

BOSSIER PARISH POLICE JURY  
BENTON, LOUISIANA  
MINUTES  
February 2, 2011  
www.bossierparishla.gov

The Bossier Parish Police Jury met in regular and legal session on the 2<sup>nd</sup> day of February, 2011, at 2:00 p.m., in the Police Jury Meeting Room, Bossier Parish Courthouse, Benton, Louisiana. The President, Mr. Rick Avery, called the meeting to order. The invocation was given by Ms. Wanda Bennett and the pledge of allegiance was led by Mr. Mac Plummer. The Parish Secretary, Ms. Cindy Dodson, called the roll, with the following members present:

Mr. William Altimus	Mr. Brad Cummings, excused
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

\*\*\*

Others present were Mr. Bill Altimus, Parish Administrator; Mr. Patrick Jackson, Parish Attorney, Mr. Joe E. "Butch" Ford, Jr., Parish Engineer; Ms. Cindy Dodson, Parish Secretary.

\*\*\*

**Motion was made by Mr. Altimus, seconded by Mr. Cochran, to amend the agenda to add Ms. Lynn Walker.**

The President called for public comment. There being none, **votes were cast and the motion carried, with the following vote recorded:**

**AYES: Mr. Altimus, Mr. Avery, Ms. Bennett, Mr. Benton, Mr. Butler, Mr. Cochran, Mr. Darby, Mr. Johnston, Mr. Meachum, Mr. Plummer.**

**NAYS: None**

**ABSTAIN: None**

**ABSENT: Mr. Cummings, Mr. Hammack**

\*\*\*

**Motion was made by Mr. Johnston, seconded by Mr. Benton, to amend the agenda to add Mr. William Barh.**

The President called for public comment. There being none, **votes were cast and the motion carried, with the following vote recorded:**

**AYES: Mr. Altimus, Mr. Avery, Ms. Bennett, Mr. Benton, Mr. Butler, Mr. Cochran, Mr. Darby, Mr. Johnston, Mr. Meachum, Mr. Plummer.**

**NAYS: None**

**ABSTAIN: None**

**ABSENT: Mr. Cummings, Mr. Hammack**

\*\*\*

Ms. Cindy Dodson advised that Mr. Larry Shelton, On-Time Waste Disposal, is unable to attend the meeting today, and will be present at the February 16, 2011, regular meeting.

\*\*\*

Ms. Lynn Walker, a resident of Buckhall Road, expressed appreciation to the jury for their efforts in obtaining funding through the Local Government Assistance Program in the amount of \$100,000 for the installation of new water lines beginning at the south end of Buckhall Road. She stated that it is her understanding that a second application has now been submitted for grant funding in the amount of \$100,000 through the Community Water Enrichment Fund for the project, and that the deadline for this application is January 27, 2011. Ms. Walker stated that she has been advised that the police jury's request for a letter of support of this application was sent to Senator Robert Adley on January 26, 2011. She further stated that Senator Adley will support only \$35,000 for the project and requested that the jury adopt a resolution supporting a request for CWF funds in the amount of \$35,000 for the project.

Ms. Walker stated that Mr. Ford previously advised that only 10 percent or \$10,000 of the LGAP grant funds can be used for engineering and design fees, which are estimated to be \$28,000 to \$30,000. She stated that it is her understanding that the jury may consider utilizing a portion of low interest federal stimulus funds for the project, if available. Ms. Walker stated that Mr. Ford has advised that he expects the project to go to design in the first quarter of 2011.

Ms. Dodson advised that the application for CWF funding was submitted to the State approximately two weeks prior to the application deadline. She stated that a request for a letter of support was sent to both Senator Adley and Representative Smith at the same time, and advised that Representative Smith provided her letter of support immediately. Ms. Dodson stated that a second request was sent to Senator Adley, along with a copy of the application, the day before the deadline.

Mr. Avery stated that he advised Mr. Bobby Garrett, Senator Adley's Legislative Assistant, of the proposed project approximately two months ago and requested the Senator's support at that time. Mr. Altimus stated that the application for CWF funding was submitted in a timely manner and \$100,000 is requested to be used specifically for water improvements along Buckhall Road. He stated that it is the intention of the police jury to provide any remaining funds needed to complete the project.

Mr. Ford stated that the parish is not qualified or equipped to perform this type of work in -house and advised that the services of BBC Engineering were obtained. He stated that the proposed plans include fire hydrants for increased fire protection, and advised that the total estimated cost of the project is approximately \$275,000 to \$350,000. Mr. Ford stated that BBC Engineering has submitted plans, surveying and engineering costs, and advised that he has requested that BBC Engineering submit a contract in order to begin the work. He stated that police jury funds will be used for any remaining costs required for completion of the design work for this project.

Ms. Bennett stated that the police jury has gone above and beyond to help the residents of Buckhall Road. She stated that the residents of Buckhall Road have not expended any funds on this project and the parish has been more than willing to do whatever possible to resolve the problem. Ms. Walker stated that she has asked to be notified of all

correspondence regarding this matter, but has not been kept informed.

Mr. Altimus stated that the parish has willingly applied for LGAP funds in the maximum allowable amount of \$100,000 to be solely used on Buckhall Road. He further stated that if awarded, the entire \$100,000 in CWEF funding will also be used to resolve the water problems on Buckhall Road.

Ms. Walker requested that the police jury adopt a resolution asking for a reduction of its original request to \$35,000, as Senator Adley has advised that he will not support the full \$100,000. Mr. Altimus stated that the police jury has applied for the full \$100,000 and will not request a reduction. Mr. Avery stated that Senator Adley is instrumental in determining whether the police jury will receive the full \$100,000 as requested. Ms. Walker stated that it is her understanding that Senator Adley has submitted a letter of support for \$35,000. Mr. Altimus stated that the police jury has not received a letter of support from Senator Adley.

Mr. Butler stated that the police jury has done everything in its power to assist the residents of Buckhall Road with improvements to the water lines in their area. Mr. Avery advised that the residents of Buckhall Road do have a Bossier City water meter but the city does not provide maintenance of the lines.

Ms. Walker again requested that in the future, she be provided a copy of all correspondence pertaining to Buckhall Road.

\*\*\*

Mr. William Bahr, 997 Old Plain Dealing Road, Benton, LA, stated that he is receiving letters from the Benton-Parish Metropolitan Planning Commission regarding his business at 997 Old Plain Dealing Road. He advised that it is his understanding that the matter has been resolved. Mr. Jackson stated that at the September 1, 2010, police jury meeting, the jury voted to allow Mr. Bahr to continue the existing non-conforming use for operation of his business at 997 Old Plain Dealing Road, Benton, LA, with the stipulation that the business must remain as it exists today, and with the understanding that should there be any change or expansion in the business, Mr. Bahr is required to file an application with the Benton-Parish MPC for a zoning amendment to obtain the proper commercial zoning classification for his business. Ms. Nancy Penwell, Benton Parish Metropolitan Planning Commission, stated that the only way to be certain there are no changes in Mr. Bahr's business, the Benton MPC has authorized her to monitor his operation. She explained that this is the reason Mr. Bahr has received correspondence from her office. After further discussion, it was recommended that a meeting be scheduled between Mr. Jackson, Ms. Penwell and Mr. Bahr to discuss this matter.

\*\*\*

**Motion was made by Ms. Bennett, seconded by Mr. Butler, to schedule a public hearing on March 2, 2011, to consider approval of the plat of the proposed development of The Colony, Unit No. 5, located in Section 32, Township 19 North, Range 13 West, Bossier Parish, LA, and being a Planned Unit Development.**

The President called for public comment. There being none, **votes were cast and the motion carried unanimously.**

\*\*\*

Mr. Richard Gunter, Property Standards Officer, reported on a meeting of the Property Standards Board of Review. He presented photographs of property at 4826 Britton Street, Bossier City, LA, advising that the property is in violation of property standards regulations.

**Motion was made by Ms. Bennett, seconded by Mr. Cochran, to schedule a condemnation hearing on February 16, 2011, to consider condemnation of property at 4826 Britton Street, Bossier City, LA.**

The President called for public comment. There being none, **votes were cast and the motion carried unanimously.**

Mr. Gunter presented photographs of property at Lot 14, Lake Ridge Subdivision, Unit No. 1, advising that condemnation is recommended. **Motion was made by Ms. Bennett, seconded by Mr. Cochran, to schedule a condemnation hearing on February 16, 2011, to consider condemnation of property at Lot 14, Lake Ridge Subdivision, Unit No. 1, Benton, LA.**

The President called for public comment. There being none, **votes were cast and the motion carried unanimously.**

\*\*\*

Mr. Mac Plummer reported on a meeting of the Parks and Recreation Committee, advising that the committee recommends approval of a request by the Houghton Athletics Board of Directors to officially name the Princeton Sports Complex as the Lawson Bo Brandon Sports Complex in memory of Lawson Bo Brandon. **Motion was made by Mr. Meachum, seconded by Mr. Benton, to approve a request of the Houghton Athletics Board of Directors to name the Princeton Sports Complex as the Lawson Bo Brandon Sports Complex.**

The President called for public comment. There being none, **votes were cast and the motion carried, with the following vote recorded:**

**AYES: Mr. Altimus, Mr. Avery, Mr. Benton, Mr. Butler, Mr. Cochran, Mr. Darby, Mr. Johnston, Mr. Meachum, Mr. Plummer.**

**NAYS: None**

**ABSTAIN: Ms. Bennett**

**ABSENT: Mr. Cummings, Mr. Hammack**

Mr. Plummer requested that Mr. Jackson, Parish Attorney, research and establish guidelines for addressing such requests in the future.

\*\*\*

**Motion was made by Mr. Darby, seconded by Mr. Altimus, to reappoint Mr. Benton and Mr. Johnston, as police jury representatives to the Trailblazer Area Council for 2011.**

The President called for public comment. There being none, **votes were cast and the motion carried unanimously.**

\*\*\*

**Motion was made by Mr. Benton, seconded by Mr. Butler, to approve the Water Line Lease Agreement between Village Water System, Inc., Consolidated Waterworks/Sewerage District No. 1 of the Parish of Bossier and the Bossier Parish Police Jury, for relocation of an existing water line owned by Village Water System, Inc., in connection with the Bellevue Road Improvements Project, and to authorize the Parish Administrator to execute**

**documents on behalf of the Consolidated Waterworks/Sewerage District No. 1 of the Parish of Bossier and the Bossier Parish Police Jury.**

The President called for public comment. There being none, **votes were cast and the motion carried unanimously.**

RESOLUTION

BE IT RESOLVED by the Bossier Parish Police Jury in regular and legal session on this 2<sup>nd</sup> day of February, 2011, that William R. Altimus, Parish Administrator, be and is hereby authorized to execute on behalf of the Consolidated Waterworks/Sewerage District No. 1 of the Parish of Bossier and the Bossier Parish Police Jury, the Water Line Lease Agreement between Village Water System, Inc., Consolidated Waterworks/Sewerage District No. 1 of the Parish of Bossier and the Bossier Parish Police Jury, for relocation of an existing water line owned by Village Water System, Inc. in connection with the Bellevue Road Improvements Project.

The resolution was offered by Mr. Benton, seconded by Mr. Butler. Upon unanimous vote, it was duly adopted on this 2<sup>nd</sup> day of February, 2011.

CINDY A. DODSON  
PARISH SECRETARY

RICK AVERY, PRESIDENT  
BOSSIER PARISH POLICE JURY

\*\*\*

**Motion was made by Mr. Meachum, seconded by Ms. Bennett, to adopt a resolution ratifying Mr. Altimus' signature on the Certificate of Substantial Completion of the new equipment shelter at the Bossier Parish Highway Department Facility, Project No. 2009-128.**

The President called for public comment. There being none, **votes were cast and the motion carried unanimously.**

RESOLUTION

BE IT RESOLVED by the Bossier Parish Police Jury in regular and legal session on this 2<sup>nd</sup> day of February, 2011, that it does hereby approve the Certificate of Substantial Completion of the new equipment shelter at the Bossier Parish Highway Department Facility, Project No. 2009-128.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that William R. Altimus, Parish Administrator, be and is hereby authorized to execute any and all documents in connection with said Certificate of Substantial Completion.

The resolution was offered by Mr. Meachum, seconded by Ms. Bennett. Upon unanimous vote, it was duly adopted on this 2<sup>nd</sup> day of February, 2011.

CINDY A. DODSON  
PARISH SECRETARY

RICK AVERY, PRESIDENT  
BOSSIER PARISH POLICE JURY

\*\*\*

Mr. Ford presented a plat of the proposed Old River Place Subdivision, Unit No. 5, advising that the plat was approved in February, 2010, and construction began in the fall. He stated that when the contractor began clearing the land, it became evident that a storm drain pipe ran through the middle of each of the proposed lots. Mr. Ford stated that the drainage pipe was not indicated on the approved plat. He stated that the most logical solution is to move the storm drain pipe within 10 feet of the right-of-way line, which will result in a 60-foot right-of-way with a 10-foot drainage easement just outside the right-of-way line, and will prevent the developer from having to replace the existing sewerage and utility lines. Mr. Ford stated that the developer installed this storm drain pipe during construction of the first units, and advised that no drainage easement has been submitted to the police jury office.

After further discussion, it was recommended that the developer be directed to place the storm drain pipe within the street right-of-way, under the curb and gutter, in accordance with parish regulations.

\*\*\*

Mr. Ford stated that a petition has been received requesting that the parish accept the private portion of Gary Rex Circle into the parish road system and advised that all necessary right-of-way documents have been received. He presented a Plat of Survey for this portion of Gary Rex Circle and recommended approval. Mr. Ford stated that five families live on this section of Gary Rex Circle and there are ongoing drainage problems in this area. He stated that a dirt pit operation in the area has created additional drainage issues.

Ms. Mary Fuller, 3418 Gary Rex Circle, and Ms. Sophie Duke, 3423 Gary Rex Circle, were present. Ms. Fuller advised that since 1997, the area has flooded during rain events. Mr. Ford advised that the residents of Gary Rex Circle have paid all costs involved in obtaining the Plat of Survey in accordance with parish regulations, and are now requesting that .08 mile of Gary Rex Circle be accepted into the parish road system for permanent maintenance. **Motion was made by Mr. Butler, seconded by Mr. Benton, to approve the Plat of Survey of Gary Rex Circle, and to accept the remaining .08 mile of Gary Rex Circle into the parish road system for permanent maintenance.**

The President called for public comment. There being none, **votes were cast and the motion carried unanimously.**

Mr. Cochran asked why the dirt pit company is not being required to assist in resolving drainage problems on Gary Rex Circle. Mr. Butler stated that the company has provided dozer service to clean out areas in an effort to improve drainage. Mr. Avery requested that Mr. Ford oversee the work done to ensure that the drainage problems are resolved. Mr. Kenneth Weaver advised that there are still flooding issues on his property also.

Ms. Fuller advised that Gary Rex Circle has several potholes and requested that the road be improved as soon as possible. Mr. Ford stated that crews will come out to inspect the road and advised that the project may be advertised for bids this summer.

ORDINANCE NO. 4378

AN ORDINANCE TO OFFICIALLY ACCEPT .08 MILE OF GARY REX CIRCLE, LOCATED IN SECTION 4, TOWNSHIP 18 NORTH, RANGE 12 WEST, BOSSIER PARISH, LA, INTO THE PARISH ROAD SYSTEM FOR PERMANENT MAINTENANCE.

BE IT ORDAINED by the Bossier Parish Police Jury, Bossier Parish, Louisiana, in regular and legal session convened on this 2<sup>nd</sup> day of February, 2011, that it does hereby accept .08 mile of Gary Rex Circle located in Section 4, Township 18 North, Range 12 West, Bossier Parish, LA, into the parish road system for permanent maintenance:

GARY REX CIRCLE- 0.08 mile

The ordinance was offered by Mr. Butler, seconded by Mr. Benton. Upon vote, it was duly adopted on this 2<sup>nd</sup> day of February, 2011.

CINDY A. DODSON  
PARISH SECRETARY

RICK AVERY, PRESIDENT  
BOSSIER PARISH POLICE JURY

\*\*\*

**Motion was made by Mr. Cochran, seconded by Mr. Darby, to approve the Certificate of Substantial Completion of the computer room air conditioning and cooling tower addition at the Bossier Parish Courthouse, and to authorize the President to execute documents.**

The President called for public comment. There being none, **votes were cast and the motion carried unanimously.**

RESOLUTION

BE IT RESOLVED by the Bossier Parish Police Jury in regular and legal session on this 2<sup>nd</sup> day of February, 2011, that it does hereby approve the Certificate of Substantial Completion of the computer room air conditioning and cooling tower addition at the Bossier Parish Courthouse.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Rick Avery, President, be and is hereby authorized to execute any and all documents in connection with said Certificate of Substantial Completion.

The resolution was offered by Mr. Cochran, seconded by Mr. Darby. Upon unanimous vote, it was duly adopted on this 2<sup>nd</sup> day of February, 2011.

CINDY A. DODSON  
PARISH SECRETARY

RICK AVERY, PRESIDENT  
BOSSIER PARISH POLICE JURY

\*\*\*

**Motion was made by Mr. Meachum, seconded by Mr. Plummer, to approve Plan Change No. 1 on the Poole Road Improvements Project No. 2010-280, and to authorize the President to execute documents.**

The President called for public comment. There being none, **votes were cast and the motion carried unanimously.**

RESOLUTION

BE IT RESOLVED by the Bossier Parish Police Jury in regular and legal session on this 2<sup>nd</sup> day of February, 2011, that it does hereby approve Plan Change No. 1 on the Poole Road Improvements Project No. 2010-280.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Rick Avery, President, is hereby authorized to execute said Plan Change No. 1.

The resolution was offered by Mr. Meachum, seconded by Mr. Plummer. Upon unanimous vote, it was duly adopted on this 5<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2011.

CINDY A. DODSON  
PARISH SECRETARY

RICK AVERY, PRESIDENT  
BOSSIER PARISH POLICE JURY

\*\*\*

Mr. Ford presented photos of the Poole Road bridge replacement project, advising that the project is near completion. He stated that oil companies may begin using the bridge in the next 15 to 20 days to access oil well locations.

\*\*\*

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

\*\*\*

Mr. Altimus provided an update on the new energy efficient air conditioning system at the penal farm, advising that grant funds in the amount of \$129,000 were received for the project. Mr. Jeff Brammer, Assistant Purchasing Agent, presented photographs of the new units. Mr. Altimus stated that new table tops and seats are in place, and advised that the dorms have been repainted.

\*\*\*

Mr. Altimus provided a report on the Lake Bistineau Task Force, advising that salvinia eradication is continuing. He stated that a permitting system is being considered that will allow the harvesting of cypress trees in the lake. Mr. Altimus stated that this will also allow the digging of canals for boat access. He stated that a program is being considered which will allow landowners to spray the salvinia.

\*\*\*

Mr. Altimus reminded jurors of the upcoming Police Jury Association Annual Convention to be held at the Shreveport Convention Center on February 17<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>.

\*\*\*

Mr. Altimus reported that the 2010 census numbers are expected shortly, and advised that three proposals for redistricting services have been received. He stated that he has received the proposal of Precision Cartographics in the amount of \$22,000, the proposal of Geographic Planning in the amount of \$25,000, and a proposal from Data Center which does not include cost information. Mr. Altimus advised that the matter of accepting a proposal for redistricting services will be placed on the February 16, 2011, agenda for consideration.

\*\*\*

Mr. Altimus reported that the Police Jury Association has advised that there will be joint public meetings of the House and Senate Governmental Affairs Committees to receive input from citizens relative to the redrawing of the Legislative, Congressional, Public Service Commission, Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, Supreme Court and Courts of Appeals election districts. He stated that a meeting is scheduled for this area on Monday, February 28, 2011, at 6:00 p.m. at the Louisiana State Exhibit Museum Auditorium on Greenwood Road, and recommended that jurors attend.

\*\*\*

Mr. Ford reported that the Department of Transportation and Development has advised that the Swan Lake Road bridge is in need of additional repairs and has ordered that the load limit be reduced to three tons immediately. He stated that the damage is due to heavy loads on the bridge and advised that the bridge will be closed Saturday for repairs and reopen on Sunday. Mr. Ford advised that there are currently four bridges in south Bossier Parish in need of repairs, stating that the Elston Road bridge will be closed Monday for repairs. He stated that once the Elston Road bridge has been repaired, they will move to Caplis Sligo Road bridge, Red Chute bridge and Smith Road bridge. Mr. Ford advised

that the next 30 to 60 days will be spent repairing bridges. Mr. Altimus stated that damages to the bridges are the result of heavy truck traffic and requested that the areas be policed by the Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Unit. Mr. Jackson stated that five bridges in Bossier Parish have been significantly damaged by overweight truck traffic.

\*\*\*

Mr. Ford advised of a log truck accident in Plain Dealing, reporting that the log truck rolled over while turning into the yard off Industrial Drive. He stated that the Sheriff's Department advised that three weeks earlier a log truck flipped over at this same location. Mr. Ford stated that Mr. Craig, Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Officer, was called to the scene to inspect the truck, and the driver was cited for unsafe vehicle.

\*\*\*

Mr. Ford reported on repairs to a sewer manhole at the intersection of Airline Drive and Wemple Road and related traffic problems. He advised that the sewer manhole has been replaced and the parish will provide the repairs to the road. Mr. Ford stated that with the closure of the Swan Lake Road bridge on Saturday, there may be additional traffic problems. It was requested that a deputy with the Bossier Sheriff's Department be asked to work at this intersection to help direct traffic during the morning rush hour.

\*\*\*

Mr. Ford reported on the Ivan Lake Dam pipe replacement project, advising that due to wet weather conditions, the contractor is unable to work and has requested that the parish stop contract time until weather conditions improve. He stated that he has agreed to stop the contract time effective January 15, 2011, and advised that an item will be placed on the February 16, 2011, agenda to ratify approval of a plan change in connection with the requested time change.

\*\*\*

Mr. Ford advised that the Department of Transportation and Development has submitted a letter regarding the intersection of Sligo Road and Highway 71. He stated that Brown Builders is proceeding with the construction of a new street network that will tie Sligo Road to the Golden Meadows Subdivision. Mr. Ford stated that DOTD has requested that the parish assist in making safety improvements on Sligo Road in the vicinity of this new access connection. He stated that it is requested that the parish remove the raised concrete island at the access connection and extend the storage capacity of the westbound right turn lane. Mr. Ford stated that the new access connection would then become a normal stop controlled intersection without the raised island. He stated that the estimated cost of the work is approximately \$50,000 to \$60,000.

\*\*\*

Mr. Ronnie Andrews, Public Works Director, presented an update on activities of the highway department and on several road projects in the parish. He advised of the request of Mr. Walter Ward for the parish's assistance in clearing trees from the ditch along the Arkansas Line Road in an effort to improve drainage in the area. He stated that the trees are located within the parish right-of-way, and advised that a telephone line is located underneath. After further discussion, Mr. Andrews is to obtain a cost estimate for removing the trees and for relocation of the phone line, for review at the February 16, 2011, regular meeting.

\*\*\*

Mr. Andrews presented photographs of a sink hole near the Reserve Apartments on Airline Drive and advised that parish crews are working to correct the problem.

\*\*\*

Mr. Altimus advised that the jury needs to submit its recommendations for appointments to the Human Services District, and requested that names be provided for consideration. He stated that Mr. Craig Spohn has been recommended for appointment and is willing to serve, and advised that the jury may submit two additional names to the Governor for consideration.

\*\*\*

Mr. Jackson provided an update on the Arthur Ray Teague Parkway project, advising that the archeological matter has been resolved. He stated that it has been determined the project will have no impact on the archeological find.

\*\*\*

There being no further business to come before the Bossier Parish Police Jury in regular and legal session on this 2<sup>nd</sup> day of February, 2011, the meeting was adjourned by the President at 3:31 p.m.

CINDY A. DODSON  
PARISH SECRETARY

RICK AVERY, PRESIDENT  
BOSSIER PARISH POLICE JURY