

BOSSIER PARISH POLICE JURY
BENTON, LOUISIANA
MINUTES
January 4, 2012
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The Bossier Parish Police Jury met in regular and legal session on the 4th day of January, 2012, 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 all members present, 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. 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.

Mr. Avery presented plaques of appreciation to outgoing members of the police jury. Mr. Butler, Mr. Cummings, Mr. Meachum, Mr. Altimus and Mr. Johnston were recognized for their years of service on the police jury.

Mr. Craig Spohn, Cyber Innovation Center, presented each outgoing juror with a hand drawn depiction of the Cyber Innovation Center and thanked them for their support in the successful completion of the Cyber Innovation Center in Bossier Parish.

Mr. Butch Ford, Parish Engineer, presented each outgoing jury member with a cell key from the old parish jail that was located on the fifth floor of the courthouse prior to completion of the maximum security jail facility.

Ms. Dodson announced the public hearing to consider approval of the plat of the proposed development of St. Charles Court Village Subdivision, Unit No. 3, located in Section 20, Township 19 North, Range 13 West, Bossier Parish, LA.

Mr. Ford recommended approval of the plat, advising that it has also been approved by the Bossier City-Parish Metropolitan Planning Commission.

There being no opposition, **motion was made by Mr. Butler, seconded by Mr. Cochran, to approve the plat of the proposed development of St. Charles Court Village Subdivision, Unit No. 3, located in Section 20, Township 19 North, Range 13 West, Bossier Parish, LA.**

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

Ms. Dodson announced the public hearing to consider approval of the plat of the proposed development of Kingston Plantation Subdivision, Unit No. 4, located in Section 17, Township 19 North, Range 13 West, Bossier Parish, LA.

Mr. Warren Moore, Total Properties, Inc., stated that the proposed development consists of 43 lots, and is a continuation of the existing subdivision. He stated that large lots with curb and gutter streets are proposed, and advised that sidewalks and streetlights are planned. Mr. Moore stated that the proposed development will be supplied with city water and sewer. Mr. Ford stated that the Benton-Parish Metropolitan Planning Commission has approved a preliminary plat for the proposed development, but has never received the final plat. Ms. Nancy Penwell, Benton-Parish Metropolitan Planning Commission, stated that upon receipt and execution of the final plat by the MPC, she will forward it to Mr. Ford for his signature.

There being no opposition, **motion was made by Ms. Bennett, seconded by Mr. Hammack, to approve the plat of the proposed development of Kingston Plantation Subdivision, Unit No. 4, located in Section 17, Township 19 North, Range 13 West, Bossier Parish, LA, subject to receipt and approval of the final plat by the Benton-Parish Metropolitan Planning Commission and by the Parish Engineer.**

The President called for public comment. Mr. Altimus asked the status of lot sales in Kingston Plantation Subdivision. Mr. Moore stated that sales are going very well, advising that most lots are sold prior to completion of the streets in the development. He stated that most new residents are relocating to Kingston Plantation from other subdivisions in the parish. Mr. Moore stated that there have been no traffic safety issues at the entrance to this subdivision.

Votes were cast and the motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Dodson announced the public hearing to consider an increase in the amount of compensation paid to members of the Bossier Parish Police Jury in accordance with LA R.S. 33:1233.

Mr. Cochran stated in accordance with LA R.S. 33:1233, the police jury is authorized to provide for the amount of compensation paid to its members, and recommended that an increase in juror compensation from \$1,200 to \$1,600 per month be approved. He stated that legislation provides that a police jury is required to advertise in the official journal of the parish on at least two separate occasions within a period of fifteen days preceding the public hearing, and that those requirements have been met. Mr. Avery stated that he will not support an increase in juror compensation at this time.

Mr. Butler stated that an increase in compensation paid to jurors should have been discussed during the 2012 budget proceedings.

After further discussion, **motion was made by Mr. Cochran, seconded by Mr. Hammack, to approve an increase in the amount of compensation paid to members of the Bossier Parish Police Jury from \$1,200 per month to \$1,600 per month, effective January 18, 2012, in accordance with LA R.S. 33:1233.**

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

AYES: Ms. Bennett, Mr. Butler, Mr. Cochran, Mr. Cummings, Mr. Darby, Mr. Hammack, Mr. Johnston, Mr. Plummer.

NAYS: Mr. Altimus, Mr. Avery, Mr. Benton, Mr. Meachum

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

ORDINANCE NO. 4419

AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING THE METHOD AND AMOUNT OF COMPENSATION PAID TO MEMBERS OF THE BOSSIER PARISH POLICE JURY

BE IT ORDAINED by the Bossier Parish Police Jury that under the authority of LA R.S. 33:1233, as amended by Act No. 356 of the 2008 Regular Session, the Bossier Parish Police Jury is authorized to provide for the method and amount of compensation paid to its members;

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED by the Bossier Parish Police Jury that after public notice published in the Official Journal of the Parish on December 28, 2011, and December 30, 2011, and after open public hearing held on January 4, 2012, the Bossier Parish Police Jury adopts the following ordinance providing for the method and amount of compensation paid to members of the Bossier Parish Police Jury;

SECTION I. COMPENSATION BY SALARY

The Bossier Parish Police Jury hereby establishes the compensation paid to each member of the Bossier Parish Police Jury on a salary basis of One Thousand Six Hundred and no/100 (\$1,600.00) Dollars per month.

SECTION II. REPEAL OF CONFLICTING ORDINANCES

All ordinances or resolutions or parts thereof in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

SECTION III. SEVERABILITY

Should any part of this ordinance be declared null, void, invalid, illegal or unconstitutional, the remainder of the said ordinance shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION IV. EFFECTIVE DATE

This ordinance shall become effective January 18, 2012.

The ordinance was offered by Mr. Cochran, seconded by Mr. Hammack. It was duly adopted on this 4th day of January, 2012, with the following vote recorded:

AYES: Ms. Bennett, Mr. Butler, Mr. Cochran, Mr. Cummings, Mr. Darby, Mr. Hammack, Mr. Johnston, Mr. Plummer.

NAYS: Mr. Altimus, Mr. Avery, Mr. Benton, Mr. Meachum

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

CINDY A. DODSON
PARISH SECRETARY

RICK AVERY, PRESIDENT
BOSSIER PARISH POLICE JURY

Motion was made by Mr. Altimus, seconded by Mr. Benton, to schedule a public hearing on January 18, 2012, to consider approval of the Minor Plat of Survey for Glen Dale Harris, Rose Mary Harris, Pauline Harris White and Artis T. Harris, Jr., heirs of Artis T. Harris and Lessie B. Harris, located in Section 21, Township 21 North, Range 13 West, Bossier Parish, LA.

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

Motion was made by Ms. Bennett, seconded by Mr. Plummer, to accept the proposal of Cook & Morehart, Certified Public Accountants, for audit of Bossier Parish Police Jury financial records for the year 2011.

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

Motion was made by Mr. Johnston, seconded by Mr. Hammack, to approve the reappointment of Ms. Gloria Perry, Ms. Ann Young, and Ms. Sandra Bounds to the Ivan Fire District No. 3 Board of Commissioners for two-year terms each, terms to expire December 31, 2013.

The President called for public comment. There being none, **votes were cast and the motion carried unanimously.** Mr. Avery requested that letters of appreciation be sent to Ms. Perry, Ms. Young, and Ms. Bounds for their years of service and willingness to continue to serve on the Ivan Fire District No. 3 Board of Commissioners.

Ms. Bennett stated that at the December 7, 2011, regular meeting, the police jury discussed placing a hold on the issuance of any further building permits in Family Estates Subdivision until several issues in the subdivision are resolved. She stated that a resident has constructed a home at Lot 8 and has not installed the required sidewalks. Ms. Bennett stated that a Certificate of Occupancy has never been issued for this house. She further stated that restrictive covenants for Family Estates Subdivision were never filed.

Ms. Bennett stated that no official action was taken by the jury on December 7, 2011, to prohibit the issuance of any further building permits in Family Estates Subdivision, and requested that the jury do so until these issues are resolved. She stated that in 2004, the police jury approved the plat of Family Estates Subdivision with conditions that sidewalks and streetlights would be installed by the homeowner of each lot when a home was built.

Mr. Johnny Rambo, 124 Family Circle, stated that his grandfather donated 22.5 acres of land off Linton Road to his grandchildren for a family subdivision. He stated that at the time of the donation, plats were provided that included sidewalks. Mr. Rambo stated that covenants were also provided, but never filed. He stated that a family member has sold a portion of her lots, and the owner of Lot 8 has constructed a home and has not installed the required sidewalk. Mr. Rambo stated that all other homeowners in the development have installed the required sidewalks. He stated that the owner moved into the home at Lot 8, 123 Family Circle, without first obtaining a Certificate of Occupancy.

Mr. Rambo stated that the owner of Lot 8 has placed a building on the property without obtaining the required permit. He further stated that there is a large pile of construction debris and debris from trees located directly behind the home and he wants this removed in accordance with parish property standards regulations. Mr. Rambo stated that the owner of Lot 8 has placed the sewer treatment plant for his residence in the front of the home. He stated that all other treatment plants within the subdivision are located behind the homes.

Mr. Steve Brown, owner of Lot 9, Family Estates Subdivision, discussed an existing detention pond on his property, advising that he has contacted an architect regarding possible improvements to enlarge the pond and make it more attractive. He stated that he is hesitant to proceed with his plans since no covenants have been filed for this subdivision, and due to the unresolved issues at 123 Family Circle. Mr. Rambo expressed his concern regarding a pond in the subdivision.

Mr. Patrick Jackson, Parish Attorney, stated that he has exhausted all avenues in resolving the issues with the homeowners of 123 Family Circle, and recommended that the jury authorize him to pursue legal action against Brandon and Kathleen Alsabrook, 123 Family Circle, Benton, LA, in the matter of subdivision regulation violations for their failure to install a sidewalk, streetlights and obtain a Certificate of Occupancy prior to inhabiting the home located at 123 Family Circle, Benton, LA.

Motion was made by Ms. Bennett, seconded by Mr. Hammack, to ratify placement of a hold on building permits in all approved units of Family Estates Subdivision, as well as in any new additional units, and authorize the Parish Attorney to pursue legal action against Brandon and Kathleen Alsabrook, 123 Family Circle, Benton, LA, in the matter of subdivision regulation violations at 123 Family Circle, Benton, LA.

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

Ms. Bennett requested that Mr. Rambo provide a list of the names of all property owners in Family Estates Subdivision, as well as a copy of the covenants.

Motion was made by Mr. Altimus, seconded by Mr. Benton, to approve a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement by and between the Webster Parish Police Jury and the Bossier Parish Police Jury, for assistance with funding to construct a parking lot and pad for fire fighter training at Pine Country Education Center, Minden, LA, including labor and equipment needed, and to authorize the Parish Administrator to execute documents.

The President called for public comment. There being none, **votes were cast and the motion carried unanimously.** Mr. Andrews presented photographs of the parking lot construction project at Pine Country Education Center, Minden, LA.

RESOLUTION

BE IT RESOLVED by the Bossier Parish Police Jury in regular and legal session on this 4th day of January, 2012, that it does hereby approve the Cooperative Endeavor Agreement by and between the Webster Parish Police Jury and the Bossier Parish Police Jury, for assistance with funding to construct a parking lot and pad for fire fighter training at Pine Country Education Center, Minden, LA, including labor and equipment needed.

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 Cooperative Endeavor Agreement.

The resolution was offered by Mr. Altimus, seconded by Mr. Benton. Upon unanimous vote, it was duly adopted on this 4th day of January, 2012.

CINDY A. DODSON
PARISH SECRETARY

RICK AVERY, PRESIDENT
BOSSIER PARISH POLICE JURY

Mr. Larry Landry, Director of Public Utilities, presented a proposal from Cothren, Graff, Smoak Engineering, Inc., in the amount of \$8,000 for a water system capacity analysis of Red Chute Utilities. Mr. Landry stated that \$300,000 has been budgeted for additional water improvements and advised that this expense is within the project budget. He recommended approval of the proposal. **Motion was made by Mr. Benton, seconded by Mr. Hammack, to accept the proposal of Cothren, Graff, Smoak Engineering, Inc., in the amount of \$8,000 for a water system capacity analysis of the Red Chute Water System.**

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

Mr. Jackson stated that Mr. and Mrs. Steve Petchak purchased a home located at 103 Glendale Lane, Haughton, LA, in Country Place Subdivision. Mr. Jackson stated that it appears that the home was built over a drainage pipe and that a joint in the pipe broke at some time in the last 30 years causing the soil to become unstable and damage the foundation of the home. Mr. Jackson stated that Mr. and Ms. Petchak purchased the home with no knowledge of the home being built over the drainage pipe, and the foundation damage became apparent during their ownership of the home. He stated that it is the public's position that it should not be held responsible for the loss to the Petchak's because the public did not construct the home, nor did the public have any knowledge of this issue. Mr. Jackson stated that it is the recommendation of the insurance company that the settlement be accepted.

Motion was made by Mr. Hammack, seconded by Mr. Cochran, to accept a settlement in the matter of Steve and Melanie Petchak vs. Bossier Parish Police Jury, Cause No. 120,576, 26th Judicial District Court, Bossier Parish, LA, and to authorize an expenditure of \$40,000 for the police jury's portion of the purchase of the Petchak home located at 103 Glendale Lane, Haughton, LA.

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

An open house for the new visitor's center at the Red River National Wildlife Refuge is scheduled at 1:15 p.m. on January 11, 2012.

Mr. Altimus presented a report from Green Waste Consulting showing that 7,343 pounds of recycled products have been collected from the recycling bins located behind the courthouse. He stated that Cypress Black Bayou has expressed interest in beginning a recycling program.

Mr. Avery recognized members of the audience, Mr. Keith Norwood and Ms. Sonja Bailes, Bossier Parish School Board, and Dr. Shelly Barrett, Principal of Meadowview Elementary School.

Mr. Butch Ford, Parish Engineer, provided an update on the proposed park in South Bossier, advising that Coyle Engineering, Inc., has begun preparation of a plat for the proposed park.

Mr. Ford provided an update on the Bellevue Road Improvements project.

Mr. Ford provided an update on the Arthur Ray Teague Parkway Extension project, advising that sand is being pumped from the Red River for construction of the Sligo Road Extension Project.

Mr. Ford reported that a meeting is scheduled at 10:00 a.m. on January 5, 2012, to discuss right-of-way and utilities for parish projects planned in the year 2012.

Mr. Ford reported that a meeting is scheduled at 2:00 p.m. on January 5, 2012, to discuss the Consolidated Waterworks/Sewerage District No. 1, Parish of Bossier.

Mr. Ronnie Andrews, Public Works Director, presented an update on activities of the highway department and on several road projects in the parish.

Mr. Cochran requested an update on the installation of reflective directional signs to the prison complex. Mr. Andrews stated that he will contact the state to discuss this matter.

Jurors expressed well wishes to the outgoing police jury members.

Mr. Jackson expressed appreciation and well wishes to the outgoing police jurors.

There being no further business to come before the Bossier Parish Police Jury in regular and legal session on this 4th day of January, 2012, the meeting was adjourned by the President at 3:05 p.m.

CINDY A. DODSON
PARISH SECRETARY

RICK AVERY, PRESIDENT
BOSSIER PARISH POLICE JURY