

BOSSIER PARISH POLICE JURY
BENTON, LOUISIANA
MINUTES
September 4, 2019
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The Bossier Parish Police Jury met in regular and legal session on the 4th day of September, 2019, at 2:00 p.m., in the Police Jury Meeting Room, Bossier Parish Courthouse, Benton, Louisiana. The President, Mr. Doug Rimmer, called the meeting to order. The invocation was given by Ms. Wanda Bennett, and the pledge of allegiance was led by Mr. Jimmy Cochran. The Parish Secretary, Ms. Rachel Hauser, called the roll, with all members present, as follows:

Mr. Rick Avery	Mr. Jerome Darby
Ms. Wanda Bennett	Mr. Mac Plummer
Mr. Glenn Benton	Mr. Doug Rimmer
Mr. Bob Brotherton	Mr. Tom Salzer
Mr. Jimmy Cochran	Mr. Fred Shewmake
Mr. Norman Craig	Mr. Jack Skaggs

Others present were Mr. Patrick Jackson, Parish Attorney; Mr. Joe E. "Butch" Ford, Jr., Parish Engineer; Mr. Eric Hudson, Assistant Parish Engineer; Ms. Rachel Hauser, Parish Secretary.

Ms. Hauser announced the public hearing to consider approval of the plat of the proposed development of The Crossing at Wemple Subdivision, Unit No. 4, a Planned Unit Development, located in Sections 32 and 33, Township 19 North, Range 13 West, Bossier Parish, LA.

Mr. Hudson stated that the proposed plat being presented today for consideration is a preliminary plat, and the final plat will not be signed until the subdivision is constructed.

There being no objection, **motion was made by Mr. Avery, seconded by Mr. Skaggs, to approve the plat of the proposed development of The Crossing at Wemple Subdivision, Unit No. 4, a Planned Unit Development, located in Sections 32 and 33, 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.**

Motion was made by Mr. Avery, seconded by Mr. Skaggs, to schedule a public hearing on October 2, 2019, to consider approval of the plat of the proposed development of Cane's Landing Subdivision, Unit No. 1, being a gated subdivision located in Section 33, 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.**

Motion was made by Mr. Avery, seconded by Mr. Darby, to schedule a public hearing on October 2, 2019, to consider approval of the plat of the proposed development of Rosedale Place Subdivision, Unit No. 16, being a gated subdivision and a Planned Unit Development located in Section 33, 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.**

Motion was made by Mr. Avery, seconded by Mr. Shewmake, to schedule a public hearing on October 2, 2019, to consider approval of the plat of the proposed development of Rosedale Place Subdivision, Unit No. 17, being a gated subdivision and a Planned Unit Development located in Sections 33 and 34, 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. Hauser announced the hearing to consider condemnation of property located at 117 Cedar Brook Lane, Haughton, LA, Tax Assessment No. 111971. Mr. Ghormley presented current photographs of the property advising that the property is now in compliance with property standards regulations and recommended that condemnation proceedings be dismissed.

Motion was made by Mr. Benton, seconded by Mr. Brotherton, to dismiss condemnation proceedings on property located at 117 Cedar Brook Lane, Haughton, LA, Tax Assessment No. 111971.

The President called for public comment. Mr. Avery asked if citations could be issued to property standards' repeat offenders after approximately the third time the property comes before the police jury for property standards violations. Mr. Jackson stated that the police jury does not have the authority to issue citations, but the Sheriff's Department has the authority to issue citations for property standards violations. Mr. Jackson stated that the police jury has the authority to set a policy stating that if the same owner and property violates property standards regulations for a specified number of times, citations could be issued by the Sheriff's Department.

Mr. Benton recommended that this matter be turned over to the Road/Subdivision Regulations Committee for further discussion. The jury concurred.

Votes were cast and the motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Hauser announced the hearing to consider condemnation of property located at 430 Lintwin Circle, Benton, LA, Tax Assessment No. 101449. Mr. Ghormley presented current photographs of the property advising that there has been no change in the condition of the property. He stated that the property does present an imminent threat to public health and safety, and recommended that the property be condemned.

After further discussion, **motion was made by Ms. Bennett, seconded by Mr. Skaggs, to condemn property located at 430 Lintwin Circle, Benton, LA, Tax Assessment No. 101449, in accordance with property standards regulations.**

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

Ms. Hauser announced the hearing to consider condemnation of property located at 502 Wildlife Lane, Bossier City, LA, Tax Assessment No. 111675. Mr. Ghormley presented current photographs of the property advising that there has been a substantial amount of work done to clean the property and the owner has requested an extension until the October 2, 2019, police jury meeting to complete the clean-up of the property.

Ms. Helen Pieper stated that she lives in the home with her mother and she will be working to ensure that the property is cleaned up and remains clean in the future.

Mr. Brotherton asked what the plans are for the pond located behind the home. Ms. Pieper stated that the pond has been drained and in the near future the pond will be filled in.

After further discussion, **motion was made by Mr. Brotherton, seconded by Mr. Cochran, to allow the owner of 502 Wildlife Lane, Bossier City, LA, Tax Assessment No. 111675, an extension until the October 2, 2019, regular meeting in which to bring the property into compliance with property standards regulations.**

The President called for public comment. There being none, **votes were cast and the motion carried unanimously.** The matter will be reviewed at the October 2, 2019, regular meeting.

Mr. Mike Rich, General Manager for the Horseshoe Casino and Harrah's Louisiana Downs, and Mr. Eric Halstrom, Vice President of Operations for Harrah's Louisiana Downs, were present. Mr. Rich stated that Louisiana Downs' purses that horse owners and trainers are racing for are based on slot revenue and pari-mutuel revenue as patrons make wagers in the Louisiana Downs' facility. He stated that there has been an increase in competition since Margaritaville Resort Casino located next to the boardwalk, and Harrah's Louisiana Downs' revenue has declined over the years.

Mr. Rich stated that they are working to increase the purses in order to make it more attractive for owners and trainers to race at Harrah's Louisiana Downs. He stated that currently other horse racing facilities offer higher purses which entices the owners and trainers to race at those facilities when racing occurs on the same date. Mr. Rich stated that recently the State of Texas' House Committee diverted a variety of equine-related sales taxes from the state's general fund in the amount of \$149 million to the Texas Racing Commission to boost the purses awarded to the owners of winning horses at all of the state's tracks in order to make those tracks more viable.

Mr. Rich stated that horse racing tracks are in a constant competitive loop trying to lure horse owners to their tracks during the summer. He stated that Harrah's Louisiana Downs continues to struggle with that endeavor as the competition continues to increase their level of purse offerings for trainers and owners to run at their facilities.

Mr. Rich stated that Harrah's Louisiana Downs is requesting that the police jury consider ordering and calling a special election at a future election date to include a proposition which states "Shall offtrack wagering facilities be established in the Parish of Bossier, State of Louisiana, pursuant to the provision of Part II of Chapter 4 of Title 4 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, as amended?" which would also include the ability for video poker to be allowed at those offtrack wagering facilities. He stated that additional offtrack wagering facilities would help increase the purses to hopefully entice more horse trainers and owners to race at Harrah's Louisiana Downs. He further stated that if the proposed proposition is passed by the voters in Bossier Parish, it would allow Harrah's Louisiana Downs an additional income stream in order to have a competitive product during the summer and spring to run quarter horses and thoroughbreds accordingly.

Mr. Rich stated that if the proposition is approved by the voters in Bossier Parish, it would allow Harrah's Louisiana Downs to possibly use facilities throughout Bossier Parish that are not being utilized at their full potential and improve those facilities, creating jobs which will not only generate revenue for Harrah's Louisiana Downs, but the State as well.

Mr. Benton asked what percentage of wagers is attributed to the purses at Harrah's Louisiana Downs. Mr. Rich stated that approximately one-half (1/2) of the wagers made on horse track betting makes up the amount of the purses, and approximately 15 percent (15%) of the wagers from slot machines makes up a portion of the purses. He stated that currently the law does not allow video poker at Harrah's Louisiana Downs.

Mr. Rich requested that if the police jury is inclined to approve their request for a special election to be called for the above proposed proposition, he asked that the election be held in the Spring of 2020.

After further discussion, **motion was made by Mr. Cochran, seconded by Mr. Avery, to approve the request to adopt a resolution at a later date to order and call a special election to be held in the Parish of Bossier, State of Louisiana, to authorize the establishment of offtrack wagering facilities.**

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

Motion was made by Mr. Cochran, seconded by Mr. Plummer, to ratify approval of a Settlement Agreement and Release between the Bossier Parish Police Jury, City of Bossier City, McInnis Brothers Construction, Inc., Johnson Controls, Inc., and Cyber Innovation Center, Incorporated, 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.**

RESOLUTION

BE IT RESOLVED by the Bossier Parish Police Jury in regular and legal session on this 4th day of September, 2019, that William R. Altimus, Parish Administrator, or Doug Rimmer, President, be and is hereby authorized to execute on behalf of the Bossier Parish Police Jury, a Settlement Agreement and Release between the Bossier Parish Police Jury, City of Bossier City, McInnis Brothers Construction, Inc., Johnson Controls, Inc., and Cyber Innovation Center, Incorporated.

The resolution was offered by Mr. Cochran, seconded by Mr. Plummer. Upon unanimous vote, it was duly adopted on this 4th day of September, 2019.

RACHEL D. HAUSER
PARISH SECRETARY

DOUG RIMMER, PRESIDENT
BOSSIER PARISH POLICE JURY

Motion was made by Mr. Brotherton, seconded by Mr. Benton, to adopt a resolution supporting EDKO, LLC, 4615 Marlana Street, Bossier City, LA, and allowing them to receive the local benefits of the Enterprise Zone Program.

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

- AYES:** Mr. Avery, Ms. Bennett, Mr. Benton, Mr. Brotherton, Mr. Craig, Mr. Darby, Mr. Plummer, Mr. Rimmer, Mr. Salzer, Mr. Shewmake, Mr. Skaggs
- NAYS:** Mr. Cochran
- ABSTAIN:** None
- ABSENT:** None

RESOLUTION

A RESOLUTION STATING THE BOSSIER PARISH POLICE JURY'S ENDORSEMENT OF EDKO, LLC, TO PARTICIPATE IN THE BENEFITS OF THE LOUISIANA ENTERPRISE ZONE PROGRAM.

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Enterprise Zone Act 901 of 1981, Act 337 of 1982, Act 433 of 1987, Act 1024 of 1992, Act 581 of 1995, and Act 624 and Act 647 of 1997 state the requirements of Louisiana's Enterprise Zone Program; and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Enterprise Zone Program offers significant incentives for economic development to some of the most distressed areas in Bossier Parish; and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Department of Economic Development designated census Tract 106.1, Block Group 4, in Bossier Parish as "Enterprise Zone" eligible based on enabling legislation (R.S. 51.21.1787-1791); and

WHEREAS, the Bossier Parish Police Jury states that this endorsement is in agreement with the Overall Economic Development Plan for the Parish of Bossier; and

WHEREAS, the **attached Enterprise Zone map** has been marked to show the location of the business being endorsed; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with the Louisiana Enterprise Zone Program, the Bossier Parish Police Jury agrees:

1. To participate in the Enterprise Zone 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 4th day of September, 2019, that EDKO, LLC, and their startup/new project at 4615 Marlana Street, Bossier City, Enterprise Zone Application #20190113, is endorsed to participate in the Louisiana Enterprise Zone Program.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that if any provision or item of this resolution is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions, items or applications of this resolution which can be given effect without the invalid provisions, items or applications and to this end, the provisions of this resolution are hereby declared severable.

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

The resolution was offered by Mr. Benton, seconded by Mr. Brotherton. It was duly adopted on this 4th day of September, 2019, with the following vote recorded:

- AYES:** Mr. Avery, Ms. Bennett, Mr. Benton, Mr. Brotherton, Mr. Craig, Mr. Darby, Mr. Plummer, Mr. Rimmer, Mr. Salzer, Mr. Shewmake, Mr. Skaggs
 - NAYS:** Mr. Cochran
 - ABSTAIN:** None
 - ABSENT:** None
- RACHEL D. HAUSER
PARISH SECRETARY
- DOUG RIMMER, PRESIDENT
BOSSIER PARISH POLICE JURY

Motion was made by Mr. Brotherton, seconded by Mr. Benton, to approve the reappointment of Mr. Elmore Morris to the Bossier Parish Library Board of Control for a five-year term, term to expire October 1, 2024.

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

Mr. Benton reported that items from a home where a tenant was evicted was dumped in the right-of-way on Highway 80 near the library. He stated that after further review as to who is responsible for picking up items like this on a state highway, neither the parish nor the state felt that it was their responsibility to clean up the items.

Mr. Benton stated that after three weeks of the items laying by the road, a citizen removed the items from the right-of-way. He stated that the parish should not be responsible for picking up items thrown in the right-of-way on a state highway.

Mr. Jackson stated that in an eviction process on the date of eviction, the tenants are sometimes still living in the home, or have abandoned the home, as well as all their belongings. He stated that evictions in mobile home parks where there are interior roadways which are private roadways, the Attorney General's Office has instructed the Bossier Parish Constables and Justices of the Peace that items left by the evicted tenants can be moved to the nearest public right-of-way as salvage for anyone to pick up the items.

Mr. Jackson reported on the number of evictions by a rural Constable each month and estimated that in approximately two to three of the evictions, the tenants remain in the home and it is required that the tenants be removed by force and are unable to take their belongings, or the tenants leave and abandon all of their belongings in the home.

Mr. Jackson stated if the evicted tenants abandon a vehicle, a towing service can be asked to remove the vehicle and the towing service has a statutory obligation to try and notify the owner of the location of the vehicle, but if they are unable to do so, after a certain amount of time, the vehicle becomes the property of the towing service.

Mr. Jackson stated that there is no statutory scheme that addresses abandoned property of a tenant that has been evicted.

Mr. Jackson stated he has some possible recommendations to address this type of issue in the future. He stated that the majority of the time, the evicted tenant will take their belongings, and it appears that the issue of abandoned belongings happens approximately one to two times per month.

Mr. Jackson stated that one course of action the police jury could consider is to designate somewhere in the parish as an impound yard. He stated that the parish would provide a statutory scheme which would state that if you are evicted from your home, your property will be stored at a certain location at \$100.00 per day, and if the property is not claimed after 10 days, the property will be disposed of.

Mr. Jackson stated that a second course of action would be for the police jury to assist the Bossier Parish Constable and Justices of Peace to haul abandoned property to an impound yard.

Mr. Jackson stated that the parish will need to find a solution to this problem as it will always become a parish issue, but there are no statutory regulations addressing abandoned property of an evicted tenant.

Mr. Benton state that the owner of the home that evicted the tenants should be responsible for the property being removed and disposed of, and the parish taxpayers should not be responsible for cleaning the debris up from a right-of-way.

Mr. Jackson stated that he is actively reviewing this matter to determine how the Attorney General came to the conclusion to instruct the Bossier Parish Constables and Justices of Peace that evicted tenants' belongings could be placed in the right-of-way as salvage.

There was extensive discussion on this matter. Mr. Jackson stated that the police jury needs to give guidance to the Bossier Parish Constables and Justices of Peace on this matter, and recommends that if someone is evicted, the abandoned property be placed on the curb cut of the property, not parish or state rights-of-ways.

Mr. Jackson stated that the parish will need to create an ordinance which addresses abandoned property due to eviction so that there are clear instructions for Bossier Parish Constables and Justices of Peace as to what the parish will allow as it pertains to disposal of abandoned property by an evicted tenant. He stated that he has been unable to speak with the Attorney General to obtain clarification pertaining to this matter.

Mr. Benton recommended that the landlords be required to place the abandoned property on their property on the curb cut and not in parish or state rights-of-ways.

Ms. Bennett recommended that Mr. Jackson continue his research in this matter and provide a recommendation at the September 18, 2019, regular meeting. The jury concurred.

Mr. Hudson presented Change Order No. 2 for Hazard Mitigation Grant Program #1603-015-0002, FEMA-1603-DR-LA, Project #349, Bossier Parish–Willow Chute Bayou Drainage Improvements Project, Bossier Parish Project No. 2018-555, advising that the change order results in an increase in the amount of \$3,529.86. **Motion was made by Mr. Avery, seconded by Mr. Shewmake, to approve Change Order No. 2 for Hazard Mitigation Grant Program #1603-015-0002, FEMA-1603-DR-LA, Project #349, Bossier Parish–Willow Chute Bayou Drainage Improvements Project, Bossier Parish Project No. 2018-555, 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 4th day of September, 2019, that it does hereby approve Change Order No. 2 for Hazard Mitigation Grant Program #1603-015-0002, FEMA-1603-DR-LA, Project #349, Bossier Parish–Willow Chute Bayou Drainage Improvements Project, Bossier Parish Project No. 2018-555.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that William R. Altimus, Parish Administrator, or Doug Rimmer, President, is hereby authorized to execute said Change Order No. 2.

The resolution was offered by Mr. Avery, seconded by Mr. Shewmake. Upon unanimous vote, it was duly adopted on this 4th day of September, 2019.

RACHEL D. HAUSER
PARISH SECRETARY

DOUG RIMMER, PRESIDENT
BOSSIER PARISH POLICE JURY

Mr. Ford requested that the record reflect that Agenda Item No. 14 should read "To consider approval of Amendment No. 1 of the Standard Form of Agreement with Denmon Engineering Company, Inc., for engineering services for the FY2019 Louisiana Community Development Block Grant project for sewer system improvements in Merrywoods Subdivision, and authorize the execution of documents."

Motion was made by Mr. Benton, seconded by Mr. Craig, to approve Amendment No. 1 to the Standard Form of Agreement Between Owner and Engineer for Professional Services between the Bossier Parish Police Jury and Denmon Engineering Company, Inc., for the FY2019 Louisiana Community Development Block Grant project for sewer system improvements in Merrywoods Subdivision, and to authorize the 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 4th day of September, 2019, that William R. Altimus, Parish Administrator, or Doug Rimmer, President, be and is hereby authorized to execute on behalf of the Bossier Parish Police Jury, Amendment No. 1 to the Standard Form of Agreement Between Owner and Engineer for Professional Services between the Bossier Parish Police Jury and Denmon Engineering Company, Inc., for the FY2019 Louisiana Community Development Block Grant project for sewer system improvements in Merrywoods Subdivision.

The resolution was offered by Mr. Benton, seconded by Mr. Craig. Upon unanimous vote, it was duly adopted on this 4th day of September, 2019.

RACHEL D. HAUSER
PARISH SECRETARY

DOUG RIMMER, PRESIDENT
BOSSIER PARISH POLICE JURY

Mr. Hudson stated that a letter has been received from the Office of Community Development requesting that all FY2019-2020 Louisiana Government Assistance Program (LGAP) and Community Water Enrichment Fund (CWEF)

applications be submitted by December 6, 2019. He stated that the maximum allocation available per parish for LGAP is \$165,700.00 and \$143,000.00 for CWEF. He stated that it is planned that the parish will submit applications for water and sewer projects.

Mr. Hudson provided a report on the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program #1603-015-0002, FEMA-1603-DR-LA, Project #349, Bossier Parish–Willow Chute Bayou Drainage Improvements Project, Bossier Parish Project No. 2018-555. He stated that an extension of time to complete the project has been received.

Mr. Hudson provided an update on the Sligo Road Bridge over Foxskin Bayou, Project No. 2019-105.

Mr. Hudson provided an update on the Swan Lake Road Bridge at Poole Road improvements project. He stated that the parish is awaiting the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) approval to move forward with the project.

Mr. Hudson provided updates on all Kingston Road projects. He stated that homeowners on Kingston Road have expressed their dissatisfaction that their brick mailboxes were removed on Kingston Road when improvements were made to the roadway. He stated that when the parish improves a roadway with a speed limit of 45 miles per hour or more, the parish cannot allow a non-breakaway mailbox on a high-speed thoroughfare.

Mr. Hudson stated that while making improvements on Kingston Road, non-breakaway mailboxes have been removed and mailboxes that are required by the Department of Transportation and Development are being installed to replace the non-breakaway mailboxes. He stated that the parish cannot permit a non-breakaway mailbox on a high-speed thoroughfare, and the homeowners have been provided with information explaining the reasons why a non-breakaway mailbox cannot be located on Kingston Road.

There was further discussion pertaining to mailboxes throughout the parish.

Mr. Hudson reported that bids will be taken on Monday for street improvements in Glendale Subdivision.

Mr. Hudson stated that the parish is working on street improvements in Legacy Subdivision and Cross Creek Subdivision.

Mr. Hudson provided an update on work being done at the walking trail in Haughton.

Mr. Hudson provided a report on improvements in Le Oaks Estate Subdivision.

Mr. Hudson provided an update on improvements on Antrim Road. He stated that replacement of the bridge is planned.

Mr. Avery requested an update on improvements to Mr. Smith's ditch located in Cross Creek Subdivision. Mr. Hudson stated that he will review this matter and provide an update at a later date.

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

Mr. Brotherton reported that in 2004 residents of Green Road began requesting that the parish maintain Green Road due to the deplorable condition of the road. He stated that in the past, a home located at the end of Green Road caught fire and due to fire trucks being unable to travel down Green Road due to its condition, a resident in the home lost their life. He further stated that there have been several lives lost on Green Road due to fire trucks and emergency vehicles being unable to travel down Green Road.

Mr. Brotherton stated that Mr. Russell Craig, Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Unit Officer, presented the issues with Green Road to an acquaintance that works for Atheon Energy, and Atheon Energy reached out to the company that builds roads for Atheon Energy well sites. He stated that the company that builds roads has returned to Bossier Parish, and has agreed to assist the residents on Green Road and are currently making improvements to the road. Mr. Brotherton stated that the improvements being made to Green Road will not meet parish standards for the road to become a public road, and will remain a private road, but will now be an accessible road for Green Road residents, fire trucks and emergency vehicles.

Mr. Brotherton expressed appreciation to all parties involved with assisting the residents on Green Road by improving the road.

Mr. Benton requested that a Road/Subdivision Regulations Committee meeting be scheduled prior to the September 18, 2019, meeting to discuss property standards habitual offenders.

Mr. Jackson reported that the parish has been somewhat successful in collecting outstanding debts for sewer service. He stated that several letters are sent from his office to sewer customers with delinquent accounts, and when there has been no response a lawsuit is filed with the 26th Judicial District Court. He further stated that a judgment is obtained from the court for the amount of the delinquent account and court costs. Mr. Jackson stated that normally the sewer customers are unable to pay the sewer bill or the court costs awarded to the sewer district by the court.

Mr. Jackson stated that currently there are approximately 13 sewer customers that have delinquent accounts as high as \$700.00, and there has been no success in collecting the outstanding debt.

Mr. Jackson recommended that a board be created similar to the Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Unit Board of Appeals in an effort to allow the sewer customers who have delinquent accounts to come before the board to present their case as to why their sewer account is delinquent and to determine if a payment plan can be established or if refusal by the sewer customer to pay the delinquent account will require Mr. Larry Landry with the Consolidated

Waterworks/Sewerage District No. 1 of the Parish of Bossier, to cut off and remove sewer service and equipment to the sewer customers' home which will then cause the home to be uninhabitable and condemned.

Mr. Jackson stated that legal proceedings can take up to five months for a hearing date, and creating a board to allow the sewer customers with delinquent accounts will alleviate court fees being assessed to the customer. He stated that when there is no water service being provided to a customer, the only mechanism the parish has to cut off sewer service is for the sewer system to be dug up. He further stated that the cost for the customer to reconnect sewer service after the system has been dug up will be approximately \$5,000.00.

Mr. Jackson stated that the number of delinquent accounts continue to rise, and it is not feasible to file a lawsuit on each delinquent account. He stated that prior to the parish digging up any sewer system, all property owners with interest in the property will be notified via a letter of the hearing date before the board.

Mr. Avery expressed concern how this will affect rental property owners. He stated that the landlord is not aware if the tenant is paying their sewer bills, and it would not be appropriate to punish the landlord for the tenant not paying their sewer bills.

There was extensive discussion on delinquent sewer accounts. Mr. Jackson stated that he will present a recommendation on the creation of a process which will allow sewer customers with delinquent sewer accounts to come before the board to present their case as to why their account is delinquent and determine if a payment arrangement can be made, or give authority for the sewer service to be removed.

There being no further business to come before the Bossier Parish Police Jury in regular and legal session on this 4th day of September, 2019, the meeting was adjourned by the President at 3:10 p.m.

RACHEL D. HAUSER
PARISH SECRETARY

DOUG RIMMER, PRESIDENT
BOSSIER PARISH POLICE JURY