

MINUTES
POINTE COUPEE PARISH POLICE JURY
March 22, 2016

The Pointe Coupee Parish Police Jury met in regular session at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 22, 2016, at the Courthouse Annex in the Police Jury Meeting Room, New Roads, Louisiana.

President Cornell Dukes called the meeting to order and directed Administrative Assistant Linette Pascalín to call the roll.

PRESENT: Messrs. Mitch Langlois, Charles Watkins, Gordon Taylor, Mrs. Melanie Bueche, Messrs. Stephen Smith, Kyle Olinde, Justin Cox, Glenn Cline, Edward Bazile, Kurt Jarreau and Cornell Dukes. Arrived after roll call: Mr. Anthony Hurst.

ABSENT: None.

15 MINUTES OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

The two (2) citizens that signed for public comments were asked to speak during the Public Hearing item.

ADOPT MINUTES

Motion by Mr. Olinde and seconded by Mr. Smith:

RESOLVED, That the minutes of March 8, 2016 meeting be adopted as presented and published in the official journal.

Unanimously carried.

AMEND THE AGENDA

Motion by Mr. Olinde and seconded by Mr. Watkins:

RESOLVED, That the agenda be amended for the inclusion of the following:

- Employee Discipline/Separation Matter.

The President called for a roll call vote that resulted as follows:

YEAS: Messrs. Mitch Langlois, Charles Watkins, Gordon Taylor, Mrs. Melanie Bueche, Messrs. Stephen Smith, Kyle Olinde, Glenn Cline, Edward Bazile, Anthony Hurst and Kurt Jarreau.

NAYS: Mr. Justin Cox.

ABSENT: None.

ABSTAIN: Mr. Dukes

On a vote of 10-1-0-1, the motion failed.

Motion by Mr. Langlois and seconded by Mr. Taylor:

RESOLVED, That the agenda be amended for the inclusion of the following:

- Secure an architect for the USDA loan for roof repairs/replacement of the Detention Center, Courthouse and Annex Building.

The President called for a roll call vote that resulted as follows:

YEAS: Messrs. Justin Cox, Glenn Cline, Edward Bazile, Anthony Hurst, Kurt Jarreau, Mitch Langlois, Charles Watkins, Gordon Taylor, Mrs. Melanie Bueche, Messrs. Stephen Smith and Kyle Olinde.

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: None.

ABSTAIN: Mr. Dukes

On a vote of 11-0-0-1, the motion carried.

EMPLOYEE ANNIVERSARY AWARDS

Vice President Kyle Olinde presented the following employees with anniversary service awards for their years of dedicated service:

15 years of service: Becky Mayeux, Ronell Roubique and Weldon Jewell
10 years of service: Linette Pascalin and Wilfred St. Romain

Vice President Olinde announced the employees that were not present with anniversary service awards for their years of dedicated service:

35 years of service: Gerrie Martin
25 years of service: Lana Ramagos
15 years of service: Erica Jewell
10 years of service: Jonathan Boone

PUBLIC HEARING--TO AMEND ARTICLE III, SECTION 8-31B OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES TO REMOVE THE SUNSET CLAUSE FROM THE DRAINAGE MAINTENANCE FEE

A hearing to obtain public input to a proposed ordinance to amend Article III, Section 8-31B of the Code of Ordinances to remove the sunset clause from the Drainage Maintenance Fee was held Tuesday, March 22, 2016 at 5:45 p.m. by the Police Jury of the Parish of Pointe Coupee, Louisiana.

Mr. Lawrence Smith inquired about the purpose of Drainage Maintenance Fee. President Dukes stated the fee is to help supplement drainage expense throughout the Parish. Juror Melanie Bueche stated the ordinance for the fee is to offset the short fall in the drainage fund. Juror Stephen Smith stated the purpose of the Public Hearing is for removing the sunset clause. Juror Anthony Hurst expressed concern of customers that do not have utilities bills the fee can be to attach to monthly, receiving once a year bills for the full amount.

Mrs. Gail Hurst stated she was in not favor of the removal of the sunset clause because she believes the Jury should be responsible for spending and serve the citizens legally and honestly.

Mr. Roosevelt Gremillion stated he was not in favor of the removal of the sunset clause and the Jury should act upon this matter in which the ordinance was intended.

Mr. Marvin Lasavio stated he was against the removal of the sunset clause and spoke of an issue in the district in which he lives and that the drainage program should be fair to everyone.

Mr. Greg Johnson stated the Drainage Maintenance Fee is hard to support if there is no action from the Jury.

Juror Olinde stated it was not easy for the Jury to approve an ordinance that put charges on every household. He further stated without the fee (DMF) the Jury would lose equipment, need to lay off employees and is needed to keep the organization funded.

Mr. Anthony Daisy stated the DMF was imposed without getting feedback from the citizens. He further stated having Iberville Parish also keep up with the drainage in Portage Canal.

Reverend Margie Thomas stated she was against the DMF because years ago culverts were to be installed and ditches were to be closed.

Juror Bueche stated the DMF is not a tax, it is a legal fee and public hearings were held before the ordinance was passed. She further stated closing ditches restrict the flow of water and cause flooding and that keeping drainage open helps with flooding issues.

The Public Hearing closed at 6:17 p.m.

DISCUSSION & CONSIDERATION TO AMEND ARTICLE III, SECTION 8-31B OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES TO REMOVE THE SUNSET CLAUSE FROM THE DRAINAGE MAINTENANCE FEE

Juror Cox explained after giving thought to things that are needed to be done within the Parish and reviewing the budget that reflects the calendar year end of December 31, he cannot support the removal of the sunset clause for the DMF. He stated the Jury is awaiting information on the efficiency study from Springsted, Inc. and is in need of a parish administrator with a degree in accounting/finance. By giving the parish administrator the opportunity to review the Parish's finances and bring the findings to the citizens they can chose if the DMF is necessary. He further stated by doing this the Parish will have to cut some services and will have to make a reduction in employment. The Parish will have to cut other services in a manner in which does not cut out the service all together.

Juror Smith stated at his personal work he campaigns for drainage projects. He stated the citizens do want to see progress. He further stated he is not against DMF but, cannot support it at this time. He would like to revisit this issue in the future.

Juror Hurst apologized for being a juror for three (3) months and is in a learning process. He stated he understands the concerns and explains the drainage service is based on funds received. He also stated the drainage program should be based on priority. He further stated he is not for a reduction in employment because working families bring tax dollars to the Parish.

Juror Jarreau stated since 2008 the parish has been spending more than what is being received. He stated with funding issues, how does the Parish get back on track. Once the efficiency study is reviewed this will help with finding ways to close the gap. Treasurer Mayeux responded to Juror Jarreau stating that culverts are funded through the Drainage Fund account. Juror Jarreau stated he wants to review all information before making his decision on the DMF.

Juror Mitch Langlois stated he is in favor of the removal of the sunset clause.

Juror Taylor stated the Parish has six (6) new jurors that have inherited the issues of the past.

Juror Bueche stated the Jury did not keep the LRA-DR funds, instead they here distributed to the School Board for hardening and generators and to the sewer systems for generators.

After further discussion the following resolution was offered:

Motion by Mr. Hurst and seconded by Mr. Bazile:

RESOLVED, That the sunset clause for the Drainage Maintenance Fee of June 30, 2016 not be removed but, extended to December 31, 2016.

The President called for a roll call vote that resulted as follows:

YEAS: Messrs. Mitch Langlois, Charles Watkins, Gordon Taylor, Mrs. Melanie Bueche, Messrs. Stephen Smith, Kyle Olinde, Justin Cox, Glenn Cline, Edward Bazile, Anthony Hurst and Kurt Jarreau.

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: None.

ABSTAIN: Mr. Dukes

On a vote of 11-0-0-1, the motion carried.

Motion by Mr. Hurst and seconded by Mr. Langlois:

RESOLVED, That a proposed ordinance to amend Article III, Section 8-31B of the Code of Ordinances to remove the sunset clause from the drainage maintenance fee be adopted by the Pointe Coupee Parish Police Jury, with the amendment that the sunset clause not be removed but, extended to December 31, 2016.

The President called for a roll call vote that resulted as follows:

YEAS: Messrs. Justin Cox, Glenn Cline, Edward Bazile, Anthony Hurst, Kurt Jarreau, Mitch Langlois, Charles Watkins, Gordon Taylor, Mrs. Melanie Bueche, Messrs. Stephen Smith and Kyle Olinde.

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: None.

ABSTAIN: Mr. Dukes

On a vote of 11-0-0-1, the motion carried.

UPDATE AND INFORMATION PERTAINING TO LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Senator Rick Ward and Representative Major Thibaut explained the special session called for decisions regarding the cuts made for the short fall, tax credits and taxes. Current budget has a \$70 million shortfall.

Senator Ward stated decisions were made by setting forward the vital services. He encouraged a continued relationship with Jury and audience and asked that he be contacted for concerns.

Representative Thibaut stated LGAP funding is still intact and the Jury should get most of the requested projects funded.

Representative Thibaut recommended the Jury focus on 3 – 4 prioritized projects for Capital Outlay for the next four (4) years.

The Senator and Representative took questions from the Jurors and audience.

In response to Juror Gordon Taylor he was informed the TOPS program will see a cap put on it.

In response to Editor Tommy Comeaux he was informed the status of the Waiver Program for disabled children and families has stayed in tack.

In response to Juror Smith he was told that feedback is important in Balancing the Budget.

In response to Mrs. Gail Hurst she was informed of a meeting with the governor, but no information was given in regards to the state credit rating.

In response to Rev. Thompson she was told funds distributed from casinos should be equal to video poker but, it is not in the call but, not ruled out for the next special session.

In response to Juror Taylor he was informed the revenue from steel is handled by the Congressional delegation.

In closing Chairman Dukes thanked Senator Ward and Representative Thibaut for their time and answering all the concerns.

Senator Ward stated it is vital to be on the same page and asked that for any concerns that you contact his office and he looks forward to continuing working with everyone for the next four (4) years.

POINTE COUPEE SCHOOL TAX PROPOSITION

Pointe Coupee School Board Superintendent Kevin Lemoine reviewed a power point presentation of the proposed millage proposal for 2016 with the Jury. He explained the proposal began with the teachers wanting a pay increase, so a six (6) month study was conducted and the teachers asked the proposal be submitted to be placed on the ballot this fall.

The proposition is for a 10 mill, 10 year property tax with an estimation of \$4,500,000 per year. He stated 7.1 mills will be for salary increases for non-contract employees, and the remaining estimated 2.9 mills will be dedicated to infrastructure improvements and fund balance stabilization. The teachers will receive a \$5,000 pay raise and other support personnel will receive a \$2,250 pay raise.

Juror Cox stated he supports the public school system and it is important to have qualified teachers and to keep them in the Parish.

Juror Smith stated as chairman of the Economic Development Committee the committee will be gathering information on education.

Juror Watkins offered his support by cooking a jambalaya.

Juror Hurst thanked the teachers for what they do and inquired if the teachers were actually going to receive the money. He also stated rumors that he had heard.

Juror Jarreau stated Superintendent Lemoine is doing a wonderful job and that he respects and supports the teacher's proposition.

Juror Taylor stated he would support the proposition if he knew Superintendent Lemoine's plans for the future. Superintendent Lemoine stated he is all about accountability and there was a flyer in last week's Banner and information on the website that can be reviewed.

Juror Bazile stated he wants things turned around.

UPDATE ON USDA LOAN APPLICATION FOR ROOF REPAIRS

Messrs. Charles Miniex and Rick Hullin from USDA Rural Development introduced themselves and presented handouts regarding business and personal loans.

Mr. Hullin explained the Jury has applied for a loan for roof repairs to the Detention Center, Courthouse and Annex Building. He stated he contacted Treasurer Mayeux this week to advertise filing of the loan in the official journal which will be published this Thursday. He stated once it published and a publication affidavit is provided, then a Preliminary Architectural Feasibility Report will be need from the architect. The loan will be reviewed by the underwriter and the terms will be determined.

Juror Bueche left the meeting at 8:05 p.m. and Jurors Cox and Jarreau left the meeting at 8:19 p.m.

SECURE AN ARCHITECT FOR THE USDA LOAN FOR ROOF REPAIRS/REPLACEMENT OF THE DETENTION CENTER, COURTHOUSE AND ANNEX BUILDING

After hearing the loan application process that was presented by USDA and a good reference from Floodplain Administrator Cletus Langlois on the work performance of Bradley-Biewster & Associates the following resolution was offered:

Motion by Mr. Taylor and seconded by Mr. Watkins:

RESOLVED, That Bradley-Biewster & Associates be hired as the architect for the USDA loan for roof repairs/replacement of the Detention Center, Courthouse and Annex Building.

Unanimously carried.

PROCLAMATION DECLARING APRIL AS AUTISM AWARENESS MONTH IN THE PARISH

Executive Director Jamie Tindle of Families Helping Families of Greater Baton Rouge reported on autism awareness and the free help provided by this non-profit organization. She presented the following proclamation for approval of the Jury.

Motion by Mr. Olinde and seconded by Mr. Cline:

**PROCLAMATION
Autism Awareness Month**

WHEREAS, autism is a lifelong developmental difference, associated with significant alteration of an individual's ability to learn in the same way as others, which may include differences in social behaviors and communication; and

WHEREAS, autism, also known as autism spectrum disorders, affects people regardless of race, religion, socio-economic status or geography; and

WHEREAS, the incidence of autism in the United States is approximately 1 in 68 according to the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention; and

WHEREAS, evidence suggests autism is the result of neurological anomalies affecting the functioning of the brain and few members of the general public understand this complex syndrome; and

WHEREAS, persons with autism can be helped to reach their greatest potential, and accurate, early diagnosis and the resulting appropriate education and interventions, as well as community acceptance and accommodations, are vital to the future growth and development of the individual; and

WHEREAS, autism is a complex set of differences that requires increased research to one day better understand it; and

WHEREAS, the greater recognition and understanding of autism can ensure that individuals with autism are accurately diagnosed and appropriately treated throughout their lives.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, CORNELL T. DUKES, President of the Pointe Coupee Parish Police Jury, do hereby proclaim the month of April, 2016 as

AUTISM AWARENESS MONTH

in Pointe Coupee Parish, and encourage all citizens to participate in the Families Helping Families of Greater Baton Rouge 7th Annual Active for Autism 5K Run/Walk & Fun Fest on April 30, 2016 to bring awareness of autism.

Unanimously carried.

PROCLAMATION DECLARING MARCH AS RED CROSS MONTH IN THE PARISH

Motion by Mr. Langlois and seconded by Mr. Watkins:

**PROCLAMATION
American Red Cross Month 2016**

WHEREAS, the American Red Cross has touched many lives in Pointe Coupee Parish, as well as across the country and around the world; and

WHEREAS, during American Red Cross Month, we thank those who contribute to the mission of the Red Cross, whether through time, money or blood, and we invite others to support the Red Cross in helping people in need down the street, across the country and around the world; and

WHEREAS, the American Red Cross is synonymous with helping people, and has been doing so for more than 130 years. Throughout the past year, the American Red Cross launched hundreds of disaster relief operations in the United States to help people affected by fires, floods, hurricanes and tornadoes. The American Red Cross also supported major international disasters, including the Japan earthquake and tsunami response, while continuing its work on the 2010 Haiti earthquake response and recovery; and

WHEREAS, in Pointe Coupee Parish, the Red Cross works tirelessly through its employees and volunteers to support us when disaster strikes, when someone needs lifesaving blood, or the comfort of helping hand. It provides 24hour support to members of the military, veterans and their families, and provides training in CPR, aquatics safety and first aid; and

WHEREAS, for nearly 100 years, United States presidents have called on the American people to support the Red Cross and its humanitarian mission. Our community depends on the American Red Cross and because it is not a government agency, the Red Cross depends on support from the public to continue its humanitarian work. This is especially important in these challenging economic times – which impact the Red Cross and many people in our community and across the nation.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, CORNELL T. DUKES, President of the Pointe Coupee Parish Police Jury, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Parish of Pointe Coupee and the Constitution and laws of the State of Louisiana, do hereby proclaim March 2016 as **AMERICAN RED CROSS MONTH** and do hereby urge all Americans to support this organization and its noble humanitarian mission.

Unanimously carried.

UPDATE ON FALSE RIVER

Vice President Olinde reported on the level of False River stating on March 5th the level of the lake was 16', the level was lowered to 15'. During the rain event with the gate opened the lake came up 2' which brought the level to 17'. The current level is 15.9'.

INTRODUCTION OF AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE ISSUANCE AND SALE OF NOT TO EXCEED FOUR MILLION FIVE HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$4,500,000) OF SALES TAX BONDS (THE "BONDS"), OF THE PARISH OF POINTE COUPEE, STATE OF LOUISIANA

Motion by Mr. Smith and seconded by Mr. Taylor:

NOTICE OF INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCE AND PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN for an ordinance providing for the issuance and sale of not to exceed Four Million Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$4,500,000) of Sales Tax Bonds (the "Bonds"), of the parish of Pointe Coupee , State of Louisiana; prescribing the form, fixing the details and providing for the rights of the owners thereof; awarding the sale of the Bonds to the purchaser thereof; designating the paying agent for the Bonds; and providing for the other matters in connection therewith and that a public hearing will be held relative thereto at 5:30 p.m., Tuesday, April 12, 2016 at the Police Jury Meeting Room, Courthouse Annex, 160 East Main Street, New Roads, Louisiana, after which said ordinance may be considered for adoption. All interested persons are urged to attend.

Unanimously carried.

REPORTS FROM DEPARTMENT HEADS

Animal Control Officer

In the absences of Troy LeCoq an Animal Control Report was provided in the board folders.

Building Maintenance Supervisor

Ken Vosburg presented a Building Maintenance Report.

Certified Building Official

Tommy Leonard reported on the residential and commercial permits issued in the parish.

Multi-Use Center Director

Weldon Jewell reported on activities scheduled at the Multi-Use Center.

Parish Treasurer

Becky Mayeux presented a report on finances of the Jury for March.

Public Utilities Supervisor

In the absence of Albert Sneed a Public Utilities Maintenance Report was provided in the board folders.

Public Utilities Billing and Collections Supervisor

In the absence of Beverly Francois a Utilities Billing & Collections and Daily Cash Reports was provided in the board folders.

Public Works Director

James David presented a monthly Work Orders Report for drainage and road projects in the parish.

Recreation Director

No report was provided.

Sales Tax Director

In the absence of Ronell Roubique a report on sales tax was provided in the board folders.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Public Works

Chairman Olinde reported on a Public Works Committee meeting held on March 14, 2016. Copies were emailed to each juror.

Motion by Mr. Olinde and seconded by Mr. Langlois:

RESOLVED, That the secretary be authorized to advertise for four (4) Parish road side grass cuttings; and be it

RESOLVED further, That the cost estimate from Coastal Culvert & Supply, Inc. in the amount of \$8,111.54 to replace a 70' culvert on Canezaro Road be accepted; and be it

RESOLVED further, That the secretary obtains information from surrounding parishes on installation of culverts on private property; and be it

RESOLVED further, That the secretary be authorized to advertise for bids on surplus equipment in all departments.

Unanimously carried.

Planning

Vice President Olinde reported on a Planning Commission meeting held on March 17, 2016. Copies were emailed to each juror.

Motion by Mr. Olinde and seconded by Mr. Bazile:

RESOLVED, That a 5' sideline variance for Bueche & Olinde, LLC in District No. 5 be approved; and be it

RESOLVED further, That variance request for Greg LaCour in District No. 6. be approved; and be it

RESOLVED further, That Mr. Cornell Dukes be authorized to execute the variances for Bueche & Olinde, LLC and Greg LaCour.

Unanimously carried.

Buildings & Grounds

Chairman Bazile reported on a Buildings & Grounds Committee meeting held on March 17, 2016. Copies were emailed to each juror.

Motion by Mr. Bazile and seconded by Mr. Olinde:

RESOLVED, That the proposal from Live Music in the amount of \$800.00 for mapping and equalization of the large courtroom's sound system be accepted; and be it

RESOLVED further, That Bradley-Biewster & Associates be authorized to submit a Preliminary Architectural Feasibility Report for the USDA loan application for roof repairs/replacement for the Detention Center, Courthouse and Annex Building; and be it

RESOLVED further, That the proposal from Kenneth Vavasseur in the amount of \$3,568.18 for carpet replacement at the Sheriff's office, which includes four (4) rooms and the lobby be accepted, and the Sheriff's office pays half of the cost of the carpet replacement.

Unanimously carried.

Recreation

Chairman Hurst reported on a Recreation Committee meeting held on March 17, 2016. Copies were emailed to each juror.

Motion by Mr. Hurst and seconded by Mr. Smith:

RESOLVED, That the Assistant Recreation Director be authorized to advertise for a PC Rec First Tee Golf Instructor at a salary to be determined with volunteers welcomed; and be it

RESOLVED further, That a budget be obtained on a men's and women's basketball league; and be it

RESOLVED further, That a deposit in the amount of \$75 be charged for rural park reservations and the deposit be held and only returned if an inspection is approved by a staff member from PC Rec.

Unanimously carried.

Resolutions

Vice President Olinde reported on a Resolutions Committee meeting held on March 21, 2016. Copies were emailed to each juror.

Motion by Mr. Olinde and seconded by Mr. Bazile:

RESOLVED, That the invoices from Coastal Bridge Co. in the amount of \$17,750.75 (Road Program), PEC in the amount of \$854.28 (Road Program) and PEC in the amount of \$1,723.52 (Regional Fence Line Monitoring Project) be approved for payment; and be it

RESOLVED further, That security badges for parish attorneys at a fee of \$25 per badge payable to the Jury to allow access to the courthouse during court proceedings be

approved; and be it

RESOLVED further, That a letter of support to the Sexual Trauma Awareness & Response be approved; and be it

RESOLVED further, That the attendance requirements of a Home Rule Charter Commissioner was supposed to be applicable to all absences no matter whether excused or unexcused be approved; and be it

RESOLVED further, That the proposal of Geographic Planning & Demographic Services, LLC for \$3,500 to consolidate precincts with less than 300 active registered voters be accepted.

Unanimously carried.

Mrs. Gail Hurst reminded the Jurors the Pointe Coupee Museum is a parish building.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Dukes asked Chairman Smith to give a brief update on the Economic Development Committee. Chairman Smith stated the committee consists of nine (9) current members and want the committee to consist of 11 members. They are reaching out to business outside the Parish to be involved for bringing economic ideas to the Parish. He stated members of the committee were given direction to obtain information to bring back to the committee for recommendations.

President Dukes thanked everyone for their hard work and stated he appreciates the public. He further stated he met the Mayor of Morganza and had discussion on collections of fees for the parish.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Mr. Langlois and seconded by Mr. Smith, the meeting adjourned at 8:47 p.m.

Linette Pascalin
Administrative Assistant

Cornell T. Dukes
President