

MINUTES
POINTE COUPEE PARISH POLICE JURY
January 24, 2017

The Pointe Coupee Parish Police Jury met in regular session at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, January 24, 2017, at the Courthouse Annex in the Police Jury Meeting Room, New Roads, Louisiana.

President Melanie Bueche asked that Mr. David Rivet, who passed away, be remembered in prayer. He was the brother-in-law of Sales Tax Director Ronell Roubique.

President Melanie Bueche called the meeting to order and directed Secretary Gerrie Martin to call the roll:

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

ABSENT: Mr. Charles Watkins.

15 MINUTES OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ms. Sylvia Williams waived her public comments until discussion of Item No. 8 regarding Pecan Acres Subdivision.

Ms. LeTonia Mingo commented on scheduling a meeting with the residents of Pecan Acres Subdivision, the Jury and any other agency to address concerns and questions from the residents about Item No. 8, a proposed buyout of homes in the subdivision from the USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).

Ms. Latonya Croom commented on Item No. 8 and what will be done to Pecan Acres Subdivision regarding a proposed buyout of homes from NRCS.

Mrs. Carol Vincent waived her public comments until discussion of Item No. 11 about animal cruelty cases in the parish.

Mrs. Kay Gibson, a foster mom for Animal House Rescue, made comments, and presented pictures and information package about the cruelty to animals that are occurring in the parish. She voiced concerns about the need for the parish to prevent further cruelty.

ADOPT MINUTES

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

RESOLVED, That the minutes of January 10, 2017 meeting be adopted as presented and published in the official journal.

Unanimously carried.

ROAD PROGRAM UPDATES

Engineer Kevin Gravois reported on a meeting held January 10, 2017 with representatives of Coastal Bridge, Jurors and representatives from the City of New Roads to discuss problems and concerns about the Road Maintenance & Rehabilitation Program in the parish.

Project Manager Fred McClain of Coastal Bridge, along with owner Kelly Sills, gave an update and explanation about the problems with the road program and responded to questions from Jurors. In closing, Mr. McClain requested payment of their December invoice, and the retainage be withheld according to the contract until they complete repairs to all the asphalt raveling roads.

Motion by Mr. Cox and seconded by Mr. Jarreau:

RESOLVED, That the submittal of the December invoice (Pay Estimate No. 2) by Coastal Bridge Company for work completed on the Road Maintenance & Rehabilitation Program be approved for payment, and a 10% retainage be withheld; and be it

RESOLVED further, That Coastal Bridge submit a plan of work for each road that has raveled asphalt to be reviewed by PEC and a Third Party acceptable to the Police Jury; and be it

RESOLVED further, That each road will have a two-year warranty beginning at the close of the contract.

Unanimously carried.

AUTHORIZE THE PRESIDENT TO SIGN A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE POLICE JURY AND USDA, NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF LA'S EMERGENCY WATERSHED PROTECTION PROGRAM – FLOODPLAIN EASEMENT PROGRAM

State Conservationist Kevin Norton of USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) appeared before the Jury to discuss a proposed Memorandum of Understanding between the Police Jury and NRCS for implementation of Louisiana's Emergency Watershed Protection Program – Floodplain Easement Program, a proposed buyout plan for homes flooded in 2016 in Pecan Acres Subdivision at New Roads. Mr. Norton reported the program will restore the floodplain area and would not be used for any future development. He reported that US Congressman Garrett Graves secured funds for this program.

DISCUSSION & APPROVAL OF A STATEMENT OF WORK BETWEEN THE POLICE JURY AND USDA, NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE FOR PHASE II – ACQUISITION ACTIVITIES UNDER THE EMERGENCY WATERSHED PROTECTION PROGRAM – FLOODPLAIN EASEMENT PROGRAM

A statement of work proposed by NRCS was discussed and explained by Assistant District Attorney John Wayne Jewell and Mr. Norton for the Phase II acquisition activities under the Emergency Watershed Protection Program – Floodplain Easement Program for the buyout of homes flooded in Pecan Acres Subdivision. They reported Phase I will be to purchase the easements, and have appraisals performed on the homes at a value of the property as it existed the day before the storm event. They reported 100% approval of all homeowners to sale their easements are required, and if one person says no, the Jury could not move forward with the program. They reported the Jury will be responsible for obtaining the titles. It was stated that the MOU is only to begin the process and statement of work on the program.

Floodplain Administrator Cletus Langlois reported once the MOU is approved, a meeting will be scheduled with Mr. Norton and the property owners in Pecan Acres to discuss this program in detail. He reported once this program has begun they could go to other entities such as the Office of Community Development, Governor's Office of Emergency Preparedness, Hazard Mitigation Program, etc. and request financial assistance for a proposed relocation program.

Ms. Sylvia Williams commented on the proposed buyout and alternatives for the residents in Pecan Acres to obtain assistance to repair, relocate or rebuild their homes.

Prior to voting, Juror Hurst stated that the above process is to buy and demolish the homes, and that the Jury would have to review alternative funding to assist the residents with rebuilding homes.

After a lengthy discussion, the following resolution was offered:

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

RESOLVED, That Mrs. Melanie L. Bueche be authorized to execute the Memorandum of Understanding between the Pointe Coupee Parish Police Jury and USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service for Phase II of the Acquisition Activities under the Emergency

Watershed Protection Program – Floodplain Easement Program, and approval of a Statement of Work between the Police Jury and NRCS for said program.

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

YEAS: Messrs. Langlois, Taylor, Dukes, Smith, Olinde, Cox, Cline, Bazile, Hurst, Jarreau and Mrs. Bueche.

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: Mr. Watkins.

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

Juror Dukes stated the buyout is the first portion of funding for the residents, and that Congressman Graves will be fighting to obtain other funds from the state to assist the residents further.

Juror Cox suggested President Bueche appoint the OEP Director as the person to coordinator the efforts and programs for the residents in Pecan Acres Subdivision, and be the contact person to forward information about this matter.

OEP Director/Sheriff “Bud” Torres stated they would do what they can to help facilitate this process.

President Bueche appointed Office of Emergency Preparedness Assistant Director Mark Ward and Floodplain Administrator Cletus Langlois as coordinators and persons to contact regarding information, funding and various programs for the residents in Pecan Acres Subdivision, and Jurors be presented weekly reports and updates on this matter.

Juror Dukes commended and thanked the Office of Emergency Preparedness Director “Bud” Torres for his assistance with the 2016 flood event in the parish.

DISCUSSION OF NEW COST SAVING TECHNOLOGY

Chief Operating Officer for Unmanned Systems Chad Netto of Chustz Surveying discussed a new cost saving technology they have of an aerial system (drone) and unmanned service vehicles they are using in the parish and offered their assistance to the Jury.

President Bueche thanked Chustz Surveying for their assistance and work they have done in the parish and False River.

ANIMAL CRUELTY CASES IN THE PARISH

Mrs. Carol Vincent of the Pointe Coupee Parish Animal Shelter voiced concerns and presented pictures of animal cruelty in the parish, and the need to prevent further cruelty. She reported there is no protocol for animal cruelty.

Juror Smith reported that the agenda item was not related to the recent occurrence of animal cruelty of a horse that died, and that he placed this item on the agenda two (2) weeks prior to the incident and a news article being written about the horse. He voiced concerns about the parish getting involved and review avenues to enforce laws to prevent such cruelty.

Attorney Dannie Garrett gave an overview of the animal cruelty laws and the parish ordinance for keeping of livestock in the parish.

Sheriff Torres gave an overview of the process for handling animal cruelty incidents in the parish and the enforcement of the criminal side of cruelty cases. He commented on the parish needing to amend their ordinance to include civil enforcement for cruelty to animals to hold the owners responsible for caring for their animals.

President Bueche reported that if an animal is in distress inside a locked building or gate, the state law prohibits anyone from entering onto private property without a warrant in regards to animal cruelty.

DISCUSSION AND CONSIDERATION OF JURORS CONTACTING LEGAL COUNSELS WITHOUT APPROVAL OF THE JURY

President Bueche discussed Jurors contacting legal counsels without approval of the Jury. She stated the District Attorney provides the Jury with Assistant District Attorney John Wayne Jewell as their appointed counsel and he should be contacted when needed. It was agreed upon that any Juror needing legal advice from outside counsels will require approval of the Jury.

DISCUSSION AND CONSIDERATION TO RESCIND RESOLUTION FOR LIBRARY EMANCIPATION FROM THE JURY ADOPTED OCTOBER 11, 2016

Juror Cox reported he has decided not to rescind the resolution for the library emancipation from the Police Jury that was adopted October 11, 2016. He commented on the Jury receiving a \$14,000 invoice for attorney fees for a lawsuit filed by an employee against the library that named the Jury in the suit. He voiced concerns about employees and personnel matters regarding the library. He stated that it was wrong of the Library Board to send a letter to one of their members demanding she decline reappointment of her position on the board or her sister, who is an employee of the library, would be terminated because they both could not be affiliated with the library, which was based upon enforcement of the state's ethics laws. He stated the board should have consulted with their attorney prior to sending the letter, and that it has been legally proven that no ethics laws are being violated with both sisters affiliation with the library. He stated this matter should have been brought to the Jury's attention, since they appoint members to the board. Juror Cox stated he had discussed this matter with the president of the board and wanted the Jury to be aware of this occurrence.

Juror Jarreau commented on this matter and was in agreement with Juror Cox, and advised the board that in the future they should consult with their attorney or obtain opinions from the Board of Ethics or Attorney General before such actions are taken.

President Wylene Hurst stated the board sent a letter to the board member expressing their regrets for sending the letter, and their support of her reappointment.

UPDATE ON FALSE RIVER

Vice President Olinde gave an update on False River and reported the water level was 16.5 and one gate is open. He reported the drawdown ended January 15, 2017.

Juror Smith thanked Vice President Olinde for keeping everyone informed about the drawdown and his continued efforts regarding False River.

RESOLUTIONS:

APPROVE RENEWAL OF DENTAL AND VISION INSURANCE WITH ALWAYS CARE BENEFITS

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

RESOLVED, That the 2017 Dental and Vision Insurance renewal with AlwaysCare Benefits, Inc. be approved.

Unanimously carried.

APPROVE CHANGE ORDER NO. 1 FOR DELTA PLACE DRAINAGE PROJECT

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

RESOLVED, That Change Order No. 1 to provide an increase in the contract price in the amount of \$56,144.00 for the LRA Hurricane Gustav/Ike Disaster Recovery Project No. 3 - Delta Place Subdivision Drainage Improvements be approved, and President Melanie L. Bueche be authorized to sign the Change Order, pending approval of the

Office of Community Development.

Unanimously carried.

APPROVE INVOICE FOR MOREAU CONSTRUCTION FOR DELTA PLACE DRAINAGE PROJECT

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

RESOLVED, That an invoice in the amount of \$408,337.45 (Payment No. 1) submitted by Moreau Construction Company, LLC for LRA Hurricane Gustav/Ike Disaster Recovery Project No. 3 – Delta Place Subdivision Drainage Project be approved for payment.

Unanimously carried.

ACCEPT LOW PROPOSAL FOR REMOVAL OF TREES IN MEADOW LANE SUBDIVISION

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

RESOLVED, That the low proposal submitted by LaCour Tree Service in the amount of \$1,400.00 for the removal of trees from the right-of-way in Meadow Lane Subdivision at Oscar be accepted.

Unanimously carried.

AUTHORIZE PRESIDENT TO SIGN ENGAGEMENT LETTER WITH POSTLETHWAITE & NETTERVILLE TO PERFORM ANNUAL AUDIT OF THE POLICE JURY

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

RESOLVED, That Mrs. Melanie L. Bueche be authorized to sign an Engagement Letter with Postlethwaite & Netterville to perform the 2016 annual audit of the Pointe Coupee Parish Police Jury.

Unanimously carried.

ACCEPT LOW PROPOSAL FOR REPAIRS TO BULKHEAD ON DISCHARGE BAYOU

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

RESOLVED, That the low proposal submitted by Barrios Construction, LLC in the amount of \$7,500.00 for repairs to the bulkhead on Discharge Bayou be accepted.

Unanimously carried.

APPROVE INVOICES FROM PEC FOR FALSE RIVER ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION PHASE II NORTH FLATS AND HGA FOR GUSTAV/IKE DISASTER RECOVERY PROGRAM

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

RESOLVED, That an invoice in the amount of \$2,750.00 submitted by Professional Engineering Consultants Corporation for the False River EcoSystem Restoration – Phase II North Flats Project be approved for payment; and be it

RESOLVED further, That an invoice in the amount of \$2,604.78 (Interim Billing #63) submitted by Hunt, Guillot & Associates, LLC for the Ike/Gustav Disaster Recovery Program be approved for payment.

Unanimously carried.

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO BATCHELOR HIGH SCHOOL SUBDIVISION SEWER DISTRICT

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

RESOLVED, That Mrs. Jennifer Lanehart, Messrs. Ernest Lanehart, Louis Maten (two-year term), Glenn Cotton and Mrs. Barbara Washington (three-year term) be appointed to serve as members of the Board of Commissioners of the Batchelor High School Subdivision Sewerage District.

Unanimously carried.

CONSIDER AND TAKE ACTION ON COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS:

PLANNING

Vice President Olinde reported on a Planning Commission meeting held January 19, 2017. Copies of the minutes were emailed to each Juror. He presented the following recommendations/resolution for approval:

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

RESOLVED, That upon the recommendation of the Pointe Coupee Parish Planning Commission and Parish Sanitarian, a plat showing the subdivision of the landside portion of the Olinde Properties of Pointe Coupee, LLC Tract (Portion of North Bend Plantation) into Tract A and Tract B located off of LA Highway 1 in Section 70, T5S & R10E at Oscar for Karl Glaser be approved; and be it

RESOLVED further, That upon the recommendation of the Pointe Coupee Parish Planning Commission and Parish Sanitarian, a map showing the subdivision of Lot 1-A and Lot 1-B (Lake Home Plantation) into Lots 1-A-1, 1-A-2, 1-A-3, 1-A-4 and 1-A-5 located off of LA Highway 413 in Section 34, T5S & R10E at Ventress for David Randall Pourciau be approved; and be it

RESOLVED further, That a 5' sideline variance on both sides of the property located off of LA Highway 413 at Ventress for Carolyn Hebert be granted, due to the hardship being the width of the lot, and the manufactured home and porch location on the property be approved by the Certified Building Official; and be it

RESOLVED further, That Mrs. Melanie L. Bueche be authorized to execute the above mentioned plats for Karl Glaser and David Randall Pourciau.

Unanimously carried.

PERSONNEL

Chairman Olinde reported on a Personnel Committee meeting held January 19, 2017. Copies of the minutes were emailed to each Juror. He presented the following recommendations/resolution for approval:

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

RESOLVED, That Mr. James R. Chustz be employed as an Equipment Operator I (Groundskeeper) at Pay Grade 202, Step 1 at an annual salary of \$21,796.00, effective February 1, 2017; and be it

RESOLVED further, That Mr. James Sanders be promoted to the position of Recreation Supervisor at Pay Grade 207, Step 2 at an annual salary of \$27,634.00, effective February 1, 2017; and be it

RESOLVED further, That Mr. Sylvester Platt be promoted to the position of Assistant Public Utilities Supervisor at Pay Grade 211, Step 11 at an annual salary of \$43,827.00, effective February 1, 2017.

Unanimously carried.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Chairman Smith reported the president of the Pointe Coupee Chamber has provided the Jurors with a report on the updates of statistics on property taxes in the parish, and will review how to reallocate millages in the future.

Motion by Mr. Cline and seconded by Mr. Smith, the meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Gerrie P. Martin
Secretary

Melanie L. Bueche
President