

BOSSIER PARISH POLICE JURY
BENTON, LOUISIANA
MINUTES

November 4, 2020

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The Bossier Parish Police Jury met in regular and legal session on the 4th day of November, 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. Doug Rimmer, and the pledge of allegiance was led by Mr. Chris Marsiglia. Ms. Julie Gill, Secretary for the Parish Attorney, 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, Excused	Mr. Philip Rodgers
Mr. Charles Gray	Mr. Tom Salzer
Mr. John Ed Jorden	Mr. Jack Skaggs

Others present were Mr. William Altimus, Parish Administrator; Mr. Patrick Jackson, Parish Attorney; Mr. Eric Hudson, Assistant Parish Engineer.

Mr. Dale Thomas, 478 Highway 162, Benton, LA, stated that he recently had work done to his septic system, and it was determined that there are several issues with a septic pond which is located next to his water treatment plant. He stated that the concrete panel lift station located in the adjacent property owner's back yard pumps the sewer uphill to a septic pond. Mr. Thomas stated that the septic pond is overgrown, shaded and no sunlight reaches the septic pond.

Mr. Thomas stated that the pumps being used to pump human waste uphill to the septic pond are constantly burning up. He stated that a representative of the Louisiana Department of Health who came out to inspect the septic system and pond insisted that he be allowed to inspect his sewer system as well for any violations.

Mr. Thomas stated that he has a Cajun Aire system that has been in place for approximately 14 years which was installed by professionals and he has maintained the system. He stated that the representative from the Louisiana Department of Health found that his system was not in compliance. Mr. Thomas provided additional information pertaining to his Cajun Aire septic system and the violations that were given to him.

Mr. Thomas stated that he has requested a copy of all violations issued from the Louisiana Department of Health, but he has not received a copy of the violations as requested. He stated that he has maintained his septic system and should not have to live next to someone who does not properly maintain their septic system.

Mr. Thomas stated that he is present today to make a formal complaint against the adjacent property owner for not maintaining their septic system and requested assistance from the police jury to resolve this matter. He stated that he is concerned for the safety of his grandchildren who could fall into the septic pond or lift station.

There was further discussion on this matter. Mr. Jackson asked if there have been any citations issued to the property owners. Mr. Thomas stated that he is unaware if any citations have been issued. Mr. Jackson asked if he has received a copy of the violations that were issued to him. Mr. Thomas advised that he has not received a copy of the violations. Mr. Jackson stated that the parish engineering department should have a copy of those violations.

Mr. Jackson stated that the police jury has no jurisdiction over the Louisiana Department of Health, but a working relationship does exist between the two entities. He stated that the only action the police jury can do is facilitate the information that could possibly help with this matter.

Ms. Renee Hall, 482 Merritt Road, Benton, LA, was present and requested to address the police jury. **Motion was made by Mr. Rodgers, seconded by Mr. Skaggs, to amend the agenda to add Mr. Renee Hall as Visitor No. 2.**

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

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

Ms. Hall stated that her presence today is not associated with a lawsuit filed by the Cypress Black Bayou Recreation and Water Conservation District Board of Commissioners (the "Board") against her and her family. She stated that she attends the Board meetings as often as possible, and learned of the the lawsuit against her and her family during a board meeting.

Ms. Hall presented a "Taxpayers for Better Government" petition signed by various taxpayers in Bossier Parish. She stated that the petition is signed by taxpayers that are not members of the Friends of Cypress Black Bayou who wish to see changes made at Cypress Black Bayou park. She further stated that those visiting the park feel that the rules and regulations are too strict.

Ms. Hall presented a Citizens' Report which provides a timeline of events. She stated that additional documentation will be forwarded to the police jury via email supporting the timeline provided on the Citizens' Report.

Ms. Hall stated that at the May 15, 2020, Board meeting, the Board's attorney, Ms. Alex Vozzella, blamed the dual office holding on "disgruntled citizens" and "bully tactics" and "completely meritless" open meeting law complaints. She stated that a public records request was submitted to determine what was said and done to bring merit to Ms. Vozzella's claims.

Ms. Hall presented a petition signed by approximately 500 Bossier Parish citizens from all over the parish requesting Mr. Robert Berry's resignation as Executive Director of the Cypress Black Bayou Recreation and Water Conservation District Board of Commissioners. She stated that Mr. Berry is breaking the law and the citizens wanted the police jury to handle this matter and it not be handled by the Bossier Parish District Attorney.

Ms. Hall stated that due to the lawsuit being filed by the District Attorney's Office, the taxpayers are going to have to pay to defend the Board. She provided additional information pertaining to Mr. Berry's presence at board

meetings and conflicts of him voting on items. She further stated that there is no record of Mr. Berry recusing himself from any votes during a Board meeting that would have been a conflict of interest for him to cast a vote.

Ms. Hall provided information pertaining to the salary of other Executive Directors of parks in Louisiana. She also provided information pertaining to a \$3 million loan obtained by the Board and the number of draw requests from the loan made by Mr. Berry. She stated that out of 39 draw requests from the loan, 15 of the requests included errors. She further stated that the total discrepancy amount of the draw requests total \$205,115.41. Ms. Hall stated that she does not understand how Mr. Berry deserves the salary he is receiving when he is breaking the law.

Ms. Hall stated that several of the citizens that signed the petition are in fear of retaliation and requested that the names not be made public. Mr. Jackson stated that all documents being presented today are now part of the public record.

Ms. Hall provided additional information pertaining to the petition that is being presented today.

Mr. Benton requested clarification as to whether the citizens that have signed the petition live in the Cypress Black Bayou Recreation and Water Conservation District (the "District") or not. Ms. Hall stated that signatures obtained on the petition are from citizens who live in the District, as well as citizens that do not live in the District. There was further discussion pertaining to residents who live in the District. Ms. Hall stated that signatures obtained are from citizens throughout Bossier Parish, not just citizens who live in the District.

Mr. Rodgers requested that Mr. Jackson further review the information presented today and provide his findings at a later date. Mr. Jackson requested that all documents being presented today be provided to the police jury office.

Mr. Bob Key, 202 Ryan Road, Benton, LA, stated that he is concerned with the financial management of the District by the Board. He stated that for approximately 25 years, the District operated on a controlled budget for spending. He further stated that in 2015 the newly appointed board members decided to raise fees and increase the ad valorem taxes. He provided additional information pertaining to fees and ad valorem taxes for the District.

Mr. Key stated that the Board continues to operate at a significant deficit and they are covering the deficit by passing the deficit costs back to the fee payors that operate on the lake as well as the land owners that live around the lake. He stated that for approximately 25 years he paid a fee for his pier and lake frontage at \$26.00 per year. Mr. Key stated that for the year 2019, he had to pay \$326.00 for his pier and lake frontage. He provided additional information pertaining the increase of fees.

Mr. Key stated that the Board does not allow citizens to speak at the board meetings and the Board has been reluctant to provide requested documents through the Freedom of Information Act showing where fees have been spent by the Board. He stated that once the documents were provided by the Board, substantial discrepancies were found in the finances. He further stated that actions are being taken to locate those businesses that have submitted invoices on scrap paper to the Board in the amounts of \$10,000.00 to \$40,000.00.

Mr. Key stated that requests have been made to the Board to schedule their meetings at a reasonable time which would allow citizens to attend, but they refuse to do so.

Mr. Key stated that his main complaint pertains to the financial management of funds by the Board and the treatment of citizens living on the lake. He requested assistance from the police jury to address these concerns. He stated that millions of dollars are not being handled appropriately by the Board. Mr. Key further stated that the police jury has the authority to address these matters.

Mr. Andy Modica, 818 W. Lakeshore Drive, Benton, LA, stated that he has been unable to speak at the Board meetings. He stated that the police jury is transparent, but the Board is not and will not allow the tax paying citizens to address the Board.

Mr. Modica stated that the police jury is the connection to Mr. Robert Berry and Mr. Berry's actions with the Board is an embarrassment to Bossier Parish. He requested that the police jury ask Mr. Berry for his resignation. He stated that a law firm located in Shreveport, LA, is representing Mr. Berry, and Bossier Parish taxpayers' monies are being used to pay the law firm to represent Mr. Berry against Bossier Parish taxpayers.

Mr. Modica provided information pertaining to the ruling by the Attorney General and the lawsuit filed by the Bossier Parish District Attorney. He stated that Mr. Berry refuses to resign and these actions are an embarrassment to Bossier Parish. He further stated that if the police jury would demand Mr. Berry's resignation, the lawsuits would not be necessary and millions of dollars of Bossier Parish taxpayers' monies would not be spent on this legal matter.

Mr. Modica expressed appreciation to the police jury for allowing him to address the police jury today.

Ms. Beth Ketcham, 2467 Cypress Village Drive, Benton, LA, stated that her family has lived on the lake since 1998. She stated that she has gone door-to-door to obtain signatures from citizens living on the lake and those citizens did not have anything positive to say about the actions of the Board and the events surrounding the lake. She further stated that the citizens feel that they are oppressed and being forced to pay outrageous fees. Ms. Ketcham stated that some citizens were scared to sign the petition in fear of retaliation.

Ms. Ketcham provided additional information regarding the lake and subdivisions. She requested the police jury's assistance in resolving these issues.

Mr. Rex Moncrief, 2208 Hickory Ridge Drive, Bossier City, LA, stated that approximately 483 signatures have been obtained from citizens all around Bossier Parish. He stated that approximately 62 to 64 of the 82 precincts are under the taxing authority of Cypress Black Bayou Recreation and Water Conservation District. He further stated that the citizens living in these precincts vote during elections, and the police jurors vote on who is appointed as the Executive Director of Cypress Black Bayou Recreation and Conservation District.

Mr. Moncrief stated that this matter is a great concern to many citizens with a large majority living around Cypress Lake. He stated that he is unsure if the petition being submitted today is legally binding, but the petition shows how concerned the citizens of Bossier Parish are with the action of Mr. Berry and the Board.

Mr. Moncrief stated that he ran the math using the Board's budget numbers and even with removing the legal fees which are approximately \$100,000.00 per year and other miscellaneous fees, it shows that the park is losing approximately \$500,000.00 to \$600,000.00 per year. He stated that the revenue is approximately \$400,000.00 per year based on the park's revenues, but the payroll is over \$500,000.00. Mr. Moncrief stated that the District is having to use the tax millage and landowner fees to run the park, which financially does not make sense.

Mr. Moncrief asked how someone who is in charge of park funds which show a loss, and who has used all funds from a \$3 million loan/bond issue, be paid a salary of over \$127,000.00 per year while the park is losing money. He stated that the Bossier Parish taxpayers want a voice and that is why they are signing the petition to remove Mr. Berry as Executive Director of the District. He further stated that the Board refuses to allow the citizens to speak during their meetings or ask questions related to topics on the agenda.

Mr. Moncrief stated that all public record requests are sent to the law firm representing the Board which causes additional unnecessary expenses. He requested that the police jury listen to the Bossier Parish taxpaying citizens regarding this matter. He expressed appreciation for the District Attorney filing a lawsuit against Mr. Berry, but that is not what the taxpaying citizens asked of the police jury.

Mr. Moncrief requested that the police jurors listen to the audio recording of the Board's January 2015 meeting. He stated that the citizens were expressing concern of the dual office holding by Mr. Berry as Executive Director and a board member, as well as the upcoming bond issue and whether the bond issue was necessary. Mr. Moncrief provided additional information as to the treatment of citizens at Board meetings.

Mr. Rimmer stated that appointment of the Executive Director for the District is not within the police jury's purview. Mr. Jackson stated that the police jury appoints one board member to the Board, and has no jurisdiction over who the Board appoints as the Executive Director of the District.

Mr. Salzer asked if the police jury has any jurisdiction pertaining to the District other than the appointment of one board member. Mr. Jackson confirmed that the only action the police jury has pertaining to the the District, the Board or the park is the appointment of one board member.

Mr. Moncrief stated that the police jury's appointment of Mr. Berry as the police jury's representative on the Board led to Mr. Berry being appointed as the Executive Director for the District.

Mr. Jackson stated that the lawsuit filed in this matter is scheduled to be heard on November 24, 2020, in the 26th Judicial District Court.

Mr. Rimmer asked for additional information as to the budget for the park showing a deficit, and asked if the revenues generated from the millage are used for operation of the park. Mr. Jackson stated that revenues from the millage are used for operation of the park, and if the organization is running a deficit that is unexplainable as is being represented here today, the Legislative Auditor would bring that to the police jury's attention.

Mr. Jackson stated that each year the Legislative Auditor is going to opine on the financial and physical management of the organization. He stated that each political subdivision of this state is mandated by law to have a balanced budget. He further stated that no one has the ability to deficit spend and it is illegal.

Mr. Moncrief stated that the Board does turn their information in to the Legislative Auditor. He provided additional information as to the budget and expenses of the District.

Mr. Marsiglia requested clarification as to the earlier comment that payment was issued for bills written on scrap paper, and who authorized payment of those fees. Mr. Moncrief stated that it appears that Mr. Berry, as Executive Director of the District, approved payment of those fees. He further stated that he has copies of the scrap papers.

Mr. Jordan asked who has the authority to appoint Mr. Berry as Executive Director. Mr. Jackson stated that the Board appoints the Executive Director.

Ms. Hall stated that the Board's auditor, Mr. Travis Morehart, continues to refuse to provide requested information or return any phone calls. She stated that video of Mr. Morehart's behavior and refusal to answer questions during a board meeting will be provided to the police jury. She provided additional information as to the Board's deficit and refusal by the Board and Mr. Morehart to provide her with requested information. She also provided information as to treatment of the citizens during board meetings. Ms. Hall stated that not only does the Board and Mr. Morehart refuse to provide requested information, the Legislative Auditor is also not willing to provide requested information. She stated that she will be addressing these issues with the Louisiana State Treasurer.

Mr. Rimmer stated that after reviewing the numbers presented today, he will reach out to Mr. Morehart as well to request clarification on budget numbers for the District.

Ms. Hall stated that the budget for the event center for the park was \$1 million, but the District only spent \$40,000.00 of that \$1 million on the event/community center. She stated that the \$40,000.00 building will likely be used to store equipment. She further stated that the Board continues to use the Nature Center facility to hold board meetings which is a small venue instead of using the event/community center which is a larger venue and would allow more citizens to attend the board meetings. Ms. Hall stated that tax paying citizens are forced to stand outside of the Nature Center building in the cold until they are asked to enter in order to address the Board.

Mr. Benton asked if the citizens were required to stand outside pre-COVID. Ms. Hall stated that all citizens were allowed to attend the meetings before the COVID pandemic, and feels that in order to allow more citizens to attend the meetings, the Board should move the meetings to the event/community center.

Ms. Alexandra Vozzella, Attorney for Cypress Black Bayou Recreation and Water Conservation District, stated that there have been many inaccurate statements made today. She stated that if the police jurors have any questions, she would be more than happy to address those questions any time.

Ms. Vozzella stated that the Legislative Auditor did not refuse to look at any financials submitted, and in fact, the Legislative Auditor issued a letter regarding this matter. She provided the jurors with a copy of the referenced letter. She stated that the letter goes through each of the allegations which were just presented. Mr. Cochran reminded Ms. Vozzella that any documents presented today will be made a part of the public record. Ms. Vozzella stated that the correspondence she is presenting today from the Legislative Auditor is in fact already a matter of public record.

Ms. Vozzella stated that the above referenced letter from the Legislative Auditor was provided to Representative Dodie Horton and copies were also provided to the Attorney General's Office and Ms. Renee Hall. She stated that the Legislative Auditor and an independent auditor, Mr. Travis Morehart, found no basis for the allegations presented today. She further stated that Mr. Morehart and his auditing firm is an upstanding firm in this community, and any character attacks or attacks on his work ethics is offensive and unwarranted.

Ms. Vozzella stated that she has spent numerous hours having to correct the false allegations, and takes many phone calls asking for information on this matter.

Ms. Vozzella stated that she received a phone call from a resident that lives on Cypress Lake whom she has never met, asking that she present a letter on his behalf. She stated that Mr. Gregory Theriot is in the Air Force and is having to quarantine due to the COVID-19 virus. Ms. Vozzella stated that Mr. Theriot asked that she present and read his letter at today's meeting.

November 4, 2020

MEMORANDUM FOR: BOSSIER PARISH POLICE JURY AND MEETING PARTICIPANTS

SUBJECT: Comments Regarding the Friends of Cypress/Black Bayou Petition

I apologize for my absence from the meeting today. I have been placed on quarantine pending Covid test results.

Background: I was born and raised in Vermillion Parish in South Louisiana. I have lived in Bossier Parish since 2015 and have lived in Woodlake North for 2 years. I am currently serving my 19th year on active duty and plan to retire in Woodlake North.

Concerns: My vested interest is the preservation of the life we enjoy here in Woodlake and other lake communities, to include property values.

1. It is concerning to me that the primary person behind the creation of Friends of Cypress/Black Bayou, Renee Hall, is also involved in a legal dispute regarding the building of structures on the 100' federal easement on cypress bayou. Residents ask yourselves, what big complaints did you have about the Water District prior to the creation of Friends of Cypress/Black Bayou? It is my opinion the petition efforts are simply a personal vendetta, promoted by misinformation, against the executive director by Renee Hall.

2. Renee Hall is also involved in civil litigation as reflected in Parish Public Records. The case, Irmgard O'Bryant vs Renee Hall/case C-1609912/docket number 160,991. The case alleges Renee Hall inappropriately removed funds from Ms. O'Bryant's financial accounts. Ms. O'Bryant is elderly and in a nursing home. My concern regarding this case is trusting and handing the control of any kind to Renee Hall until this case is resolved. It is also important to consider other possible victims or any District Attorney criminal charges should Renee Hall not be exonerated.

3. I believe the facts regarding the petition are misrepresented to residents to promote Renee Hall's quest for revenge against the original 100' easement dispute.

4. Any voices on social media contrary to Renee Hall's goals are silenced, and the person is attacked. I ask all those who agree with pausing all petition efforts to join me in a search for the facts. Basing decisions on facts versus a misinformed group's shared narrative is the adult thing to do.

5. Black Bayou and Cypress Lake are outperforming all surrounding waterways with respect to Salvinia infestation and it is not even close. During times of flooding, the lakes have been well managed. Most importantly, the tax revenue continues to support the lakes. It would be unfortunate to jeopardize the fragile existence of the water system we all enjoy on behalf of Renee Hall's personal gain and vendetta.

Sincerely Concerned Resident,
Gregory Theriot

Ms. Vozzella stated that Mr. Theriot requested that his telephone number and email address be provided to the jurors if they wish to contact him to discuss this in greater detail.

Ms. Vozzella stated that she has received several phone calls from citizens that feel the same as Mr. Theriot.

Ms. Vozzella stated there is no ruling from the court at this time which supports the accusation of dual office holding by Mr. Berry. She stated that the hearing on the matter of determining if Mr. Berry is guilty of dual office holding is scheduled for November 24, 2020. She requested that the police jury not make any decisions until the court has made a ruling. She stated that Mr. Berry and the Board deserve to have their due process in this matter.

Ms. Vozzella stated that she will answer any questions that the police jurors may have on the information presented today.

Mr. Rimmer stated that based on hearsay, it is said that Ms. Vozzella's firm issued a legal opinion to the Board stating that it was legal for Mr. Berry to serve as a Board Member and serve as the Executive Director for the Board. Ms. Vozzella stated that she was not working for the law firm in 2015 and would have to research to determine if there is an existing legal opinion, but it is her firm's position that it is not illegal for Mr. Berry to serve as a member of the Cypress Black Bayou Recreation and Water Conservation District Board of Commissioners and serve as the Executive Director for the District.

Ms. Margaret Rougeau, 231 Merry Lane, Benton, LA, stated that she owns the largest piece of property on the lake and feels that she has the right to make a complaint on operation of the lake and the oversight of Mr. Berry giving himself raises. She stated that she does not appreciate being taxed without anyone asking permission to do so. She further stated that she does not appreciate being made to feel as though she is unrepresented with Mr. Berry being allowed to increase his own salary while raising taxes and fees for the landowners.

Mr. Key stated that he was present at the last board meeting that Mr. Morehart criticized the Board for continuing to run deficits. He stated that the December 31, 2020, proposed budget shows a \$10,600.00 deficit. He further stated that the minutes of the last Board meeting will show what transpired at that meeting. He stated that the Board was advised at that meeting of the deficit and to his knowledge, the Board has done nothing to rectify this matter.

The following documents are hereby entered into the record:

1. Citizens Report, Cypress Black Bayou Recreation and Water Conservation District comprised of 18 pages;

2. December 9, 2014, Board Meeting minutes of the Cypress Black Bayou Recreation and Water Conservation District Board of Commissioners comprised of 2 pages;

3. Removal of the Executive Director, Petition for removal of the Executive Director of the Cypress Black Bayou Recreation and Water Conservation District and "Taxpayers for Better Government" comprised of 200 pages; and

4. Letter dated November 4, 2020, from Mr. Gregory Theriot.

Mr. Benton requested that the public hearing for Agenda Item No. 1, to consider the application of Anthony Lowrie to the Bossier City-Parish Metropolitan Planning Commission for a Conditional Use Approval for the sale of

high and low content alcohol for off-premise consumption at a proposed liquor store and daiquiri shop located at 2955 Highway 80, Bossier Parish, LA, be scheduled for December 2, 2020, which will allow for a 25-day public hearing.

Motion was made by Mr. Benton, seconded by Mr. Marsiglia, to schedule a public hearing on December 2, 2020, to consider the application of Anthony Lowrie to the Bossier City-Parish Metropolitan Planning Commission for a Conditional Use Approval for the sale of high and low content alcohol for off-premise consumption at a proposed liquor store and daiquiri shop located at 2955 Highway 80, 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. Benton, seconded by Mr. Marsiglia, to schedule a public hearing on December 16, 2020, to consider the application of the Bossier City-Parish Metropolitan Planning Commission to consider an amendment to the Unified Development Code for new regulations pertaining to adjoining and abutting lots.

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 December 16, 2020, to consider approval of the plat of the proposed development of Fairburn Subdivision, Unit No. 5, a resubdivision of Lot 2, Fairburn Subdivision, Unit No. 4, located in Section 17, 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. (THIS MATTER IS BEING REMOVED DUE TO A PUBLIC HEARING PREVIOUSLY BEING SCHEDULED FOR NOVEMBER 18, 2020, ON THIS MATTER)

Motion was made by Mr. Plummer, seconded by Mr. Rodgers, to schedule a public hearing on December 16, 2020, to consider approval of sewer rates for the Consolidated Waterworks/Sewerage District No. 1 of the Parish of Bossier.

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

Mr. Plummer, Chairman of the Health, Water Sanitation and Sewer District Committee, reported on a meeting of that committee. Committee members attending the Health, Water Sanitation and Sewer District Committee meeting were Mr. Plummer, Mr. Benton, Mr. Brotherton, Mr. Jorden, Mr. Marsiglia, and Mr. Rodgers. Mr. Ford, Mr. Culverhouse, Mr. Hudson, Mr. Larry Landry, and Mr. Nguyen Kha were also present. Other Jurors present were Mr. Salzer and Mr. Skaggs.

Mr. Plummer stated that the committee discussed the need to review current water and sewer rates. No action taken.

Mr. Salzer, Chairman of the Insurance Committee, reported on a meeting of that committee. Committee members attending the Insurance Committee meeting were Mr. Salzer, Mr. Rimmer, Mr. Marsiglia, and Mr. Rodgers. Mr. Benton, Ms. Lisa Wilson, Mr. Jackson, and Mr. Altimus were also present.

Mr. Salzer stated that the committee met with Mr. Jason Weinland, Jweinland Group Benefits, to discuss police jury insurance for this year and next year. He stated that it is anticipated that there will be a surplus on health insurance for 2020 as well as for dental insurance. Mr. Salzer stated that it is projected that the police jury will receive a \$150,000.00 rebate for 2021 for the prescription plan.

Mr. Rimmer, Chairman of the Policy and Procedures Committee, reported on a meeting of that committee. Committee members attending the Policy and Procedures Committee meeting were Mr. Rimmer, Mr. Gray, Mr. Marsiglia, and Mr. Plummer. Mr. Jackson, Ms. Lisa Wilson, Mr. Ford, and Mr. Pat Culverhouse were also present. Other jurors present were Mr. Benton, Mr. Salzer, Mr. Skaggs, and Mr. Brotherton.

Mr. Rimmer stated that the Policy and Procedures Committee recommends adoption of the following policy:
705 INTERACTIONS WITH INMATES & CONVICTED FELONS – *(This should only apply to those Bossier Parish Police Jury employees that work at or cause to enter the corrections facility for work purposes: maintenance personnel, medical personnel and any other administrative personnel that work for the Bossier Parish Police Jury that are required as a part of their job duties to enter the facilities on a regular basis.)*

The Bossier Parish Police Jury shall make every attempt to avoid conflict of interest when the relative or significant other of a Corrections' employee is arrested and housed in a Bossier Parish Detention Facility.

DEFINITIONS:

Family Member: A person who is a spouse, former spouse, child, stepchild, grandchild, parent, stepparent, grandparent, niece, nephew, cousin, aunt, uncle, mother-in-law, son-in-law, daughter-in-law, sibling, brother-in-law, or sister-in-law, including adoptive relationships of an employee.

Significant Other: A person that is, or recently has been in a dating relationship with an employee.

DISCUSSION:

In the event that an employee has family or a significant other arrested and housed in a Bossier Parish Jail, it can create a genuine conflict of interest. Therefore, timely notification of such arrests is necessary so corrections' supervisors can make appropriate arrangements to ensure no contact is made between the arrestee and affected employee.

PROCEDURE:

Avoid association (except when unavoidable because of a family relationship) or dealings with persons known as felons, or person in custody or under criminal investigation, except in the performance of your official duties. Prohibited dealings include loans or gifts of anything of value. Also prohibited is accepting anything of value from such person, their associates, or families. Nor shall any items be transported to or from anyone on behalf of such person. All contact with such persons, their association or friend must remain professional.

A. Incarceration Notification Guidelines

- o If the family member or significant other of a corrections' employee is arrested in Bossier Parish and will be incarcerated in a BSO operated facility, an immediate supervisor shall be notified as soon as the employee returns to duty.
 - a) Further notification to appropriate command staff will be made by the supervisor.
- o The affected employee shall have no contact with the arrestee while incarcerated.
- o Supervisors shall make necessary adjustments to shift scheduling to ensure no contact is possible by one of the following means:
 - a) Transfer personnel between jails to remove the employee from the housing facility.
 - b) Assign the employee to a section of the jail where contact is completely preventable.
- o Under no circumstances should the affected employee have any role in the booking and housing, care, custody, or control of the arrestee.
- o If the arrest of a family member or significant other happens while the employee is on-duty, the notification of command staff and provisions of no contact set forth in the policy will be enacted immediately.

Motion was made by Mr. Rimmer, seconded by Mr. Plummer, to adopt amendments to the Bossier Parish Police Jury Policy and Procedures Manual, as recommended by the Policy and Procedures Committee.
The President called for public comment. There being none, **votes were cast, and the motion carried unanimously.**

Mr. Rimmer stated that the Policy and Procedures Committee recommends adoption of policies for ribbons of commendations for the Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Unit officers as presented to the committee.

Motion was made by Mr. Rimmer, seconded by Mr. Plummer, to adopt policies for ribbons of commendations for the Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Unit, as recommended by the Policy and Procedures Committee.

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

Motion was made by Mr. Benton, seconded by Mr. Rimmer, to approve the following applications for renewal of Bossier Parish beer/liquor licenses for the year 2021.

The President called for public comment. There being none, **votes were cast, and the motion carried unanimously.** Each application has been approved by the Bossier Parish Sheriff's Department and the Health Department.

- La Esparanza – Beer
- Trejo's Mexican Restaurant, Haughton – Beer and Liquor
- Trejo's Mexican Restaurant, Princeton – Beer
- Sligo Country Store – Beer and Liquor
- Fête La – Beer and Liquor
- Old Oaks Golf Club – Beer and Liquor
- Red River Casino – Beer and Liquor
- Country Corner – Beer

Motion was made by Mr. Rimmer, seconded by Mr. Brotherton, to approve the amendment to street names in Magnolia Ridge Subdivision previously approved on September 16, 2020, to change the street names from Ocean Drive to East and West Josie Lane and from Bertolla Street to Joe Ford Drive.

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

Motion was made by Mr. Benton, seconded by Mr. Marsiglia, to approve amendment of the approval of a variance of parish regulations to allow a home to be built below the road surface level previously approved on October 7, 2020, to reflect that the correct address is 1570 Wafer Road, Haughton, LA.

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

Motion was made by Mr. Benton, seconded by Mr. Marsiglia, to approve Amendment No. 1 to the Agreement for Engineering Services Contract between the Bossier Parish Police Jury and Cothren, Graff, Smoak Engineering, Inc., in the amount of \$24,000.00 for engineering services for the Lars Road Water Line Improvement Project, an 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 November, 2020, that it does hereby approve Amendment No. 1 to the Agreement for Engineering Services Contract between the Bossier Parish Police Jury and Cothren, Graff, Smoak Engineering, Inc., in the amount of \$24,000.00 for engineering services for the Lars Road Water Line Improvement Project.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that William R. Altimus, Parish Administrator, or Jimmy Cochran, 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 said amendment.

The resolution was offered by Mr. Benton, seconded by Mr. Marsiglia. Upon unanimous vote, it was duly adopted on this 4th day of November, 2020.

RACHEL D. HAUSER
PARISH SECRETARY

JIMMY COCHRAN, PRESIDENT
BOSSIER PARISH POLICE JURY

Motion was made by Mr. Benton, seconded by Mr. Rimmer, to approve Change Order No. 1 for Project No. 2019-119, Contract III-New Ground Storage Tank for Consolidated Waterworks/Sewerage District No. 1 of the Parish of Bossier, and to authorize the execution of documents. Said Change Order results in an increase of \$4,000.00.

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 November, 2020, that it does hereby approve Change Order No. 1 for Project No. 2019-119, Contract III-New Ground Storage Tank for Consolidated Waterworks/Sewerage District No. 1 of the Parish of Bossier.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that William R. Altimus, Parish Administrator, or Jimmy Cochran, President, is hereby authorized to execute said Change Order No. 1.

The resolution was offered by Mr. Benton, seconded by Mr. Rimmer. Upon unanimous vote, it was duly adopted on this 4th day of November, 2020.

RACHEL D. HAUSER
PARISH SECRETARY

JIMMY COCHRAN, PRESIDENT
BOSSIER PARISH POLICE JURY

Jurors were provided a copy of district highway reports.

Mr. Altimus requested that jurors review the report previously provided to them from Ms. Ginger Adam Corley, lobbyist, pertaining to the Second Special Session.

Mr. Hudson provided an update on the Swan Lake Road Bridge at Poole Road project.

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

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 Linton Road Bridge over Black Bayou project.

Mr. Hudson reported that a road tour will be scheduled soon to determine which roads need to be included in the road overlay program.

Mr. Benton requested information pertaining to Winfield Road. Mr. Hudson stated that Winfield Road needs to be reconstructed and certain tests will be done in the near future to determine what needs to be done.

Mr. Kevin Gay, Road Superintendent, presented an update on activities of the highway department and on several road projects in the parish.

Mr. Brotherton provided a report on the Shreveport-Bossier Sports Commission and upcoming events. He stated that due to the COVID-19 health crisis, several events were cancelled. He further stated that it is anticipated that the events will be rescheduled for next year.

Mr. Brotherton stated that due to recent hurricanes, the Louisiana High School Athletic State Swimming Championship, which is usually held in the south, is scheduled for the week of November 16, 2020, in Shreveport at the YMCA. He stated that the event will be a four-day event with approximately 1,000 to 1,300 swimmers participating in the event.

Mr. Brotherton stated that Battle on the Hardwood Classic basketball tournament is scheduled for November 18, 2020, which is being sponsored by Bossier High School Lady Bearkats.

Mr. Brotherton stated that the USA Boxing National Championship is scheduled at the convention center in Shreveport, LA, December 2-12, 2020. He further stated that an MMA Boxing event is scheduled for November 12, 2020, at the convention center in Shreveport, LA.

Mr. Brotherton stated that the 45th Radiance Technologies Independence Bowl is scheduled for December 26, 2020. He stated that the Independence Bowl is the 11th oldest bowl game in college football. He further stated that the game will be televised by ESPN with a kickoff time of 6:00 p.m.

Mr. Brotherton stated that the 47th Annual Bayou Classic football game is scheduled for Saturday, April 17, 2021, between Grambling State University and Southern University and A&M College. He stated that the Battle of the Bands is scheduled for Friday, April 16, 2021.

Mr. Marsiglia requested that a public hearing be scheduled to reduce the speed limit on the Bossier Parish portion of Old Brownlee Road from 40 miles per hour to 25 miles per hour to be consistent with the 25 miles per hour speed limit on the City of Bossier City's portion of Old Brownlee Road.

Motion was made by Mr. Marsiglia, seconded by Mr. Benton, to amend the agenda to schedule a public hearing on December 2, 2020, to consider reducing the speed limit on approximately .5 miles of Old Brownlee Road, south of Wemple Road to the Bossier City limits, located in Section 4, Township 18 North, Range 13 West and Section 33, Township 19 North, Range 13 West, Bossier Parish, LA, from 40 miles per hour to 25 miles per hour.

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

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

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Mr. Darby

Motion was made by Mr. Marsiglia, seconded by Mr. Benton, to schedule a public hearing on December 2, 2020, to consider reducing the speed limit on approximately .5 miles of Old Brownlee Road, south of Wemple Road to the Bossier City limits, located in Section 4, Township 18 North, Range 13 West and Section 33, Township 19 North, Range 13 West, Bossier Parish, LA, from 40 miles per hour to 25 miles per hour.

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

Mr. Benton stated that the 2021 Police Jury Association of Louisiana Convention is scheduled in Baton Rouge, LA, February 10-12, 2021. He stated that Mr. Brotherton will be serving as the 1st Vice President of the Police Jury Association for 2021. He encouraged those jurors wishing to attend to advise police jury staff in order to reserve a hotel room.

Mr. Jackson stated that there have been several complaints of junk yards throughout Bossier Parish. He provided a report on legal proceedings.

Mr. Jackson provided a report on legal proceedings pertaining to building permits. He also provided a report on delinquent sewer and water accounts.

Mr. Jackson reported on a meeting with Standard and Poor's. He stated that representatives of Standard and Poor's asked how the COVID-19 health crisis has affected Bossier Parish. Mr. Jackson stated that Bossier Parish's economy is doing very well, and provided additional information that Mr. Altimus provided to Standard and Poor's.

There being no further business to come before the Bossier Parish Police Jury in regular and legal session on this 4th day of November, 2020, the meeting was adjourned by the President at 3:45 p.m.

RACHEL D. HAUSER
PARISH SECRETARY

JIMMY COCHRAN, PRESIDENT
BOSSIER PARISH POLICE JURY