

BOSSIER PARISH POLICE JURY
BENTON, LOUISIANA
MINUTES
May 20, 2015
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The Bossier Parish Police Jury met in regular and legal session on the 20th day of May, 2015, at 2:00 p.m., in the Police Jury Meeting Room, Bossier Parish Courthouse, Benton, Louisiana. The President, Mr. Jack Skaggs, called the meeting to order. The invocation was given by Ms. Wanda Bennett, and the pledge of allegiance was led by Mr. Glenn Benton. The Parish Treasurer, Ms. Sheryl Thomas, called the roll, with all members present, as follows:

Mr. Rick Avery	Mr. Jerome Darby
Ms. Wanda Bennett	Mr. Wayne Hammack
Mr. Glenn Benton	Mr. Mac Plummer
Mr. Bob Brotherton	Mr. Doug Rimmer
Mr. Jimmy Cochran	Mr. Fred Shewmake
Mr. Sonny Cook	Mr. Jack Skaggs

Others present were Mr. Bill Altimus, Parish Administrator; Mr. Joe E. "Butch" Ford, Jr., Parish Engineer; Ms. Rachel Hauser, Parish Secretary.

Motion was made by Mr. Plummer, seconded by Ms. Bennett, to adopt the minutes of the April 1, 2015, and April 15, 2015, regular meetings, and the April 15, 2015, Finance Committee meeting, as published.

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

Ms. Thomas announced the public hearing to consider approval of the plat of the proposed development of Faith Estates Subdivision, Unit No. 1, located in Section 28, Township 19 North, Range 11 West, Bossier Parish, LA.

Ms. Michan Holbrook, Coyle Engineering Co., Inc., stated that the proposed development is located off Highway 157, and will consist of 19 lots ranging in size from 1.5 to 2.3 acres each. Mr. Ford stated that the proposed development is located outside the jurisdiction of the Bossier City-Parish Metropolitan Planning Commission, advising that no sidewalks are required. He stated that streetlights will be located on electric poles along the proposed Daley Drive.

Mr. Ford stated that the Department of Transportation and Development has approved access to the proposed development from Highway 157. He stated that a drainage plan has been received and reviewed, and advised that a detention pond and individual sewer treatment plants are planned. Mr. Ford stated that the proposed development will be served by Village Water System. He stated that open ditch drainage is planned.

Mr. Ford stated that subdivision covenants have been reviewed, and advised that homes will be stick-built homes with a minimum size requirement of 2,000 square feet.

Mr. Benton expressed concern regarding a turnaround at the end of the proposed Daley Drive for school buses and emergency vehicles. Ms. Holbrook stated that the developer plans to construct a temporary turnaround at the end of Daley Drive. Mr. Benton requested that the turnaround be included on the plat. Mr. Ford recommended that a letter of intent be requested from the developer indicating that he will install a temporary 85-foot turnaround with a 42.5-foot radius at the end of Daley Drive, with the intention to construct a permanent cul-de-sac in the future.

Mr. Avery requested that a specific type of streetlight be requested for the proposed development to provide proper lighting to ensure the safety of the residents.

There being no objection, **motion was made by Mr. Cook, seconded by Mr. Benton, to approve the plat of the proposed development of Faith Estates Subdivision, Unit No. 1, located in Section 28, Township 19 North, Range 11 West, Bossier Parish, LA, subject to receipt of a letter of intent from the developer for the construction of a temporary turnaround and the requested specific streetlights to ensure the safety of the residents in the proposed subdivision.**

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

Ms. Thomas announced the public hearing to consider approval of the plat of the proposed development of King Woods Subdivision, Unit No. 1, located in Section 26, Township 20 North, Range 12 West, Bossier Parish, LA.

Mr. Charlie Coyle, Coyle Engineering Co., Inc., stated that the proposed development is located off Linton Bellevue Road, and will consist of 13 lots ranging in size from four to nine acres each. He stated that the homes will be stick-built homes with a minimum size requirement of 1,800 square feet. Mr. Coyle stated that individual treatment plants and water wells are planned.

Mr. Ford stated that the proposed development is located outside the jurisdiction of the Benton-Parish Metropolitan Planning Commission, advising that no sidewalks are required. He stated that subdivision covenants have been received, and streetlights will be located on electric poles on Linton Bellevue Road.

Mr. Ford submitted a request from the developer for a variance of parish regulations requiring a detention pond for the proposed development. He recommended approval of the requested waiver, stating that the proposed development will not adversely affect the drainage in this area.

Mr. Skaggs expressed concern of continued development in this area and the potential need to improve Linton Bellevue Road in the future. He asked if it would be feasible to request the developer to donate right-of-way for future widening of Linton Bellevue Road. Mr. Ford stated that he does not foresee any needed improvements on Linton Bellevue Road in the next 10 years.

There being no objection, **motion was made by Ms. Bennett, seconded by Mr. Rimmer, to approve the plat of the proposed development of King Woods Subdivision, Unit No. 1, located in Section 26, Township 20 North, Range 12 West, Bossier Parish, LA, and to waive parish regulations for the requirement of a detention pond as requested.**

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

Ms. Thomas announced the public hearing to consider approval of the plat of the proposed development of the Roby Road Right-of-Way Dedication, located in Section 28, Township 20 North, Range 13 West, Bossier Parish, LA.

Mr. Keith Norwood, Bossier Parish Schools, stated that residents living behind Benton Elementary School have accessed their homes via Roby Drive located on the west side of the school, which serves as a car line for student drop-off and pick-up at the school. He stated that the parish has provided some maintenance to Roby Drive. Mr. Norwood stated that a concrete driveway exists on the east side of the school which was constructed in 1999, and the school board is requesting that the driveway be improved to meet parish standards, with the proposed Roby Road being dedicated to the public for permanent maintenance once complete. He stated that the proposed Roby Road will provide access at all times to residents living behind the school.

Mr. Ford stated that the Department of Transportation and Development has approved access to the proposed Roby Road from Highway 162. He stated that the school board will also be making drainage improvements in this area during construction of the roadway. Mr. Ford stated that it is planned that construction of the proposed Roby Road will be completed prior to the beginning of the 2015-2016 school year.

Mr. Norwood stated that there is a possibility of dedicating Roby Drive to the public in the future.

There being no objection, **motion was made by Ms. Bennett, seconded by Mr. Shewmake, to approve the plat of the proposed development of the Roby Road Right-of-Way Dedication, located in Section 28, Township 20 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. Darby, to schedule a public hearing on June 17, 2015, to consider approval of the plat of the proposed development of Summerset Estates Subdivision, located in Section 20, Township 20 North, Range 12 West, Bossier Parish, LA.

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

Mr. David Ghormley, Property Standards Officer, reported on a meeting of the Property Standards Board of Review, advising that it is recommended that a condemnation hearing be scheduled to consider condemnation of property at 209 Mill Creek Lane, Haughton, LA, property described as a 28.244-acre tract of land located behind Haymeadow Subdivision, Tax Assessment No. 165133, and on property at 476 Bodcau Spur Road, Haughton, LA, Tax Assessment No. 115059.

Motion was made by Mr. Benton, seconded by Mr. Brotherton, to schedule a condemnation hearing on June 3, 2015, to consider condemnation of property at 209 Mill Creek Lane, Haughton, 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. Shewmake, to schedule a condemnation hearing on June 3, 2015, to consider condemnation of property described as a 28.244-acre tract of land located behind Haymeadow Subdivision, Tax Assessment No. 165133.

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

Motion was made by Mr. Avery, seconded by Mr. Rimmer, to schedule a condemnation hearing on June 3, 2015, to consider condemnation of property at 476 Bodcau Spur Road, Haughton, LA, Tax Assessment No. 115059.

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

Mr. Ghormley stated that the Property Standards Board of Review has recommended that property located at 264 East Ridge Drive, Benton, LA, be referred to the Parish Attorney due to the matter of a business being operated from the home. He stated that this property was previously condemned by the police jury on March 19, 2014, and it was discovered that the renters living in the home were operating a business at this location. Mr. Ghormley stated that the property is again in violation of property standards regulations, and a business is still being operated from this home.

After further discussion, **motion was made by Ms. Bennett, seconded by Mr. Brotherton, to refer the matter of a business being operated from a home located at 264 East Ridge Drive, Benton, LA, to the Parish Attorney for further review, as recommended.**

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

Mr. Benton, Chairman of the Road/Subdivision Regulations Committee, reported on a meeting of that committee, advising that he, Mr. Avery, Mr. Brotherton, Mr. Plummer, and Mr. Shewmake were present. He stated that Mr. Ford, Mr. Sam Marsiglia, Mr. Pat Culverhouse, Mr. Larry Landry, Mr. Ghormley, and Mr. Mark Coutee were also present. Other jurors present were Mr. Cook and Mr. Rimmer.

Mr. Benton stated that the committee discussed requests for eight-foot fences. He stated that the Benton-Parish MPC only allows for a seven-foot fence. Mr. Benton stated that the committee also discussed issues pertaining to fencing setback regulations. Mr. Benton stated that these matters are to be further discussed by the Road/Subdivision Regulations Committee.

Mr. Ford stated that he provided a report to the committee regarding bridge closures and repairs in Bossier Parish. He stated that due to high water, most of the scheduled bridge repairs are delayed until the water recedes.

Mr. Ford reported that Smith Road Bridge is to be inspected due to a report of a sag in the bridge. He also stated that once improvements are complete on Young Road Bridge, improvements on Pump Station Road Bridge will begin.

Mr. Ford reported that occasionally the Bossier Parish School Board requests assistance from the police jury to install or refurbish bus turnarounds. He stated that there are certain procedures that must be followed for this type of request, including the parish obtaining a right-of-entry to work on private property. Mr. Ford stated that a memorandum will be submitted to the jurors pertaining to the required procedures. Mr. Benton requested that a strong base be required for all turnarounds to ensure that buses, emergency vehicles, and other heavy vehicles can easily access the turnaround.

Mr. Ford reported that guardrails were not installed on a bridge that was built several years ago in the Town of Haughton. He stated that costs are being obtained for the installation of guardrails, which will be submitted to the Town of Haughton, and a request will then be made that guardrails be installed immediately.

Mr. Ford reported that DOTD has requested plans from the parish to improve two bridges located in the Town of Plain Dealing. He stated that it has been determined that the two bridges, as well as the roadway, belong to the State of Louisiana and have never been accepted by the Town of Plain Dealing. He stated that he has submitted this information to DOTD for consideration.

Mr. Altimus reported that a meeting is scheduled tomorrow at 2:00 p.m., with representatives of Bossier Parish Homeland Security to discuss potential flooding of the Red River due to the continued rainfall north of Louisiana.

Mr. Ford stated that he is monitoring River Bluff Subdivision due to the current erosion issues on the riverbank. He advised that the State is monitoring the riverbank near Highway 537 where the Red River is shifting toward the roadway.

Mr. Ford presented a request from Mr. Josh Huddleston, 761 Caplis Sligo Road, for a variance of parish regulations to allow a metal building to be placed below the base flood elevation. Mr. Huddleston was not present at today's meeting.

Mr. Ford stated that Mr. Huddleston was required to place approximately four to five feet of fill dirt to build the newly constructed home one foot above the base flood elevation. He stated that Mr. Huddleston has requested approval to build a 30' x 40' metal building below the base flood elevation. Mr. Ford stated that FEMA guidelines do allow construction of a metal building below the base flood elevation, but the building must be flood proofed by an architect or engineer.

After further discussion, **motion was made by Mr. Brotherton, seconded by Mr. Cook, to deny the request for a variance of parish regulations to allow a metal building to be constructed below the base flood elevation at 761 Caplis Sligo Road, Bossier City, LA.**

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

Motion was made by Mr. Rimmer, seconded by Mr. Shewmake, to adopt a resolution supporting Wintech International, LLC, 5020 Hazel Jones Road, Bossier City, LA, and allowing them to receive the local benefits of the Quality Jobs Program.

The President called for public comment. There being none, **votes were cast and the motion carried, with Mr. Cochran opposing.**

RESOLUTION

A RESOLUTION STATING THE BOSSIER PARISH POLICE JURY'S ENDORSEMENT OF WINTECH INTERNATIONAL, LLC, TO PARTICIPATE IN THE BENEFITS OF THE LOUISIANA QUALITY JOBS PROGRAM

WHEREAS, the sales/use tax rebates for the Quality Jobs Program are governed by §51.1787 (Louisiana Enterprise Zone Program); and

WHEREAS, the Quality Jobs Program offers significant incentives for economic development in the State; and

WHEREAS, the business is located within Census Tract 111.09, Block Group 3 in Bossier Parish which is designated as Enterprise Zone eligible; and

WHEREAS, the Bossier Parish Police Jury states that this endorsement is in agreement with the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy for their area; and

WHEREAS, the **attached Census Tract/Block Group map** has been marked to show the location of the business being endorsed; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with the Louisiana Quality Job Program requirements, the Bossier Parish Police Jury agrees:

1. To participate in the Quality Jobs Program.
2. To assist the Department in evaluating progress made in any Enterprise Zone within its jurisdiction.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Bossier Parish Police Jury in regular and legal session convened on this 20th day of May, 2015, and endorses Wintech International, LLC, Quality Job Application #20150260, to participate in the Louisiana Quality Jobs Program.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all resolutions or parts thereof in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

The resolution was offered by Mr. Rimmer, seconded by Mr. Shewmake. Upon vote, it was duly adopted on this 20th day of May, 2015.

RACHEL D. HAUSER
PARISH SECRETARY

JACK SKAGGS, PRESIDENT
BOSSIER PARISH POLICE JURY

Motion was made by Mr. Benton, seconded by Mr. Brotherton, to adopt a resolution proclaiming May 22, 2015, as National Maritime Day.

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

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, on May 22, 1819, the steamship *The Savannah* set sail from Savannah, Georgia, on the first successful transoceanic voyage under steam propulsion, thus making a material contribution to the advancement of ocean transportation; and

WHEREAS, on May 20, 1933, the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled and approved that May 22 of each year shall be designated and known as National Maritime Day; and

WHEREAS, during WW II in what became the world's largest sealift operation, more than 250,000 members of the American Merchant Marine served their country, with more than 6,700 giving their lives, hundreds being detained as prisoners of war and more than 800 ships being sunk or damaged; and

WHEREAS, waterways have enabled much of the commerce that has expanded America's economy, sprouted cities near waterways and facilitated vast domestic and international commerce crucial to our economy today; and

WHEREAS, merchant mariners have served America with distinction throughout our history, but especially at critical moments of war and natural disaster; and

WHEREAS, the United States Merchant Marine and thousands of other workers in our Nation's maritime industry continue to make immeasurable contributions to our economic strength and our ongoing efforts to build a more peaceful world; and

WHEREAS, the United States Merchant Marine also shepherds the safe passage of American goods, move exports to customers around the world, support the flow of domestic commerce on our maritime highways, strengthen our Nation's economy, bolster job creation and, along with the transportation industry, employ Americans on ships and tugs, and in ports, like our Port of Caddo Bossier; and

WHEREAS, it is the desire of the Bossier Parish Police Jury to increase the awareness of the maritime industry within Bossier Parish.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Bossier Parish Police Jury joins the President of the United States of America in proclaiming May 22, 2015, as National Maritime Day and calls upon the citizens of Bossier Parish to celebrate this observance.

The resolution was offered by Mr. Benton, seconded by Mr. Brotherton. Upon unanimous vote, it was duly adopted on this 20th day of May, 2015.

RACHEL D. HAUSER
PARISH SECRETARY

JACK SKAGGS, PRESIDENT
BOSSIER PARISH POLICE JURY

Mr. Ford presented a proposal from Coyle Engineering Company, Inc., to provide platting and surveying services for drainage improvements at Destrehan Boulevard. He stated that drainage improvements in this area have been needed since 2003.

Mr. Ford stated that all drainage east of the Red River levee drains east beneath Highway 3 to Willow Chute Bayou. He stated that drainage from the new development off Destrehan Boulevard drains east through Plantation Estates Subdivision through a small diversion to Willow Chute Bayou. Mr. Ford stated that a property owner has agreed to donate property for drainage basins to be installed to improve drainage in this area. He stated that it is crucial that drainage issues in this area be resolved prior to the installation of a sewer force main for the sewer district.

After further discussion, **motion was made by Ms. Bennett, seconded by Mr. Rimmer, to accept the proposal of Coyle Engineering Company, Inc., in the amount of \$14,300 to provide platting and surveying services for drainage improvements at Destrehan Boulevard, and to authorize execution of 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 20th day of May, 2015, that Jack Skaggs, President, be and is hereby authorized to execute on behalf of the Bossier Parish Police Jury, any and all documents or contracts in connection with the proposal of Coyle Engineering Company, Inc., in the amount of \$14,300 to provide platting and surveying services for drainage improvements at Destrehan Boulevard.

The resolution was offered by Ms. Bennett, seconded by Mr. Rimmer. Upon unanimous vote, it was duly adopted on this 20th day of May, 2015.

RACHEL D. HAUSER
PARISH SECRETARY

JACK SKAGGS, PRESIDENT
BOSSIER PARISH POLICE JURY

Mr. Ford presented a proposal from Professional Service Industries, Inc., to plug and abandon two wells near the southeast corner of the intersection of Swan Lake Road and Modica Lott Road. He stated that two wells were located near a barn that was torn down by the parish at Modica Lott Road and Swan Lake Road in preparation for the North/South Corridor Project. He stated that the sewer force main for the sewer district will run through this area, and it will be required that the two wells be plugged and abandoned for that project.

Motion was made by Mr. Shewmake, seconded by Mr. Rimmer, to accept the proposal of Professional Service Industries, Inc., in the amount of \$3,350 to plug and abandon two wells near the southeast corner of the intersection of Swan Lake Road and Modica Lott Road, and to authorize execution of 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 20th day of May, 2015, that Jack Skaggs, President, be and is hereby authorized to execute on behalf of the Bossier Parish Police Jury, any and all documents or contracts in connection with the proposal of Professional Service Industries, Inc., in the amount of \$3,350 to plug and abandon two wells near the southeast corner of the intersection of Swan Lake Road and Modica Lott Road.

The resolution was offered by Mr. Shewmake, seconded by Mr. Rimmer. Upon unanimous vote, it was duly adopted on this 20th day of May, 2015.

RACHEL D. HAUSER
PARISH SECRETARY

JACK SKAGGS, PRESIDENT
BOSSIER PARISH POLICE JURY

Mr. Ford reported that several projects are delayed throughout the parish, including the Eastwood/Merrywoods Statewide Flood Control Project and the Kingston Road Improvements Project due to the weather.

Mr. Skaggs requested that the parish consider improving Swan Lake Road at Modica Lott Road to five lanes due to the continued development in this area. He stated that the road study done at this intersection did not require a traffic light, but the traffic in this area is a concern. Mr. Ford is to meet with the Bossier Parish School Board and the City of Bossier City to request their participation with the requested improvements.

Mr. Ford stated that Swan Lake Road is a parish road, but a portion of Modica Lott Road is located in the City of Bossier City. He stated that it is anticipated that the City of Bossier City will accept all of Modica Lott Road into its road system in the future.

Mr. Mark Coutee, Public Works Director, presented an update on activities of the highway department and on several road projects in the parish. He reported that one mile of the 2015 Road Overlay Program is now complete.

Mr. Cochran stated that there has been some concern as to how Obamacare's Cadillac Tax will affect parish employees' insurance. He stated that the new tax will not be in effect until the year 2018 if approved, but it has been determined that it will not affect the parish's employee health insurance.

Ms. Bennett reported on the rededication of the Central Station for Benton Fire District No. 4, stating that it was well attended.

Mr. Benton expressed appreciation to the fire districts for their assistance during the recent flooding.

Finance Committee Meeting – May 20, 2015, 1:30 p.m.

The Finance Committee of the Bossier Parish Police Jury met on this 20th day of May, 2015, at 1:30 p.m., in the Police Jury Meeting Room, Bossier Parish Courthouse, Benton, Louisiana, with all members present.

Motion was made by Mr. Cochran, seconded by Mr. Benton, to approve payment of accounts payable invoices in the amount of \$1,379.23 for the Johnny Gray Jones Youth Shelter for the month of April, 2015, as follows:

Area Wide	\$ 240.00
Bobby Brannon Heating & Air Conditioning	\$1,039.50
Emergency Power Systems	\$ 150.00
Fitzgerald Contractors, Inc.	\$ 249.73

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

Motion was made by Mr. Rimmer, seconded by Mr. Cochran, to approve payment of all other accounts payable invoices for the month of April, 2015.

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

Motion was made by Mr. Brotherton, seconded by Mr. Benton, that Mr. Brotherton will contribute discretionary funds in the amount of \$1,264, Mr. Rimmer will contribute discretionary funds in the amount of \$500, and Mr. Benton will contribute discretionary funds in the amount of \$764, for a total of \$2,528 in discretionary funds to Houghton High School for the purchase of two Promethean Activboards for the Math Department.

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

Motion was made by Mr. Cook, seconded by Mr. Rimmer, to approve the request of Plain Dealing High School for discretionary funds for the purchase of equipment and supplies for the track and field team, as follows:

Discretionary		Matching	
Mr. Cook	\$ 50	Mr. Cook	\$ 250
Ms. Bennett	\$ 125		
Mr. Cochran	\$ 250		
Mr. Rimmer	\$ 125		
Mr. Shewmake	\$ 200		
Mr. Benton	\$ 300		

Mr. Plummer	\$ 300
Mr. Brotherton	\$ 150
Total contribution:	\$1,750

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

The Finance Committee meeting was adjourned by the Chairman.

There being no further business to come before the Bossier Parish Police Jury in regular and legal session on this 20th day of May, 2015, the meeting was adjourned by the President at 2:53 p.m.

RACHEL D. HAUSER
PARISH SECRETARY

JACK SKAGGS, PRESIDENT
BOSSIER PARISH POLICE JURY