

BOSSIER PARISH POLICE JURY  
BENTON, LOUISIANA  
MINUTES  
May 21, 2008  
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The Bossier Parish Police Jury met in regular and legal session on the 21st day of May, 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. Barry Butler and the pledge of allegiance was led by Mr. Glenn Benton. The Secretary-Treasurer, Ms. Cheryl Martin, called the roll, with the following members present:

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

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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.

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**Motion was made by Mr. Altimus, seconded by Mr. Darby, to adopt the minutes of the April 2, 2008 regular meeting and the April 16, 2008 regular meeting, as published. Motion carried unanimously.**

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**Motion was made by Ms. Bennett, seconded by Mr. Avery, to amend the agenda to add Mr. Gary Chatelain. Motion carried unanimously.**

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Mr. Altimus stated that Mr. Craig Spohn, Cyber Innovation Center Director, is unable to attend today's meeting, and advised that Mr. Spohn will address the police jury at its July 16, 2008 regular meeting.

Mr. Jackson, Parish Attorney, reported on a pre-bid conference held on May 20, 2008, for the Cyber Innovation Center building project. He reported that there are four major contractors considering the project and advised that bids will be received at the June 4, 2008 regular meeting. Mr. Jackson stated that bids for equipment will be received on June 18, 2008, and advised that bids for infrastructure will be received at a later date.

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Mr. Dennis Mosley expressed his concern regarding property standards issues in the parish, advising that there are numerous areas in the parish that are not well maintained. Mr. Jackson, Parish Attorney, asked if there is a specific address that should be inspected by the property standards department. Mr. Mosley suggested that the police jury launch a media campaign in an effort to reduce the number of property standards violations in the parish. He discussed the poor condition of utility rights-of-way in the parish. Mr. Jackson stated that maintenance of such rights-of-way could be the responsibility of the utility company, the State, or the parish.

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Mr. Brad Graff, Cothren, Graff, Smoak Engineering, Inc., discussed the request of Cothren, Graff, Smoak Engineering, Inc., for additional funds in the amount of \$11,545.01 for engineering services for the LCDBG LaStep Project. Mr. Graff explained that funding for the LaStep Project provided for the extension of water lines from the Central Bossier Water System to residents along Theresa Lane, with the work being done by volunteers. He stated that because the work was done by volunteers, completion of the project took a significantly longer amount of time. Mr. Graff stated that grant funds provided for inspector fees were used up quickly. Mr. Altimus advised that grant regulations require that an inspector must be on site at all times and stated that he supports the request for additional funds.

**Motion was made by Mr. Altimus, seconded by Mr. Darby, to table this matter to allow the parish attorney to review all contract documents. Motion carried unanimously.**

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Mr. Richey Jackson, Children and Youth Planning Board for the 26<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Court, was present. He presented an update on the activities of the board and advised that Bossier Parish is the pilot parish for initiating a technology sharing program through the Louisiana Supreme Court.

Mr. Jackson presented a list of board members and requested that the police jury consider reappointment of these individuals for a two-year term. **Motion was made by Ms. Bennett, seconded by Mr. Darby, to approve the reappointment of all members of the Children and Youth Planning Board for the 26<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Court, for two-year terms each. Motion carried unanimously.** Board members are as follows:

Mr. Richey Jackson, Director of the Bossier/Webster Truancy Center  
Ms. Trudie Abner, Department of Health & Hospitals, Office for Addictive Disorders  
Mr. Norman Craig, Bossier Parish Sheriff's Office  
Ms. Jennifer Garrett, Bossier City Court  
Ms. Cherrie Johnston, Bossier Parish Community College  
Ms. Lisa Johnson, Bossier Chamber of Commerce  
Ms. Bettye McCauley, Bossier Parish School Board  
Mr. Mike Nerren, Indigent Defender Board, Bossier Parish  
Ms. Ora Rice, Bossier Office of Community Services  
Pastor Ted Scott, Harvest Temple COGIC  
Ms. Debbie Smith, Bossier/Webster FINS  
Mr. Steve Snow, Office of Youth Development  
Ms. Suzanne Stinson, Administrator for the 26<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Court  
Ms. Karen Stubbs, Bossier Parish Assistant District Attorney  
Mr. Bob Wynn, Bossier City businessman

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Mr. Gary Chatelain advised that he is in the process of purchasing Lot 3 of the Black Bayou Lake Acres Subdivision, which is located adjacent to the Glen Cove Subdivision. He stated that he wants to build his home facing

Glen Cove Drive and plans to construct his driveway onto Glen Cove Drive. Mr. Chatelain stated that he has a petition signed by the residents of Glen Cove Subdivision and advised that 19 of the 20 property owners have no objection to his proposal. He stated that the one landowner who did not sign the petition expressed traffic concerns.

Ms. Bennett stated that she has no objection to Mr. Chatelain's request, and stated that a petition containing 19 of 20 signatures seems reasonable.

Mr. Benton expressed concern, stating that Mr. Chatelain will also be changing Black Bayou Lake Acres Subdivision. He stated that Mr. Chatelain's back yard will join his neighbor's front yard. Mr. Cummings stated that a petition signed by all residents of Black Bayou Lake Acres should be required.

After discussion, Mr. Chatelain was advised that he must provide to the police jury a petition signed by 100 percent of the residents of both Glen Cove Subdivision and Black Bayou Lake Acres Subdivision.

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**Motion was made by Mr. Butler, seconded by Mr. Johnston, to award the bid for the in-place cement stabilized base course and asphaltic concrete wearing course of approximately 0.311 mile of the Modica Lott Road, Project No. 2008-126, to Specialty Trackhoe and Dozer Service, Inc., low bidder meeting specifications. Motion carried unanimously.** Bids were received on May 7, 2008, and results are as follows:

Bidder:	Bid Amount:
Benton & Brown, LLC	\$367,073.10
Specialty Trackhoe and Dozer Service, Inc.	\$355,806.10

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Ms. Martin announced the condemnation hearing to consider condemnation of property at 131 Jones Road in Benton. Ms. Charlotte Schroeder, 2638 Barbara Street, Bossier City, property owner, and Mr. Johnny Beam, 2642 Barbara Street, Bossier City, were present. Ms. Schroeder stated that her daughter is currently living at 131 Jones Road and advised that she has begun eviction proceedings. She stated that she is trying to obtain a dumpster so she can begin cleaning the property as soon as possible. Ms. Schroeder stated that she was unaware of the condition of the property and did not receive the notice of condemnation until a few days ago. **Motion was made by Ms. Bennett, seconded by Mr. Darby, to allow Ms. Schroeder two weeks in which to bring her property in compliance with property standards regulations. Motion carried unanimously.** The condition of the property will be reviewed at the June 4, 2008 regular meeting.

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Ms. Martin announced the condemnation hearing to consider condemnation of property at 5633 Highway 527, Bossier Parish, LA. Mr. Jon Wintamute, property owner, referred to several inoperable vehicles on the property and advised that the restoration of old vehicles is his hobby. He stated that he has a significant amount of money invested in these vehicles and advised that they are parked behind a chain link fence. Mr. Ronnie Andrews, Public Works Director, stated that there are vehicles parked outside the fence also.

Mr. Jackson, Parish Attorney, stated that parish regulations prohibit the stockpiling of inoperable vehicles and advised that the police jury has the authority to condemn the property. Mr. Butler suggested that Mr. Wintamute construct a privacy fence.

**Motion was made by Mr. Meachum, seconded by Mr. Benton, to table this matter for consideration at the June 4, 2008 regular meeting. Motion carried unanimously.** Mr. Jackson requested that the property be inspected on June 4, 2008, and asked that the property standards inspector be present at the meeting to review his findings.

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Mr. Clarence Cobb, 210 James Street, owner of property at 210 James Street, Benton, LA, and Pete and Christina Cobb, 211 James Street, were present for review of the condition of property at 210 James Street, Benton, LA. Ms. Bennett stated that she is receiving complaints from residents on Cattleman's Trail regarding the cars Mr. Cobb has moved from 210 James Street to his property on Cattleman's Trail. Mr. Cobb stated that they are in the process of having the cars moved to a salvage yard in Homer.

Ms. Bennett advised Mr. Cobb that he must bring his property at 210 James Street and his property on Cattleman's Trail in full compliance with property standards regulations, which includes the removal of all inoperable vehicles, within two weeks or his property will be condemned.

**Motion was made by Ms. Bennett, seconded by Mr. Darby, to table this matter for further review at the June 4, 2008 regular meeting. Motion carried unanimously.**

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Mr. Jason Dyess and Mr. Jack Dyess were present regarding the condition of property at 5217 Clover Lane, Bossier City, LA. Mr. Avery stated that he has inspected the property and stated that improvements have been made. He requested that Mr. Dyess repair the windows and the porch. **Motion was made by Mr. Avery, seconded by Mr. Johnston, to table this matter for further review at the June 4, 2008 regular meeting. Motion carried unanimously.**

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Mr. Benton discussed the condition of property at 785 Randy Lane, Haughton, LA, advising that nothing has been done to improve this property. He stated that this is an ongoing problem, advising that the property owner was notified last year that the property was in violation of property standards regulations. Mr. Jackson stated that a violation notice should be sent to the current owner. **Motion was made by Mr. Benton, seconded by Mr. Avery, to table this matter for review at the June 4, 2008 regular meeting. Motion carried unanimously.**

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Mr. Jackson recommended that the jury consider appointing a three member revolving committee to review property standards issues. He stated that the committee could be given the authority to send notice of property standards violations without a public meeting. Mr. Ford stated that Mr. Andrews has been working to get pictures of the properties in violation. Mr. Jackson recommended that a property standards department be created with the required staff and equipment needed to handle all property standards issues. Mr. Ford stated that he will prepare a proposal for consideration by the jury at a later date.

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**Motion was made by Mr. Darby, seconded by Mr. Johnston, to schedule a public hearing on June 4, 2008,**

**to consider approval of the plat of the proposed Street Dedication for Colleen Drive, Sheri Drive and Angel Lane, at the site of the new Parkway High School. Motion carried unanimously.**

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**Motion was made by Ms. Bennett, seconded by Mr. Avery, to approve the appointment of Mr. Sam Merritt to the Benton-Parish MPC Board of Directors, to fill the unexpired term of Mr. Wes Burdine, term to expire January 1, 2014. Motion carried unanimously.** It was noted that Mr. Merritt's appointment is a joint appointment with the Town of Benton.

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**Motion was made by Mr. Benton, seconded by Mr. Johnston, to approve the Certificate of Substantial Completion of Phase 1, Baseball Field Lighting, Princeton Park Sports Complex, and to authorize the President to execute documents. Motion carried unanimously.**

RESOLUTION

BE IT RESOLVED by the Bossier Parish Police Jury in regular and legal session on this 21<sup>st</sup> day of May, 2008, that Jimmy Cochran, President, be and is hereby authorized to execute on its behalf, the Certificate of Substantial Completion of Phase 1, Baseball Field Lighting, Princeton Park Sports Complex.

The resolution was offered by Mr. Benton, seconded by Mr. Johnston. Upon unanimous vote, it was duly adopted on this 21<sup>st</sup> day of May, 2008.

CHERYL G. MARTIN  
SECRETARY-TREASURER

JIMMY COCHRAN, PRESIDENT  
BOSSIER PARISH POLICE JURY

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Mr. Sam Marsiglia, Bossier City-Parish MPC, discussed the moratorium on the placement of billboard signs parishwide, and reported that a workshop on this matter is scheduled on June 26 at the Bossier Civic Center. He stated that a draft of the proposed ordinance will be presented for consideration. **Motion was made by Mr. Altimus, seconded by Mr. Avery, to extend the current moratorium on the placement of billboard signs parishwide for six months. Motion carried unanimously.**

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Mr. Altimus discussed a request of the Shreveport-Bossier Convention and Tourist Bureau/SB-TV for funding for an advertising proposal. He stated that ads are being considered for broadcast in motel/hotel rooms in the Shreveport/Bossier area which promote local attractions and points of interest and stated that funding is requested to include areas of Bossier Parish. **Motion was made by Mr. Avery, seconded by Ms. Bennett, to approve the requested funding in the amount of up to \$3,000. Motion carried unanimously.**

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Mr. Altimus stated that Mr. Mac Plummer has resigned his position on the Bossier City-Parish MPC Board of Directors due to his interim appointment to the Bossier Parish Police Jury, District 12. He requested that jurors provide him with recommendations for an appointment to fill this vacancy for consideration at the June 4, 2008 regular meeting.

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Mr. Altimus advised of the request of Mr. Clark Whittington, highway department employee, for 10 additional sick days for 2008. He stated that Mr. Andrews, Public Works Director and Mr. Whittington's direct supervisor, has recommended that the request be denied. **Motion was made by Ms. Bennett, seconded by Mr. Darby, to uphold the recommendation of Mr. Andrews and deny the request of Clark Whittington, highway department employee, for 10 additional sick days in 2008. Motion carried unanimously.**

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Jurors were provided a copy of district reports from the highway department.

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**Motion was made by Mr. Avery, seconded by Mr. Benton, to commit that the police jury will not roll forward ad valorem tax millage rates for 2008. Motion carried unanimously.**

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There was discussion of the current policy allowing an employee 30 days for drug/alcohol rehabilitation. It was clarified that no additional leave will be allowed and the employee will not be paid.

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Mr. Altimus reported that the Corps of Engineers will perform the required levee certifications for Bossier Parish and commended Senators Landrieu and Vitter for their support in this matter.

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Mr. Altimus advised that a meeting with representatives of the Corps of Engineers, the Bossier Parish Levee District, and the City of Bossier City will be held next month to discuss the proposed control structure at Bodcau.

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Mr. Ford discussed the recent heavy rain event and related flooding problems in the parish.

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**Motion was made by Mr. Avery, seconded by Mr. Johnston, to authorize the advertising for bids for the following road improvement projects, with the bid dates to be determined. Motion carried unanimously.**

- Chalybeate Springs Road – overlay of approximately 1.8 miles
- Old Brownlee Road/Old Vanceville Road – overlay of approximately 2.10 miles
- Wafer Road – overlay of approximately 2.00 miles
- Bay Hills North – concrete street repair
- Creekside – concrete street repair
- Oak Creek – concrete street repair
- Forest Hills – concrete ditch paving

Mr. Avery stated that improvements are badly needed on Wemple Road from Airline Drive to the new Wemple Road Extension. Mr. Ford stated that both drainage and roadway work is needed and advised that he will prepare a preliminary budget for the project for review.

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**Motion was made by Mr. Johnston, seconded by Ms. Bennett, that Mr. Johnston will contribute \$5,000**

**from discretionary funds to the St. Mary Water System for water line repairs. Motion carried unanimously.** There are no grant funds available for the project.

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Mr. Benton stated that a west bound turn lane off Highway 80 into Country Place Subdivision is badly needed and requested that the Department of Transportation and Development be contacted regarding this matter.

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**Motion was made by Mr. Benton, seconded by Mr. Avery, to authorize an expenditure of \$15,000 for a 60-day option to purchase approximately 84 acres for location of a sewer treatment plant. Motion carried unanimously.** Mr. Jackson, Parish Attorney, stated that this amount will go toward the purchase price if negotiations are successful and advised that an extension of this option may be required.

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**Motion was made by Mr. Avery, seconded by Mr. Benton, to authorize Mr. Altimus to execute any and all documents and contracts relative to the Cyber Innovation Center projects. Motion carried unanimously.**

RESOLUTION

BE IT RESOLVED by the Bossier Parish Police Jury in regular and legal session on this 21<sup>st</sup> day of May, 2008, that Bill Altimus, Parish Administrator, be and is hereby authorized to execute on its behalf, any and all documents and contracts relative to the Cyber Innovation Center projects.

The resolution was offered by Mr. Avery, seconded by Mr. Benton. Upon unanimous vote, it was duly adopted on this 21<sup>st</sup> day of May, 2008.

CHERYL G. MARTIN  
SECRETARY-TREASURER

JIMMY COCHRAN, PRESIDENT  
BOSSIER PARISH POLICE JURY

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Mr. Ronnie Andrews, Public Works Director, provided an update on the 2008 Road Program.

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**Motion was made by Ms. Bennett, seconded by Mr. Darby, that Ms. Bennett will contribute discretionary matching funds of up to \$1,000 for carpets for the Benton Elementary kindergarten class. Motion carried unanimously.**

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**Motion was made by Ms. Bennett, seconded by Mr. Johnston, to approve the request of Benton United Methodist Church to hold a 5K run from the church through Woodlake South Subdivision on June 14, 2008. Motion carried unanimously.**

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**Motion was made by Mr. Darby, seconded by Mr. Altimus, that Mr. Darby will contribute \$806.64 from discretionary funds to fourth and fifth grade science and math teachers at Waller Elementary School for supplies. Motion carried unanimously.**

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**Motion was made by Mr. Benton, seconded by Mr. Avery, to schedule a meeting of the Policy and Procedures Committee at the police jury office on May 28, 2008 at 10:00 a.m. Motion carried unanimously.**

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**Motion was made by Mr. Benton, seconded by Mr. Meachum, to approve the holding of a block party on Hidden Cove in Forest Hills Subdivision on May 24 from 3:00 to 10:00 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.** The Sheriff's Department and the fire department will be notified of the event.

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Mr. Benton discussed regulations which prohibit the location of manufactured or modular homes in existing subdivisions. He state that in many of the older subdivisions covenants do not specify modular or manufactured homes, advising that they refer only to trailers or mobile homes. Mr. Jackson, Parish Attorney, stated that an ordinance listing the specific subdivisions where manufactured or modular homes are prohibited could be considered. **Motion was made by Mr. Benton, seconded by Mr. Meachum, to place a moratorium on the placement of modular/manufactured homes in an existing subdivision for two weeks to allow the parish attorney to prepare an ordinance for review at the June 4, 2008 regular meeting which prohibits these structures in certain subdivisions. Motion carried, with Mr. Butler opposing.**

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**Motion was made by Mr. Plummer, seconded by Mr. Altimus, that Mr. Plummer will contribute from discretionary funds \$200 each to debate team students at Parkway High School for training expenses. Motion carried unanimously.**

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Mr. Plummer advised of a problem with the location of a drainage easement on Lot 20 in The Orchard Subdivision. Mr. Ford stated that he recommends that the plat be re-drawn showing the easements, but stated that Coyle Engineering is of the opinion that it is only necessary to file the drainage easement. The parish attorney is to review this matter.

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Mr. Butler requested an update on activities and meetings attended by Mr. Billy Montgomery. Mr. Altimus stated that he will prepare a report for Mr. Butler's review.

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Mr. Meachum requested clarification of police jury district lines in the Mayflower Road area. Mr. Ford stated that he will research this matter.

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Mr. Meachum stated that in the purchase of the old highway department property in Houghton, Mr. Al Parker has advised that he was unaware that the police jury retained all mineral rights. He stated that Mr. Parker has requested that the deed be amended to transfer mineral rights to him. Mr. Parker is to be invited to attend the June 4, 2008 regular meeting for discussion.

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Mr. Avery advised of a request from Airline High School for funds for improvements to the football stadium and stated that he will discuss the matter at the next meeting.

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There was discussion of a zoning violation at a veterinarian office on Lafitte Lane where the parking area is gravel and should be paved. Mr. Sam Marsiglia, Bossier City-Parish MPC, stated that the owner will not respond to correspondence from the MPC and will not pave the parking lot. The parish attorney is to notify the owner of a veterinarian office on Lafitte that the gravel parking lot is a violation of zoning regulations and must be paved.

Finance Committee Report – May 21, 2008 – 1:30 p.m.

Motion was made by Mr. Meachum, seconded by Mr. Benton, to authorize payment of accounts payable invoices for the month of April, 2008.

Finance Committee adjourned.

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There being no further business to come before the Bossier Parish Police Jury in regular and legal session on this 21<sup>st</sup> day of May, 2008, the meeting was adjourned by the President at 5:15 p.m.

CHERYL G. MARTIN  
SECRETARY-TREASURER

JIMMY COCHRAN, PRESIDENT  
BOSSIER PARISH POLICE JURY