

BOSSIER PARISH POLICE JURY
BENTON, LOUISIANA
MINUTES

August 19, 2020

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The Bossier Parish Police Jury met in regular and legal session on the 19th day of August, 2020, at 2:00 p.m., in the Police Jury Meeting Room, Bossier Parish Courthouse, Benton, Louisiana. The President, Mr. Jimmy Cochran, called the meeting to order. The invocation was given by Mr. Jerome Darby, and the pledge of allegiance was led by Mr. Tom Salzer. Ms. Rachel Hauser, Parish Secretary, called the roll, with all members present as follows:

Mr. Glenn Benton	Mr. Chris Marsiglia
Mr. Bob Brotherton	Mr. Mac Plummer
Mr. Jimmy Cochran	Mr. Doug Rimmer
Mr. Jerome Darby	Mr. Philip Rodgers
Mr. Charles Gray	Mr. Tom Salzer
Mr. John Ed Jorden	Mr. Jack Skaggs

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

Motion was made by Mr. Rimmer, seconded by Mr. Salzer, to adopt the minutes of the July 1, 2020, and July 15, 2020, regular meetings, and the July 15, 2020, Finance Committee meeting, as published.

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

Mr. Bobby Edmiston, Bossier Parish Assessor, stated that every four years is a reassessment year in Bossier Parish. He stated that the Assessor is tasked with reassessing all property located within that parish, except public service and use-value land fees per acre which is assessed by the Tax Commission.

Mr. Edmiston stated that during a reassessment year the Assessor's Office is required to send a pre-notice to all citizens that own real estate in Bossier Parish. He stated that the required pre-notices were sent this past Friday and Saturday.

Mr. Edmiston stated that 2020 is a very unusual reassessment year due to the COVID-19 pandemic. He stated that reassessment cannot be postponed for any reason. He further stated that La R.S. 47:1978.1 was passed when Hurricane Katrina devastated Louisiana which provides what the Assessor can do when a disaster is declared by the governor, parish governing body, or President of the United States. Mr. Edmiston stated that this year all properties were reassessed and once the values had been set and submitted to the Legislative Auditor's Office, the Legislative Auditor's Office provided millages for the taxing bodies to consider for adoption.

Mr. Edmiston stated that once the reassessed values were submitted based on the required reassessment for the year 2020, obsolescence was considered for all land or properties affected by the COVID-19 health crisis due to it being unknown how long the COVID-19 health crisis will continue. He stated that obsolescence was not considered for any residential properties and was only given to certain types of commercial properties. He provided information on the types of businesses that received obsolescence and the process of obsolescence.

Mr. Edmiston stated that it is anticipated that the parish will see a slight decrease in taxes overall. He stated that the greatest loss in revenue in Bossier Parish will be revenues from the four and one-half casinos located in Bossier Parish that had to completely shut down due to the COVID-19 health crisis.

Mr. Edmiston stated that when residential properties are assessed, the land and the structure located on the land are assessed separately. He stated that home values have decreased slightly since the last reassessment and the land values have increased.

Mr. Edmiston stated that property taxes should be consistent and therefore millage rates are adjusted each year in order to keep the property taxes consistent from year to year.

There was further discussion of property tax increases and decreases in Bossier Parish. The police jury expressed appreciation to Mr. Edmiston for presenting the above information.

Ms. Jean Horne, Bossier Parish Sheriff's Department, requested a Quietus on the 2019 tax roll. The following recap for the period July 1, 2019, through June 30, 2020, was presented for consideration:

Tax Payer Column of 2019 Tax Roll	\$ 119,349,779.23
Adjustments (LTC's, SHE's, SPL' s, etc.)	\$ <470,087.40>
TOTAL ADJUSTED TAX ROLL:	\$ 118,879,691.83
Amount Collected and Distributed	\$ <117,341,191.56>
Protest Money Collected - not distributed	\$ <739,722.26>
LESS: TOTAL COLLECTED:	\$ <118,080,913.82>
UNCOLLECTED:	\$ 798,778.01
The Uncollected Balance consists of:	
1) Bankruptcies	\$ 2,404.72
2) Adjudications (tax sale properties)	\$ -----
2) Movables, Mobile Homes, RE bankruptcy discharged	\$ 796,373.29
UNCOLLECTED BALANCE	\$ 798,778.01

99.33% of the 2019 adjusted tax roll was collected.

Tax Sale held 7/7/2020 due to COVID-19

Motion was made by Mr. Skaggs, seconded by Mr. Plummer, to grant a Quietus on the 2019 tax roll.

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

Mr. Skip James, 119 Edwards Street, Benton, LA, was present and requested to address the police jury to discuss his property in Edwards Subdivision.

Motion was made by Mr. Benton, seconded by Mr. Rodgers, to amend the agenda to add Mr. Skip James, 119 Edwards Street, Benton, LA, as Visitor No. 3, to discuss his property located in Edwards Subdivision.

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

AYES: Mr. Benton, Mr. Brotherton, Mr. Cochran, Mr. Darby, Mr. Gray, Mr. Jorden, Mr. Marsiglia, Mr. Plummer, Mr. Rimmer, Mr. Rodgers, Mr. Salzer, Mr. Skaggs
NAYS: None
ABSTAIN: None
ABSENT: None

Mr. James stated that Edwards Subdivision was developed in approximately 1979 and he built a home on Lot 9, Edwards Subdivision, in 1980. He stated that property adjacent to his property was intended for a well site, but was never brought to fruition. He further stated that an additional tract of land that is adjacent to his property is an approximate 17-acre tract of land zoned R-A.

Mr. James stated that Edwards Subdivision does have subdivision covenants, but a homeowner's association was never officially established. He stated that some residents in the subdivision have self-appointed themselves as the board of directors for the subdivision and are attempting to control all actions within subdivision.

Mr. James stated that he is trying to do an approximate \$40,000.00 kitchen remodel and make other improvements to his home. He stated that he has provided all information for the improvements to his home to Code Inspection Plus, but some of the self-appointed board of directors in the subdivision have told him that based on the subdivision covenants, he is required to bury a LP tank. He further stated that the subdivision covenants do not state that a LP tank must be buried, and he is planning to install a 250-gallon LP tank above ground on his property. Mr. James further stated that he does not want the self-appointed board of directors in Edwards Subdivision to hinder his plans of remodeling his home.

Mr. James stated that to his knowledge there is no parish ordinance or regulations by the Benton-Parish Metropolitan Planning Commission which states that he is required to bury a LP tank. Mr. Jackson asked that Mr. James provide all information to Mr. Hudson in the parish engineering office for further review. He stated that he is unaware of any regulations which require a LP tank to be buried, but he would like for the engineering office to review this matter further.

Mr. James stated that he is also being harassed by the self-appointed board of directors about his small tractor and bushhog that is located in his back yard behind a portable building. He stated that he has used the small tractor in his yard to spread dirt. He further stated that he is having issues with the self-appointed board of directors in Edwards Subdivision pertaining to his side-by-side that he uses around his yard, but never gets on the roadway.

Mr. James stated that it is his understanding that if a homeowner installs security cameras on their property, the security cameras are to be directed at their property and not into the property of another homeowner. He stated that a neighbor has installed a security camera that is angled to view over his 6-foot privacy fence into his back yard. He requested that they be required to move their security camera to a location that is not directed into his back yard as this is an invasion of privacy.

Mr. Jackson stated that the parish does not have any ordinances which addresses security cameras and the parish does not enforce restrictive covenants.

Mr. James stated that his neighbor who owns a dumpster company has stored some dumpsters on the edge of the property line and the self-appointed board of directors has stated that the dumpsters are obstructing a drainage ditch which will cause his property to flood. He stated that he does not feel that the dumpsters are obstructing the drainage ditch or will cause his property to flood.

Mr. Cochran requested that Mr. James meet with Mr. Hudson to further discuss these issues. Mr. Jackson stated that the majority of these issues are pertaining to restrictive covenants and the parish does not enforce restrictive covenants. Mr. James stated that he will research a different avenue to address the security camera issue.

Ms. Renee Hall, Friends of Cypress Black Bayou, was present and requested to address the police jury regarding the Cypress Black Bayou Recreation and Water Conservation District.

Motion was made by Mr. Rodgers, seconded by Mr. Skaggs, to amend the agenda to add Ms. Renee Hall, Friends of Cypress Black Bayou, as Visitor No. 4, to discuss the Cypress Black Bayou Recreation and Water Conservation District.

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

AYES: Mr. Benton, Mr. Brotherton, Mr. Cochran, Mr. Darby, Mr. Gray, Mr. Jorden, Mr. Marsiglia, Mr. Plummer, Mr. Rimmer, Mr. Rodgers, Mr. Salzer, Mr. Skaggs
NAYS: None
ABSTAIN: None
ABSENT: None

Ms. Hall stated that she is present today on behalf of Friends of Cypress Black Bayou. She stated that currently there are approximately 150 members in the Friends of Cypress Black Bayou and approximately 2,000 followers on Facebook. She further stated that the followers include residents of Cypress Black Bayou as well as taxpayers throughout Bossier Parish.

Ms. Hall expressed appreciation for allowing her to speak to the police jury today. She stated that the Cypress Black Bayou Recreation and Water Conservation District Board of Commissioners (the "Board") filed a lawsuit against her and her family even though they followed all rules and regulations as requested by the Board for construction. She

stated that her presence today is not a result of the lawsuit, but the lawsuit was filed shortly after Friends of Cypress Black Bayou was created.

Ms. Hall stated that she was present at the August 5, 2020, police jury meeting to discuss the police jury's reappointment of Mr. Robert Berry to the Board as the police jury's representative. She stated that Friends of Cypress Black Bayou are requesting that the police jury ask Mr. Berry to resign. She further stated that the current rules of the Board state that if Mr. Berry resigns, the Board will make an appointment on behalf of the police jury to replace Mr. Berry.

Ms. Hall stated that the bylaws of the Board state that any vacancy in the office of the commissioner due to resignation or any other cause shall be filled by and after affirmative vote of the majority of the remaining commissioners. She stated that Friends of Cypress Black Bayou feel that the police jury should be responsible for making an appointment to represent the police jury, not the Board.

Ms. Hall stated that the Louisiana Board of Ethics requires that if the police jury requests Mr. Berry to resign as the police jury's representative on the Board, he will also have to resign as Executive Director of Cypress Black Bayou Recreation and Water Conservation District (the "District"). She stated that the The Code of Governmental Ethics, K. 1121- Post Employment, states that during the two-year period following the termination of public service as a board or commission member, these individuals may not contract with, be employed in any capacity by, or be appointed to any position by that board or commission.

Ms. Hall stated that the Attorney General's Assistant advised her that while meeting with Mr. Berry, he stated that he submitted his resignation as the police jury's appointee in 2013, but his resignation was denied.

Ms. Hall stated that Yelp reviews for Cypress Black Bayou Park have not been positive reviews. She stated that several members have advised that they will not return to the park due to how Cypress Black Bayou Park employees treated them. She further state that Cypress Black Bayou Park is a jewel in this community, and expressed concerned for how the negativity and the current ethics violation will affect use of the park.

Ms. Hall stated that the park is currently shut down and now would be the time to make needed changes and there are citizens that are willing to assist with the needed changes.

Ms. Hall stated that the news of tax millages being decreased in Bossier Parish is good news. She presented the 2020 Millage Announcement that was posted on the District's website. She stated that the Board does not allow the public to ask questions during the Board meetings. She asked if the police jury could clarify if the notice provides that the public will not be allowed to vote on the 2020 millage rates if there is an increase.

Ms. Hall stated that she is not disgruntled due to the lawsuit against her and her family, but is concerned over the frivolous spending of taxpayer dollars on excess attorney fees and excess salaries. Ms. Hall asked if this is taxation without representation by the Board.

Mr. Jackson stated that the notice posted by the Board for the 2020 Millage Announcement is a statutory required notice. He stated that voters vote to levy a certain millage rate and that year generates so many dollars based on the millage rate approved by the voters. He further stated that when there is a reassessment, the millage rates will be adjusted in order to generate the same dollar amount, whether it being an increase or decrease in millage rates. Mr. Jackson explained the process of rolling back or rolling forward of millage rates. Ms. Hall expressed appreciation to the police jury for providing information on millage rates.

Ms. Hall asked if the police jury has made a determination on Mr. Robert Berry's status with the Board. Mr. Jackson presented Ms. Hall with a Petition of Declaratory Judgment that was filed today by the Bossier Parish District Attorney's Office against Mr. Robert Berry and Cypress Black Bayou Recreation and Water Conservation District. Ms. Hall asked for clarification as to the meaning of the lawsuit. Mr. Jackson stated that the District Attorney's Office has filed a lawsuit requesting that the court make a determination on the Attorney General's opinion.

Mr. Jackson stated that the legal proceedings are public record, and anyone is welcome to follow its proceedings to find out the final outcome when the court makes its ruling.

Ms. Hall expressed appreciation for the information provided today.

Mr. Samuel Thornton, a resident of Cypress Black Bayou Lake, was present and requested to address the police jury regarding the Cypress Black Bayou Recreation and Water Conservation District.

Motion was made by Mr. Skaggs, seconded by Mr. Rodgers, to amend the agenda to add Mr. Samuel Thornton, resident of Cypress Black Bayou Lake, as Visitor No. 5, to discuss the Cypress Black Bayou Recreation and Water Conservation District.

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

AYES: Mr. Benton, Mr. Brotherton, Mr. Cochran, Mr. Darby, Mr. Gray, Mr. Jorden, Mr. Marsiglia, Mr. Plummer, Mr. Rimmer, Mr. Rodgers, Mr. Salzer, Mr. Skaggs

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

Mr. Thornton asked who determines the amount a resident on Cypress Black Bayou Lake pays for dock fees. Mr. Jackson stated that the Cypress Black Bayou Recreation and Water Conservation District sets those fees. Mr. Thornton stated that the District should not be allowed to charge whatever fees they wish to charge to the residents on the lake. He stated that when he worked for the park, he would measure docks and piers and the residents were charged by the square footage of the dock and pier.

Mr. Thornton stated that the fees assessed now are not based on the size of a dock or pier, and the residents are now being charged a set fee of \$350.00 which is unfair to the residents.

Ms. Alexandra Vozzella, Attorney at Law, stated that she represents Cypress Black Bayou Recreation and Water Conservation District and requested to address the police jury.

Motion was made by Mr. Skaggs, seconded by Mr. Rodgers, to amend the agenda to add Ms. Alexandra Vozzella, Attorney at Law, for Cypress Black Bayou Recreation and Water Conservation District, as Visitor No. 6.

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

AYES: Mr. Benton, Mr. Brotherton, Mr. Cochran, Mr. Darby, Mr. Gray, Mr. Jorden, Mr. Marsiglia, Mr. Plummer, Mr. Rimmer, Mr. Rodgers, Mr. Salzer, Mr. Skaggs
NAYS: None
ABSTAIN: None
ABSENT: None

Ms. Vozzela stated that there has been quiet a bit of misinformation about Cypress Black Bayou Recreation and Water Conservation District and the park. She expressed appreciation to Mr. Jackson for his explanation of the tax millage rates. She requested that if anyone has any questions or concerns to please reach out to a board member or her office and they will be more than happy to address any questions or concerns.

Mr. Chuck Duncan, a resident of Cypress Black Bayou Recreation and Water Conservation District, requested to address the police jury.

Motion was made by Mr. Rodgers, seconded by Mr. Marsiglia, to amend the agenda to add Mr. Chuck Duncan, a resident of Cypress Black Bayou Recreation and Water Conservation District, as Visitor No. 7.

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

AYES: Mr. Benton, Mr. Brotherton, Mr. Cochran, Mr. Darby, Mr. Gray, Mr. Jorden, Mr. Marsiglia, Mr. Plummer, Mr. Rimmer, Mr. Rodgers, Mr. Salzer, Mr. Skaggs
NAYS: None
ABSTAIN: None
ABSENT: None

Mr. Duncan stated that several of the board members of the Cypress Black Bayou Recreation and Water Conservation District Board of Commissioners are his friends. He expressed concern that members of the Board that are being appointed to represent the District do not live on Cypress Black Bayou Lake, but are making decisions that affect those living on the lake, including expenditure of taxpayers' monies, assorted fees, and increasing fees. He stated that these are just a few of the issues the residents of Cypress Black Bayou Lake are facing each and every day.

Mr. Duncan stated that recent changes in personnel in the District have caused several issues for the residents of Cypress Black Bayou Lake. He stated that there are issues that need to be addressed, and the residents are not allowed to address the Board. He expressed concern over the number of lawsuits that have been filed by the Board against residents living on Cypress Black Bayou Lake.

Mr. Duncan stated that he is not a member of Friends of Cypress Black Bayou. He stated that Friends of Cypress Black Bayou, as well as himself, feel that the police jury is the only entity that will allow them to present their concerns and can assist them with the ongoing issues in the District. He further stated that the problems have become so contentious that deputies are required to be present at the Board meetings.

Mr. Duncan expressed concern over the amount of taxpayers' dollars being spent by the Board. He stated that there is rumor that the board and Executive Director are possibly going to raise land fees to approximately \$1,200.00 for the residents living on the lake. He further expressed concern pertaining to the excessive salary for the Executive Director. Mr. Duncan stated that the position for Executive Director was not properly advertised when Mr. Berry was appointed, and stated that Mr. Berry has not always been a resident Bossier Parish, LA. He recommended that the board members appointed to the Board actually live on Cypress Black Bayou Lake or in the District.

Mr. Bob Key, 202 Ryan Road, Benton, LA, requested to address the police jury regarding the Cypress Black Bayou Recreation and Water Conservation District.

Motion was made by Mr. Skaggs, seconded by Mr. Marsiglia, to amend the agenda to add Mr. Bob Key, 202 Ryan Road, Benton, LA, a resident of Cypress Black Bayou Recreation and Water Conservation District, as Visitor No. 8.

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

AYES: Mr. Benton, Mr. Brotherton, Mr. Cochran, Mr. Darby, Mr. Gray, Mr. Jorden, Mr. Marsiglia, Mr. Plummer, Mr. Rimmer, Mr. Rodgers, Mr. Salzer, Mr. Skaggs
NAYS: None
ABSTAIN: None
ABSENT: None

Mr. Key presented a document which he stated created the Cypress Black Bayou Recreation and Water Conservation District. He stated that the Louisiana Secretary of State subsequently created Articles addressing government rules. He further stated that his concern is that the District applied for monies through the Louisiana State Bond Commission in an amount up to \$3 million and subsequently the bond commission issued approximately \$2 million to the District. Mr. Key stated that the District has spent the majority of the \$2 million bond.

Mr. Key stated that under the Freedom of Information Act, details on how the bond monies were spent were requested. He stated that invoices and other documents were provided by the District showing how the bond monies were spent. Mr. Key referenced the Articles prepared by the Louisiana Secretary of State pertaining to bond monies.

Mr. Key asked how the Louisiana State Bond Commission was authorized to issue bonds to the District without approval from the voters. He stated that the District is now paying back the bonds by increasing lakeside ownership fees.

Mr. Jackson stated that it appears that the bonds being referenced were issued approximately 60 years ago, and normally bonds are required to be paid back in 30 years. He stated that he will have to research these issues. Mr. Jackson stated that approximately 75 percent of the District's budget is from taxpayers that do not live on the lake. He stated that since 1958 when the act was passed originally setting a millage rate for the District, he believes that the voters have approved millage rates approximately four time for the District since 1958.

Mr. Key stated that he does not understand how the bonds were authorized when it is strictly forbidden by the Louisiana Secretary of State. Mr. Jackson stated that the Louisiana Secretary of State does not serve in that capacity and is a ministerial officer and records documents. He stated that the legislature writes the law and the people would vote on those laws.

Mr. Key stated that the Louisiana Secretary of State wrote Articles that the District members be assigned by the various entities around the Bossier Parish area, and stated that he does not understand how the District can be violating the rules of the original Articles written by the Louisiana Secretary of State.

Mr. Jackson requested that Mr. Key schedule a time so that they can review all documents that are being presented today in order for him to be able to provide a proper answer on Mr. Key's concerns. Mr. Key stated that he does not understand how taxation can be approved without voter approval.

Ms. Hauser announced the public meeting to adopt property tax millage rates for the year 2020. The jury concurred that the Bossier Parish Police Jury will not roll forward its property tax millage rates for the year 2020. Ms. Hauser stated that 2020 is a reassessment year, and the rates have been adjusted based on the reassessment as submitted by the Bossier Parish Assessor's Office. **Motion was made by Mr. Rodgers, seconded by Mr. Skaggs, to adopt an ordinance levying the 2020 property tax millage rates for the General Alimony Tax, Highway Tax, Library Tax, Health Unit Tax and Corrections Facilities Tax.**

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

ORDINANCE NO. 4782

BE IT ORDAINED by the Bossier Parish Police Jury of the Parish of Bossier, State of Louisiana, in a public meeting held on August 19, 2020, and conducted in accordance with the open meetings law, that the following millage rates be and hereby are levied upon the dollar assessed valuation of all property subject to ad valorem taxation within said parish for the year 2020 for the purpose of raising revenue:

General Alimony Tax		Millage
Mill Key #1026008	Outside Bossier City	2.74 mills
Mill Key #1026009	Inside Bossier City	1.37 mills
Highway Tax		
Mill Key #1026018		1.95 mills
Library Tax		
Mill Key #1026015		7.43 mills
Health Unit Tax		
Mill Key #1026013		0.81 mill
Corrections Facilities Tax		
Mill Key #1026051		3.02 mills

The ordinance was offered by Mr. Rodgers, seconded by Mr. Skaggs. Upon vote, it was duly adopted on this 19th day of August, 2020.

RACHEL D. HAUSER
PARISH SECRETARY

JIMMY COCHRAN, PRESIDENT
BOSSIER PARISH POLICE JURY

Motion was made by Mr. Brotherton, seconded by Mr. Darby, to levy a user fee of \$36.00 per year for the purpose of paying the costs of any and all emergency medical transportation and services in the Bossier Parish Emergency Medical Services District for the year 2020.

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

ORDINANCE NO. 4783

AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE LEVY OF A USER FEE OF \$36.00 PER YEAR (MILL KEY #1026053) FOR THE PURPOSE OF PAYING THE COSTS OF ANY AND ALL EMERGENCY MEDICAL TRANSPORTATION AND ALL EMERGENCY SERVICES IN THE BOSSIER PARISH EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE DISTRICT, PARISH OF BOSSIER, STATE OF LOUISIANA, FOR THE YEAR 2020, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE LAW.

SECTION 1. BE IT ORDAINED by the Bossier Parish Police Jury, acting as the governing authority of the Bossier Parish Emergency Medical Service District, in regular and legal session on the 19th day of August, 2020, that in accordance with law, a user fee of \$36.00 per year for the year 2020, shall be assessed persons owning each residential or commercial structure either occupied or unoccupied, located wholly or partly within the boundaries of the said District, each residential or commercial structure being defined as each residential or commercial unit in a structure and each housing unit within a multiple structure, and a mobile home, as defined in R. S. 9:1149.s(3), for the purpose of paying the costs of any and all emergency medical transportation and all emergency services incidental thereto, as authorized and approved at a special election held in said District on October 16, 1993.

SECTION 2. BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, etc., that the proper administrative officers of the Parish of Bossier, State of Louisiana, be and they are hereby empowered, authorized and directed to extend said user fee against assessment roll of said District for the year 2020, and to make the collection of the user fee imposed for and on behalf of said District, according to law, and that the user fee herein levied shall become a permanent lien and privilege on all property subject to said user fee as set forth by law, and the collection shall be enforceable in the manner provided by law.

The ordinance was offered by Mr. Brotherton, seconded by Mr. Darby. Upon vote, it was duly adopted on this 19th day of August, 2020.

RACHEL D. HAUSER
PARISH SECRETARY

JIMMY COCHRAN, PRESIDENT
BOSSIER PARISH POLICE JURY

Motion was made by Mr. Plummer, seconded by Mr. Skaggs, to adopt an ordinance levying an acreage tax of eight cents per acre on all forest lands and cut-over potential forest lands situated in Bossier Parish for the year 2020.

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

ORDINANCE NO. 4784

AN ORDINANCE TO LEVY AN ACREAGE TAX (MILL KEY #1026043) OF EIGHT CENTS PER ACRE ON ALL FOREST LANDS AND CUT-OVER POTENTIAL FOREST LANDS, SITUATED IN BOSSIER PARISH, LOUISIANA, AND TO AUTHORIZE AND DIRECT THE ASSESSOR IN AND FOR BOSSIER PARISH, LOUISIANA, TO ASSESS AND EXTEND SAID TAX ON THE TAX ROLL, AND TO AUTHORIZE AND DIRECT TAX TO BE COLLECTED BY THE SHERIFF AND EX-OFFICIO TAX COLLECTOR IN AND FOR BOSSIER PARISH, LOUISIANA, AND AUTHORIZE THE EXPENDITURE OF SAID FUNDS COLLECTED, ALL ACCORDING TO LAW.

SECTION 1. BE IT ORDAINED by the Police Jury of Bossier Parish in regular and legal session on the 19th day of August, 2020, that for the year 2020 there shall be levied on acreage a tax of eight cents per acre on all forest lands and cut-over potential forest lands situated in Bossier Parish, Louisiana.

SECTION 2. BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, etc., that this acreage tax shall be assessed and extended on the tax roll of Bossier Parish, Louisiana, by the Parish Assessor in the same manner as the assessment and extension on the tax rolls of the other taxes.

SECTION 3. BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, etc., that said acreage tax shall be collected by the Sheriff and Ex-Officio Tax Collector of Bossier Parish, Louisiana, in the same manner as other parish taxes and when so collected shall be remitted to the Department of the Government having jurisdiction over the practice of forestry for deposit into the State Forestry Fund.

SECTION 4. BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, etc., that said acreage tax shall be collected and deposited all in accordance with the law.

The ordinance was offered by Mr. Plummer, seconded by Mr. Skaggs. Upon vote, it was duly adopted on this 19th day of August, 2020.

RACHEL D. HAUSER
PARISH SECRETARY

JIMMY COCHRAN, PRESIDENT
BOSSIER PARISH POLICE JURY

Ms. Hauser announced the public hearing to consider abandonment of a 60-foot street right-of-way located between Lots 32 and 33, South Haughton Estates Subdivision, in Section 35, Township 18 North, Range 11 West, Bossier Parish, LA.

Mr. Hudson stated that the property owner of Lots 32 and 33, South Haughton Estates Subdivision, is requesting that a 60-foot right-of-way located between the two lots be abandoned. He stated that the roadway that was planned in the 60-foot right-of-way was never built. He further stated that a road for this subdivision was built in a different location which has been tacitly dedicated to the parish.

Mr. Hudson stated that this matter has been reviewed by the engineering department and it is requested that if approved, the landowner be required to dedicate a portion of the existing tacitly dedicated road located on Lot 32 to the parish. There was additional discussion pertaining to this request.

Mr. Tom Poore, owner of Lots 32 and 33, and portions of Lots 28 through 31, stated that he purchased the lots in 1984. Mr. Ford stated that Mr. Poore also purchased the roadway, Hickory Nut Lane, that runs through Lots 28, 29, 30, 31, and 32. He stated that Hickory Nut Lane is a 20-foot wide paved roadway and has been accepted into the parish road system.

Mr. Jackson stated that if Mr. Poore is willing to dedicate the roadway to the parish there will be no legal issue. Mr. Poore stated that he agrees to dedicate the needed a portion of the existing tacitly dedicated road to the parish.

After further discussion, **motion was made by Mr. Benton, seconded by Mr. Brotherton, to table the public hearing to consider abandonment of a 60-foot street right-of-way located between Lots 32 and 33, South Haughton Estates Subdivision, in Section 35, Township 18 North, Range 11 West, Bossier Parish, LA, to be considered at the September 16, 2020, regular meeting.**

Votes were cast, and the motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Hauser announced the public hearing to consider approval of the Minor Plat for Brent Green, located in Section 32, Township 18 North, Range 11 West, Bossier Parish, LA.

Mr. Hudson stated that the proposed minor plat subdivides a one-acre tract of land from the 40-acre tract of land with a 30-foot ingress/egress from Arkla Plant Road for access to the one-acre tract of land. He stated that it is understood that the parish will never maintain the 30-foot ingress/egress to the one-acre tract of land. He further stated that the property owners have agreed to dedicate the portion of Arkla Plant Road which runs through their property to the parish.

There being no objection, **motion was made by Mr. Brotherton, seconded by Mr. Jorden, to approve the Minor Plat for Brent Green, located in Section 32, Township 18 North, Range 11 West, Bossier Parish, LA, with the understanding that the Bossier Parish Police Jury will never maintain the 30-foot ingress/egress to the one-acre tract of land, and the property owners agree to dedicate the portion of Arkla Plant Road which runs through their property to the parish.**

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

Ms. Hauser announced the public hearing to consider approval of the Minor Plat for Bob Cunningham, located in Section 6, Township 19 North, Range 13 West, Bossier Parish, LA.

Mr. Hudson stated that the Benton Parish Metropolitan Planning Commission has approved the proposed plat. He stated that the proposed plat subdivides a 1.417-acre tract of land from a larger tract in order to sell the 1.417-acre tract of land to Believers Assemblies of God church. He further stated that the church will have access to the 1.417-acre tract of land from their existing property off Highway 3.

There being no objection, **motion was made by Mr. Rodgers, seconded by Mr. Skaggs, to approve the Minor Plat for Bob Cunningham, located in Section 6, 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. Rodgers, seconded by Mr. Skaggs, to schedule a public hearing on September 16, 2020, to consider approval of the plat of the proposed development of Fairburn Subdivision, Unit No. 4A, a resubdivision of Lots 1 and 2, Fairburn Subdivision, Unit No. 4, located in Section 17, Township 19 North, Range 13 West, Bossier Parish, LA. This matter is being scheduled as a 28-day public hearing.

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

Motion was made by Mr. Rodgers, seconded by Mr. Skaggs, to schedule a public hearing on October 7, 2020, to consider the application of Mr. Ryan Estess, Raley and Associates, Inc., to the Benton-Parish Metropolitan Planning Commission for a zoning amendment to change the zoning classification of a certain tract of land being 33.161 acres, located in Section 6, Township 19 North, Range 13 West, Bossier Parish, LA, from R-A, Residence-Agricultural District, to B-1, Transition Business District, for a proposed North Bossier Corporate Park.

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

Mr. Glenn Benton, Chairman of the Road/Subdivision Regulations Committee, reported on a meeting of that committee. Committee members attending the Road/Subdivision Regulations Committee meeting were Mr. Benton, Mr. Rodgers, Mr. Marsiglia, Mr. Brotherton, Mr. Jorden, Mr. Rimmer, and Mr. Plummer. Mr. Jackson, Mr. Mark Coutee, Ms. Julie Gill, Ms. Carlotta Askew-Brown, Mr. Sam Marsiglia, and Mr. Salzer were also present.

Mr. Ford stated that the committee discussed leasing a lot in Forest Hills Subdivision, Unit No. 9, to the homeowner's association for a park. He stated that this matter will be further discussed.

Mr. Ford stated that the committee discussed the prohibition of resubdividing previously platted and approved subdivision lots after lots have been sold and developed. He stated that this matter will be further reviewed, and a recommendation will be made at a later date.

Mr. Ford stated that the committee discussed requests for Consolidated Waterworks/Sewerage District No. 1 of the Parish of Bossier sewer service in areas that the parish currently does not have the capability to service at this time. He stated that a proposal will be requested for costs associated with the extension of sewer services to the requested areas in Bossier Parish. He further stated that the Department of Environmental Quality has available low-interest funding that can be used for the extension of sewer service. Mr. Ford stated that he will present a proposal to the police jurors at a later date.

Mr. Ford stated that the committee discussed the Smith Road Bridge over Red Chute Bayou in southern Bossier Parish. He stated that the Smith Road Bridge is in need of replacement and he will present a proposal to the police jurors for consideration at a later date. He further stated that funds for replacement of the Smith Road Bridge will be budgeted for 2021.

Motion was made by Mr. Benton, seconded by Mr. Marsiglia, to schedule a public hearing on October 7, 2020, to consider adoption of ordinances amending Chapter 110, Section 98(a) "Subdivisions" and Chapter 42 "Emergency Services" of the Bossier Parish Code of Ordinances, Bossier Parish, Louisiana, to add "Electronic Access for Law Enforcement, Fire, and Medical Responders" for gated communities and gated commercial premises.

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

Mr. Jackson stated that the police jury will need to determine a time in which existing gates will need to be updated to comply with new parish regulations for electronic access. Mr. Benton recommended that subdivisions with existing electronic gates be allowed one year from the date of adoption of the ordinance to comply with the new electronic gate parish regulations.

Motion was made by Mr. Benton, seconded by Mr. Rimmer, to approve Change Order No. 5 for FY 2018 LCDBG Sewer System Improvements - Oak Hill Mobile Home Park project, and to authorize execution of documents. Said Change Order results in an increase in the amount of \$17,843.14. It has been approved by the Office of Community Development.

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 19th day of August, 2020, that it does hereby approve Change Order No. 5 for FY 2018 LCDBG Sewer System Improvements - Oak Hill Mobile Home Park project.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that William R. Altimus, Parish Administrator, or Jimmy Cochran, President, is hereby authorized to execute said Change Order No. 5.

The resolution was offered by Mr. Skaggs, seconded by Mr. Rodgers, Upon unanimous vote, it was duly adopted on this 19th day of August, 2020.

RACHEL D. HAUSER
PARISH SECRETARY

JIMMY COCHRAN, PRESIDENT
BOSSIER PARISH POLICE JURY

Mr. Jackson stated that earlier today the Road/Subdivision Regulations Committee discussed the prohibition of resubdividing previously platted and approved subdivision lots after lots have been sold and developed. He stated that the committee has requested that proposed options to address this matter be presented to the committee for consideration.

Motion was made by Mr. Jorden, seconded by Mr. Marsiglia, to table discussion of the prohibition of resubdividing previously platted and approved subdivision lots after lots have been sold and developed, to be considered at the September 2, 2020, regular meeting.

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. Jorden, to adopt a resolution authorizing the Bossier Parish Police Jury to prepare and submit an application to the Statewide Flood Control Program for assistance in the implementation of a project, Espanita Drainage Improvements Project, for the purpose of reducing existing flood damages; providing for the necessary documentation of said flood damage; and providing for other related matters in connection therewith.

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

RESOLUTION

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE BOSSIER PARISH POLICE JURY TO PREPARE AND SUBMIT AN APPLICATION TO THE STATEWIDE FLOOD CONTROL PROGRAM FOR ASSISTANCE IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF A PROJECT FOR THE PURPOSE OF REDUCING EXISTING FLOOD DAMAGES; PROVIDING FOR THE NECESSARY DOCUMENTATION OF SAID FLOOD DAMAGES; AND PROVIDING FOR OTHER RELATED MATTERS IN CONNECTION THEREWITH.

WHEREAS, Espanita Subdivision has been adversely affected by damages from flood waters; and

WHEREAS, the Bossier Parish Police Jury desires to apply for State matching funds pursuant to L.A. R.S. 38:90.1 *et. seq.*, as amended, to implement a project to reduce said flood damages, and that the Bossier Parish Police Jury is fully aware of its obligations under said Statute; and

WHEREAS, the Bossier Parish Police Jury is a political body duly organized and existing under the laws of the State of Louisiana and is eligible to apply for funds under said Statute.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Bossier Parish Police Jury as follows:

Section 1. That the Bossier Parish Police Jury acknowledges that upon approval, the application will be prepared and submitted to the Statewide Flood Control Program.

Section 2. That at the appropriate time and upon approval of funding assistance and prior to commencement of work on the project, the Bossier Parish Police Jury agrees to execute a Statement of Sponsorship pursuant to said Statute.

Section 3. That William R. Altimus, Parish Administrator, is hereby designated Authorized Representative for the Bossier Parish Police Jury to effect the preparation of the application and application to the Statewide Flood Control Program for funding assistance of a flood control project.

Section 4. That said Authorized Representative's responsibilities shall pertain to technical matters only and shall not include any official act on behalf of the Bossier Parish Police Jury.

The resolution was offered by Mr. Rimmer, seconded by Mr. Jorden. Upon unanimous vote, it was duly adopted on this 19th day of August, 2020.

RACHEL D. HAUSER
PARISH SECRETARY

JIMMY COCHRAN, PRESIDENT
BOSSIER PARISH POLICE JURY

Mr. Altimus provided an update on the East/West Corridor Project. He stated that parish funds spent for engineering and right-of-way acquisition on the East/West Corridor Project will go towards credits for the parish's 20 percent match to be used for future federal funding obtained for the project. He stated that the parish can now move forward with design and acquisition of right-of-way for the East/West Corridor Project. He further stated that it is planned that the project will be done in phases.

Mr. Altimus stated that it is anticipated that some landowners will donate property for the East/West Corridor Project.

Mr. Ford presented a slide presentation of aerials of several parish projects, and provided an update on each project.

Mr. Hudson provided an update on Project No. 2020-102, Airline Drive Overlay-Parish Limits to Kingston Road.

Mr. Hudson provided an update on the Swan Lake Road Realignment at Flat River project on Swan Lake Road at Legacy Elementary School.

Mr. Hudson provided an update on Project No. 2020-101, Glendale Lane Street Improvements (Phase II).

Mr. Hudson provided an update on Project No. 2019-132, West Linton Road Extension to Fairburn Avenue.

Mr. Hudson provided an update on the Linton Road Bridge over Flat River project.

Mr. Hudson provided an update on Caplis Sligo Road Bridge over Flat River project.

Mr. Hudson provided an update on the Black Bayou Bridge over Black Bayou.

Mr. Hudson provided an update on Palmetto Road Turn Lanes for Willis-Knighton project.

Mr. Hudson stated that the new tank has been installed and functioning for Consolidated Waterworks/Sewerage District No. 1 of the Parish of Bossier. He stated that the old tank will be removed in the near future.

Mr. Hudson introduced Mr. Henry Belt who will be working as an intern in the engineering department. He stated that Mr. Belt is a graduate of LSU.

Mr. Hudson requested that the agenda be amended to schedule a public hearing on September 16, 2020, to consider approval of the plat of the proposed development of Wemple Estates Subdivision, Unit No. 2, being a resubdivision of Lots 3 and 4, Wemple Estates Subdivision, Unit No. 1, located in Section 34, Township 19 North, Range 13 West, Bossier Parish, LA. This matter is being scheduled as a 28-day public hearing.

Motion was made by Mr. Skaggs, seconded by Mr. Rodgers, to amend the agenda to schedule a public hearing on September 16, 2020, to consider approval of the plat of the proposed development of Wemple Estates Subdivision, Unit No. 2, being a resubdivision of Lots 3 and 4, Wemple Estates Subdivision, Unit No. 1, located in Section 34, Township 19 North, Range 13 West, Bossier Parish, LA. This matter is being scheduled as a 28-day public hearing.

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

AYES: Mr. Benton, Mr. Brotherton, Mr. Cochran, Mr. Darby, Mr. Gray, Mr. Jorden, Mr. Marsiglia, Mr. Plummer, Mr. Rimmer, Mr. Rodgers, Mr. Salzer, Mr. Skaggs

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

Motion was made by Mr. Skaggs, seconded by Mr. Plummer, to schedule a public hearing on September 16, 2020, to consider approval of the plat of the proposed development of Wemple Estates Subdivision, Unit No. 2, being a resubdivision of Lots 3 and 4, Wemple Estates Subdivision, Unit No. 1, located in Section 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.**

Mr. Hudson provided an update on improvements to a curve on Linton Cutoff Road.

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

Mr. Warren Saucier, Parks and Recreation Director, presented an update on activities at parks throughout Bossier Parish.

Finance Committee Meeting – August 19, 2020, 1:30 p.m.

The Finance Committee of the Bossier Parish Police Jury met on this 19th day of August, 2020, at 1:30 p.m., in the Police Jury Meeting Room, Bossier Parish Courthouse, Benton, Louisiana, with all members present.

Ms. Lynn Bryan, Keep Bossier Beautiful, expressed appreciation to the police jury for allowing her the opportunity to provide the police jury with an update on the Keep Bossier Beautiful campaign.

Ms. Bryan stated that the Bossier Parish Community Appearance Index for Bossier Parish is now complete which serves as a tool wherein Keep Bossier Beautiful can guide their resources and work.

Ms. Bryan stated that Keep America Beautiful created the Community Litter Index and Keep Bossier Beautiful is an affiliate with Keep America Beautiful. She stated that Keep America Beautiful has requested that all affiliates use the same model in which to measure litter. She further stated that the Community Litter Index is a statistical random sample of sites located throughout Bossier Parish and uses a rating process of 1 through 4 with 4 being the most litter and 1 being no litter.

Ms. Bryan stated that the overall rating on the Community Litter Index for Bossier Parish is 1.8. She stated that there is work to be done in Bossier Parish to decrease the 1.8 rate. She presented a map which shows areas with the highest litter index rate in Bossier Parish which is the northern and southern portions of Bossier Parish. She stated that central Bossier Parish's litter index rate fluctuates between 1.4 and 1.5.

Ms. Bryan stated that it is assumed that the cause of northern and southern Bossier Parish having the higher index rate is due to illegal dumping and no affordable trash pick-up service provided for the residences in those areas.

Ms. Bryan stated that their goal is for Bossier Parish's litter index rate to be decreased from 1.8 to 1.5 by next year. She stated that Keep Bossier Beautiful would like to work with Mr. Jorden and Mr. Brotherton to address the litter issues in their districts by creating teams to clean up the litter, and discuss other ways to address the litter issues in their districts.

Ms. Bryan presented a PowerPoint presentation to the police jurors. She recognized volunteers that are assisting Keep Bossier Beautiful. She stated that activities and events can now be planned for next year and stated that being data driven is important.

Ms. Bryan stated that Keep Bossier Beautiful has applied for two grants and has been awarded one of the grants. She stated that the grant received is from Keep Louisiana Beautiful is for cigarette butt litter prevention. She stated that there are 41 Keep Louisiana Beautiful affiliates in Louisiana and out of the 41 affiliates, 38 letters of request were submitted. She further stated that 16 affiliates were invited to write a grant and 7 affiliates were selected including Keep Bossier Beautiful.

Ms. Bryan stated that Keep Bossier Beautiful was created approximately 35 years ago and they are working to update their bylaws due to the bylaws not being updated for many years. She provided additional information as to how Keep Bossier Beautiful plans to proceed.

Ms. Bryan provided a report on activities of Keep Bossier Beautiful and information on future events.

Mr. Salzer asked if there has been any contact with the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development to discuss cleaning bridges and overpasses. Ms. Bryan stated that cleaning bridges and overpasses is out of

the realm of what volunteers for Keep Bossier Beautiful can do due to safety reasons.

Mr. Salzer asked that information be obtained from the Bossier Parish Sheriff’s Office showing how many litter citations have been issued.

Mr. Darby recommended that Ms. Bryan contact the Ware Youth Center for possible volunteers for picking up trash.

Appreciation was extended to Ms. Bryan and Keep Bossier Beautiful for their work in Bossier Parish.

Motion was made by Mr. Benton, seconded by Mr. Rimmer, to approve payment of accounts payable invoices for the month of July, 2020.

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

Mr. Salzer requested that the agenda be amended to consider an expenditure of additional funds from the Capital Improvements Fund for Project No. 2019-115, Bossier Maximum-Security Jail Touchscreen Locking Control & Camera System Replacement, due to the bids received on August 18, 2020, being approximately \$230,000.00 over budget.

Motion was made by Mr. Salzer, seconded by Mr. Rimmer, to amend the agenda to consider authorizing the expenditure of additional funds from the Capital Improvements Fund in the amount of \$230,000.00, over and above the budgeted amount for Project No. 2019-115, Bossier Maximum-Security Jail Touchscreen Locking Control & Camera System Replacement.

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

- AYES: Mr. Benton, Mr. Brotherton, Mr. Cochran, Mr. Darby, Mr. Gray, Mr. Jorden, Mr. Marsiglia, Mr. Plummer, Mr. Rimmer, Mr. Rodgers, Mr. Salzer, Mr. Skaggs**
- NAYS: None**
- ABSTAIN: None**
- ABSENT: None**

Mr. Jim Firth, Purchasing Agent, stated that bids were received on August 18, 2020, for Project No. 2019-115, Bossier Maximum-Security Jail Touchscreen Locking Control & Camera System Replacement. He stated that the budgeted amount for the project is \$1 million, but the lowest bid received on August 18, 2020, was \$1.235 million. He requested that the police jury authorize the expenditure of additional funds from the Capital Improvements Fund in the amount of \$230,000.00, over and above the budgeted amount for Project No. 2019-115, Bossier Maximum-Security Jail Touchscreen Locking Control & Camera System Replacement.

Mr. Skaggs asked if the additional funds needed will be included in this year’s budget. Mr. Firth stated that \$1 million has been budgeted for 2020, and the additional funds needed can be budgeted for 2021.

Motion was made by Mr. Cochran, seconded by Mr. Marsiglia, to authorize an expenditure of additional funds from the Capital Improvements Fund in the amount of \$230,000.00, over and above the budgeted amount for Project No. 2019-115, Bossier Maximum-Security Jail Touchscreen Locking Control & Camera System Replacement.

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

Mr. Rimmer stated that Project No. 2019-115, Bossier Maximum-Security Jail Touchscreen Locking Control & Camera System Replacement, was underbudgeted due to the need for all cables to be replaced and low estimations of costs.

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 19th day of August, 2020, the meeting was adjourned by the President at 3:50 p.m.

RACHEL D. HAUSER
PARISH SECRETARY

JIMMY COCHRAN, PRESIDENT
BOSSIER PARISH POLICE JURY