jimmy Cochran, President, be and is hereby authorized to execute on behalf of the Bossier Parish Police Jury, Plan Change No. 4 on the Wemple Road Extension Project.

The resolution was offered by Mr. Avery, seconded by Mr. Benton. Upon unanimous vote, it was duly adopted on this 6th day of February, 2008.

CHERYL G. MARTIN
SECRETARY-TREASURER

JIMMY COCHRAN, PRESIDENT
BOSSIER PARISH POLICE JURY

Mr. Ford briefly discussed proposed improvements to Rebouche Road, and Mr. Avery requested that a letter be sent to residents advising them that any road closures will be temporary.

Mr. Ford reported on the Willow Chute Drainage Study, advising that Owen & White, Inc. is preparing revisions to parish drainage regulations for consideration. He stated that the storage capacity of parish streams and tributaries must be protected. A public hearing to consider changes in parish drainage regulations will be scheduled at a later date.

Mr. Altimus announced that in accordance with the public bid law, the public works limit for the Bossier Parish Police Jury for the year 2008 is \$143,011.20.

Mr. Altimus advised that the population estimate for Bossier Parish as of July 1, 2007 is 108,578.

Mr. Altimus reported that Wilbur Smith Associates has conducted stakeholders' meetings regarding the proposed parish-wide zoning.

Mr. Altimus reported that courtrooms on the third floor are now operational.

Mr. Altimus requested that the police jury ratify the recent hiring of Mr. Billy Montgomery as projects coordinator. Mr. Altimus stated that Mr. Montgomery will attend various board meetings on his behalf and assist him in many areas. He explained to the jury that his work schedule has become more demanding and he needs assistance. Mr. Altimus stated that Mr. Montgomery has been hired at an annual salary of \$45,000 with no fringe benefits, and will be provided use of a parish vehicle. **Motion was made by Mr. Altimus, seconded by Mr. Johnston, to ratify the hiring of Mr. Billy Montgomery as projects coordinator.**

There was discussion on the motion. Mr. Cummings expressed opposition, and questioned why this matter was not discussed during budget proceedings. He stated that he feels the hiring of Mr. Montgomery was handled improperly.

Mr. Darby expressed concern that this is a personnel matter. Mr. Jackson, Parish Attorney, stated that it is necessary to provide the option of an executive session if the matter of an employee's performance is being discussed.

Mr. John Burns stated that there is citizen concern regarding the hiring of a high profile person without first obtaining jury approval. He further stated that it appears the Cyber Command project requires a tremendous amount of Mr. Altimus' time. Mr. Jackson, Parish Attorney, stated that it is inappropriate to discuss such issues in an open meeting. Mr. Cochran stated that Mr. Montgomery will be good for Bossier Parish.

Votes were cast on Mr. Altimus' motion to ratify the hiring of Mr. Billy Montgomery. Motion carried, with the following vote recorded:

AYES: Mr. Altimus, Mr. Avery, Ms. Bennett, Mr. Benton, Mr. Cochran, Mr. Darby, Mr. Hammack, Mr. Johnston, Mr. Meachum, Mr. Shell.

NAYS: Mr. Butler, Mr. Cummings

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

Mr. Ford discussed Vickers Road improvement project, advising that one property owner has no access to his property. He stated that Mr. Leo Rossler has advised that he will donate the right-of-way necessary to complete the project and advised that a survey is needed. **Motion was made by Ms. Bennett, seconded by Mr. Johnston, to authorize an expenditure of up to \$4,000 for survey of a portion of Vickers Road. Motion carried unanimously.**

Mr. Ford stated that the results of a traffic study on the Atkins-Clark road indicate that approximately 175 trucks travel the road seven days per week. He stated that the cost to repair the road is approximately \$190,000, and U.S. Liquids has offered to pay a portion of the cost. **Motion was made by Mr. Meachum, seconded by Mr. Benton, to**

approve an agreement with U. S. Liquids for repair of the Atkins-Clark Road, and to authorize the President to execute the agreement. Motion carried unanimously.

RESOLUTION

BE IT RESOLVED by the Bossier Parish Police Jury in regular and legal session on this 6th day of February, 2008, that Jimmy Cochran, President, be and is hereby authorized to execute on behalf of the Bossier Parish Police Jury, an agreement between the Bossier Parish Police Jury and U. S. Liquids in connection with the Atkins-Clark Road improvement project.

The resolution was offered by Mr. Meachum, seconded by Mr. Benton. Upon unanimous vote, it was duly adopted on this 6th day of February, 2008.

CHERYL G. MARTIN
SECRETARY-TREASURER

JIMMY COCHRAN, PRESIDENT
BOSSIER PARISH POLICE JURY

Motion was made by Mr. Benton, seconded by Mr. Avery, to adopt a resolution which provides that the Bossier Parish Police Jury agrees to install and maintain the railroad advance warning signs and pavement markings on the North and South Rebouche Road projects. Motion carried unanimously.

RESOLUTION

BE IT RESOLVED by the Bossier Parish Police Jury in regular and legal session on this 6th day of February, 2008, that it does hereby agree to install and maintain the railroad advance warning signs and pavement markings as per the MUTCD for the following:

State Project No. 714-08-0115 – South Rebouche Road – DOT No. 787-661T

State Project No. 714-08-0116 - North Rebouche Road – DOT No. 748-542F

The resolution was offered by Mr. Benton, seconded by Mr. Avery. Upon unanimous vote, it was duly adopted on this 6th day of February, 2008.

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BOSSIER PARISH POLICE JURY

Mr. Ford advised of correspondence from Mr. Gary Pentek, Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development Plan Development Engineer, regarding the Parks Road Bridge over Cypress Bayou project. He stated that the project is a part of the Federal Aid Off-System Highway Bridge Program and Mr. Pentek has advised that a design exception is necessary to meet the minimum design standard, which results in the extension of the project limits and construction of a detour road. Mr. Ford stated that this will lengthen the project time and increase construction costs. He stated that a resolution is required requesting the proposed design exception. **Motion was made by Ms. Bennett, seconded by Mr. Benton, to adopt a resolution as required for the Parks Road Bridge over Cypress Bayou project. Motion carried unanimously.**

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS the Bossier Parish Police Jury has received a letter dated February 1, 2008 from Gary Pentek, P.E., Plan Development Engineer with the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development (LADOTD) concerning State Project No. 713-08-0108, F.A.P. No. 0804(501) Parks Road Bridge over Cypress Bayou; and

WHEREAS, due to geometric constraints of connecting to the existing super-elevated roadway and based on the minimum design standards adopted by the LADOTD, a minimum super-elevation transition distance of approximately 340 feet is required for this road, based on the design speed for an RL-3 classified roadway with an average daily traffic (ADT) count of 2,750 cars per day and a super-elevation rate of six (6) percent; and

WHEREAS, there is only 313.65 feet between the beginning of the project and the beginning of the bridge; and

WHEREAS, meeting the design standard would excessively extend the project length, require that a detour route be provided during construction, lengthen the required construction time, and increase construction costs.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Bossier Parish Police Jury does hereby request a design exception to utilize a sub-standard super-elevation transition distance as shown on the plans for State Project No. 713-08-0108, F.A.P. No. 0804(501) Parks Road Bridge over Cypress Bayou, attached hereto; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Bossier Parish Police Jury does not have any plans to further upgrade the roadway discussed herein.

The resolution was offered by Ms. Bennett, seconded by Mr. Benton. Upon unanimous vote, it was duly adopted on this 6th day of February, 2008.

CHERYL G. MARTIN
SECRETARY-TREASURER

JIMMY COCHRAN, PRESIDENT
BOSSIER PARISH POLICE JURY

Motion was made by Mr. Avery, seconded by Mr. Darby, to schedule a public hearing on March 5, 2008, to consider amendments to Bossier Parish Subdivision Regulations. Motion carried unanimously. A meeting of the Subdivision Regulations Committee is scheduled at 1:00 p.m., on Wednesday, March 5, 2008, to review the proposed changes.

Mr. Ford advised that he met with the owner and the engineer for the proposed truck stop on Highway 3 south of Benton and reviewed parish requirements for site plan/plat approval. He stated that he has forwarded the "no-rise" certificate to FEMA for review.

Mr. Ford reported on the North/South Corridor Project, advising that the Federal Highway Administration will support efforts to minimize the effect of this project on the Cross Point Baptist Church.

Mr. Ford reported on the status of the Arthur Ray Teague Parkway Extension Project advising that Coyle Engineering is providing engineering work from the site of the new Parkway High School to Highway 71. He stated that they are working with the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries on survey matters.

Mr. Ronnie Andrews, Public Works Director, reported on various road projects. Mr. Johnston requested that Mr.

Andrews look at the intersection of the Carterville Road and Highway 157, advising that repairs are needed.

Ms. Bennett advised of a request from Benton High School for funding assistance for its Project Graduation 2008 event to be held at the Bossier City Civic Center, and asked if police jury recreational funds can be used for such an event. Mr. Jackson, Parish Attorney, stated that he will review qualifying expenses.

Mr. Darby advised of a request from Bossier High School for funding for softball uniforms. Ms. Bennett, Mr. Darby, Mr. Altimus, Mr. Cummings and Mr. Cochran will contribute equally from discretionary funds for this expense.

Mr. Darby stated that he will also contribute \$500 to the Bossier High School bowling team. **Motion was made by Mr. Darby, seconded by Mr. Cummings, to approve contributions to the Bossier High School softball and bowling teams from discretionary funds, as requested. Motion carried unanimously.**

Mr. Shell urged jurors to encourage schools to make an effort to raise a portion of requested contributions when possible.

Mr. Darby reported on the Washington Mardi Gras event and commended Ms. Susie Morgan, police jury lobbyist.

Motion was made by Mr. Meachum, seconded by Mr. Shell, to approve the appointment of Ms. Betty Fetters, and to approve the reappointment of Mr. Rod Crowley to the Board of Commissioners for Bossier Parish Fire District No. 6, for two-year terms each, terms to expire December 31, 2009. Motion carried unanimously. Ms. Fetters is replacing Mr. Robert Mitchell, IV.

Motion was made by Mr. Meachum, seconded by Mr. Johnston, to send a 10-day notice to the owner of the Honest Jon's property on Highway 527, advising that the property is in violation of property standards regulations. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Avery requested that the jury consider a means to expedite the condemnation of property found to be in violation of property standards regulations. Mr. Jackson stated that he will prepare a proposal for review by the jury at a later date which provides for initiation of a criminal process, as well as civil remedies.

Ms. Rosalee Shockley requested the jury's assistance with a property standards violation at 181 Running Deer Lane.

Mr. Avery advised that he has several property standards violations in Haymeadow Subdivision.

Mr. Cochran stated that he will contribute \$643.05 from discretionary funds to the Airline High School track team. Mr. Butler stated that he will split this cost equally with Mr. Cochran.

Mr. Avery stated that he will contribute \$1,500 from matching funds to the softball program at Airline High School. **Motion was made by Mr. Avery, seconded by Mr. Altimus, to approve contributions as discussed. Motion carried unanimously.**

Mr. Jackson, Parish Attorney, reported that Doerle Food Services, Inc., is planning to open a facility in Bossier City, which will create approximately 125 jobs. He stated that the sale of approximately 28 acres in the Commerce Park off Swan Lake Road is requested, with an option on eight acres. **Motion was made by Mr. Shell, seconded by Mr. Darby, to approve the sale of approximately 28 acres, with an option on eight acres, in the Commerce Park, to Doerle Food Services, Inc., and to authorize the Parish Attorney to proceed with the preparation of necessary documents. Motion carried unanimously.**

Motion was made by Mr. Cummings, seconded by Mr. Darby, to adjourn into executive session to discuss potential litigation with Walton Construction. Motion carried, with the following vote recorded:

AYES: Mr. Altimus, Mr. Avery, Ms. Bennett, Mr. Benton, Mr. Butler, Mr. Cochran, Mr. Cummings, Mr. Darby, Mr. Hammack, Mr. Johnston, Mr. Meachum, Mr. Shell.

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

There being no further business to come before the Bossier Parish Police Jury in regular and legal session on this 6th day of February, 2008, the meeting was adjourned by the President at 4:45 p.m.

CHERYL G. MARTIN
SECRETARY-TREASURER

JIMMY COCHRAN, PRESIDENT
BOSSIER PARISH POLICE JURY