

MINUTES
POINTE COUPEE PARISH POLICE JURY
August 22, 2017

The Pointe Coupee Parish Police Jury met in regular session at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, August 22, 2017, at the Courthouse Annex in the Police Jury Meeting Room, New Roads, Louisiana.

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

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

ABSENT: Messrs. Cornell Dukes and Glenn Cline.

15 MINUTES OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

Juror Smith commented on the Jury and other officials preparing for tropical storm Harvey and the rain events in the parish.

ADOPT MINUTES

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

RESOLVED, That the minutes of August 8, 2017 meeting be adopted as presented and published in the official journal.

Unanimously carried.

PUBLIC HEARING--CONDEMNATION OF ABANDONED BUILDINGS LOCATED AT THE CORNER OF DOLPH & SOUTH STREETS, AND HIGHLAND STREET AT NEW ROADS BELONGING TO JOE L. BOLES

A hearing to obtain public input to condemn and demolish the abandoned buildings owned by Mr. Joe L. Boles located at the corner of Dolph & South Streets, and Highland Street at New Roads was conducted at 5:36 p.m. on Tuesday, August 22, 2017 at the Police Jury Meeting Room, Courthouse Annex, 160 East Main Street, New Roads, Louisiana.

Juror Hurst reported that Ms. Marian George, a representative of the Joel L. Boles Estate, has requested additional time to demolish the abandoned buildings.

The public hearing closed.

DISCUSSION AND CONSIDERATION FOR CONDEMNATION OF ABANDONED BUILDINGS LOCATED AT THE CORNER OF DOLPH & SOUTH STREETS, AND HIGHLAND STREET AT NEW ROADS BELONGING TO JOE L. BOLES

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

RESOLVED, That Ms. Marian George be granted a 45-day extension to demolish the abandoned buildings owned by Mr. Joe L. Boles located at the corner of Dolph & South Streets, and Highland Street at New Roads.

Unanimously carried.

PRESENTATION OF AWARDS TO VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS & FIRST RESPONDERS OF THE YEAR

Juror Taylor presented the Firefighter and First Responder of the year to Mr. James Ricky Landry of Pointe Coupee Parish Fire Protection District No. 1.

Juror Langlois presented the Firefighter and First Responder of the year award to Mr. James Guidry of Pointe Coupee Parish Fire Protection District No. 2.

Vice President Olinde presented the Firefighter and First Responder of the year award to Mrs. Donna Hanks of Pointe Coupee Parish Fire Protection District No. 3, which is also represented by President Bueche and Juror Cline.

Jurors Jarreau and Cox presented the Firefighter and First Responder of the year award to Mr. John London of Pointe Coupee Parish Fire Protection District No. 4.

Jurors Bazile, Hurst, Smith and Watkins presented the Firefighter and First Responder of the year award to Mr. Aaron Smith, who was not present, of Pointe Coupee Parish Fire Protection District No. 5, which is also represented by Juror Dukes.

ANNOUNCE CANDIDACY FOR 18TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT JUDGE IN DIVISION "A"

Attorney Steve Marionneaux announced his candidacy for 18th Judicial District Judge in Division "A" and asked the Jurors for their support.

UPDATE FROM LSU AGCENTER

Extension Agent/Parish Chair Monica LaBorde thanked the Jury for their support, and gave an update from the LSU AgCenter in the parish. In closing, she introduced the members of her staff, and announced her retirement in December.

AMEND AGENDA

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

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

- Resolution--Accept low proposal to repair the roof on the Courthouse Annex Building #2.

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

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

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: Messrs. Dukes and Cline.

On a vote of 10-0-2, the motion carried.

UPDATE & REPORT FROM POINTE COUPEE PARISH LIBRARY BOARD OF CONTROL

Chairperson Wylene Hurst and Library Director Melissa Hymel gave an update on the Library Board of Control. Mrs. Hymel gave an overview of the 10-year financial plan (capital expenditures) for projects and improvements to the libraries in the parish. The full report was presented to each Juror. She gave a brief overview of the upcoming election in November for the renewal of their 4.03 millage tax for 10 years that has existed since 1964. In closing, the Jury thanked them for their attendance and report.

UPDATE FROM GOHSEP FOR DRAINAGE IN THE PARISH

Floodplain Administrator Cletus Langlois informed the Jury why representatives from GOHSEP were unable to attend the meeting and would appear at a later date. He gave a brief overview of a meeting and update on proposed funding from GOHSEP to improve drainage in the parish, and asked Jurors to submit their proposed drainage projects to him as soon as possible.

Mr. Langlois gave a brief update on several meetings held with the residents, representatives from NRCS and the Governor's Office to discuss the proposed buyout of homes and relocation of residents in Pecan Acres Subdivision.

Mr. Langlois informed the Jury that a recent report from Meteorologist Jay Grimes revealed we should receive between 2 to 18 inches of rain today through Tuesday, and should be prepared for this rain event. He reported backup pumps are on standby when needed.

UPDATE ON FALSE RIVER

Vice President Olinde gave an update on False River and reported the water level is 15.9 ft. He reported all gates are closed and will be opened on tomorrow.

RESOLUTIONS:

APPROVE PAYMENT OF INVOICES FROM NEAL CONSTRUCTION CO. & PEC FOR FALSE RIVER NITROGEN IMPACT MITIGATION PROJECT AND PEC FOR ROAD REHABILITATION PROGRAM

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

RESOLVED, That invoices in the amount of \$92,026.80 (Pay Estimate No. 1) submitted by Neal Construction Company, and \$6,805.50 for Professional Engineering Consultants Corporation for the False River Nitrogen Impact Mitigation Project be approved for payment; and be it

RESOLVED further, That an invoice in the amount of \$10,811.23 submitted by Professional Engineering Consultants Corporation for the Road Rehabilitation Program be approved for payment.

Unanimously carried.

APPROVE ONE (1) ADDITIONAL GRASS CUTTING AT THE RECREATION PARKS

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

RESOLVED, That due to the excessive rain in the parish, one (1) additional grass cutting at the recreation parks in the parish by Mr. Donald David for a total amount of \$785.00 be approved.

Unanimously carried.

AUTHORIZE PRESIDENT TO SIGN ANTENNA SITE COOPERATIVE ENDEAVOR AGREEMENT WITH LAW ENFORCEMENT DISTRICT OF THE PARISH FOR RADIO EQUIPMENT ON TOWER

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

RESOLVED, That Mrs. Melanie L. Bueche be authorized to sign an Antenna Site Cooperative Endeavor Agreement between the Police Jury and Law Enforcement District of the Parish of Pointe Coupee for radio equipment on the tower.

Unanimously carried.

AUTHORIZE PRESIDENT TO SIGN COOPERATIVE ENDEAVOR AGREEMENT WITH SHERIFF, OFFICE OF HOMELAND SECURITY & EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS FOR THE UTILITY TRAILER FOR LEPC

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

RESOLVED, That Mrs. Melanie L. Bueche be authorized to sign an Cooperative Endeavor Agreement between the Police Jury, Pointe Coupee Parish Sheriff and Pointe Coupee Parish Office of Homeland Security & Emergency Preparedness for the utility trailer for LEPC.

Unanimously carried.

ACCEPT GRANT FROM LA DOTD FOR ADD DME TO RWY 36 LOCALIZER APPROACH PROJECT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$265,839.00 FOR FR REGIONAL AIRPORT

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

A resolution authorizing the President to execute an Agreement with the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development (LA DOTD) for improvements at the False River Regional Airport.

WHEREAS, Act 451 of the 1989 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature authorized the financing of certain airport improvements from funds appropriated from the Transportation Trust Fund; and

WHEREAS, the Pointe Coupee Parish Police Jury has requested funding assistance from the LA DOTD for the procurement, installation and commissioning of a DME system for the Localizer Runway 36 approach; and

WHEREAS, the stated project has been approved by Louisiana Legislature and the LA DOTD is agreeable to the implementation of this project and desires to cooperate with the Pointe Coupee Parish Police Jury according to the terms and conditions identified in the attached Agreement; and

WHEREAS, the LA DOTD will provide the necessary funding for the procurement, installation and commissioning of a DME system for the Localizer Runway 36 approach and reimburse the sponsor up to \$265,839.00 of project cost: Therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the Pointe Coupee Parish Police Jury does hereby authorize Mrs. Melanie L. Bueche, President, to execute an Agreement for the project identified as SPN H.013132, more fully identified in the Agreement attached hereto, and to execute any subsequent related documents, including, but not limited to, amendments to said agreement.

Unanimously carried.

APPROVAL TO SEND EXPRESSION OF SYMPATHY TO THE FAMILIES OF THE LATE MR. JOSEPH "BOY" BALLARD AND MRS. JEANETTE BRAZELTON

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

WHEREAS, God in His infinite wisdom has called to his eternal reward Mr. Joseph "Boy" Ballard and Mrs. Jeanette Marie Purpera Brazelton; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Joseph A. "Boy" Ballard was a native of Chenal and resident of Ventress, Louisiana and Pointe Coupee Parish for 92 years; and

WHEREAS, he served as Police Juror of District 5 for 4 years, and Constable, Justice of the Peace District 5 for 18 years in the Parish of Pointe Coupee; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Jeanette Marie Purpera Brazelton was a native of Innis and resident of New Roads, Louisiana and Pointe Coupee Parish for 72 years; and

WHEREAS, her love for the history of Louisiana, Pointe Coupee Parish and New Roads were evident with her years serving as docent at the Pointe Coupee Parish Museum; and

WHEREAS, their presence will be sadly missed by their families and friends: Therefore be it

RESOLVED, That this Pointe Coupee Parish Police Jury does and hereby extends to the families of Mr. Joseph A. "Boy" Ballard and Mrs. Jeanette Marie Purpera Brazelton this

resolution of sympathy in the loss of their loved one.

Unanimously carried.

ACCEPT OFFER FOR SURPLUS EQUIPMENT THAT WAS TO BE SOLD AS SCRAP MATERIALS

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

RESOLVED, That an offer submitted by Mr. John Hymes of Cuzan Services, LLC in the amount of \$350.00 for two (2) Univex Mixer, one (1) Hobart Mixer and one (1) Fryer as surplus equipment be accepted.

Unanimously carried.

PROCLAMATION DECLARING SEPTEMBER AS POINTE COUPEE PARISH VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER & FIRST RESPONDER MONTH

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

PROCLAMATION
VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER AND FIRST RESPONDER MONTH

WHEREAS, fires can take lives, devastate communities, and destroy our homes and businesses, and pose a threat to the citizens of our parish; and

WHEREAS, we emphasize the importance of taking steps to prevent fires and we recognize the selflessness of those who answer the call to fight these blazes, placing themselves in danger to help others; and

WHEREAS, we owe a great debt to our brave first responders who respond to accidents to save lives and firefighters who run toward the scene of a disaster to fight fires, they are heroes who demonstrate courage, determination, and professionalism every day as they race through time to save lives and battle flames and smoke and teach their neighbors how to protect themselves; and

WHEREAS, firefighters and first responders bravely and selflessly risk their own lives every day to protect Pointe Coupee families, visitors, and businesses, and they do not hesitate to save the lives of others, their commitment to continue training, skill enhancement, and inter-agency coordination make them vital members of every community in the parish; and

WHEREAS, acts of kindness and appreciation from citizens for firefighters and first responders provide them needed encouragement and support to confront the dangerous and uncertain situations they face every day.

NOW, THEREFORE, I MELANIE L. BUCHE, President of the Pointe Coupee Parish Police Jury, do hereby proclaim the month of **September 2017** as **VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER AND FIRST RESPONDER MONTH** and do hereby encourage all citizens to take time to show firefighters and first responders and their families how much we value their service to our parish. This will be an opportunity for parish leaders at every level and citizens to demonstrate appreciation for all men and women who protect and serve our parish as volunteer firefighters and first responders and an opportunity for Pointe Coupee citizens to say, "Thank you", to the firefighters and first responders who keep them safe.

Unanimously carried.

APPROVAL OF A REQUEST TO RELOCATE A DITCH ON THE EAST SIDE OF DELTA PLACE ROAD

Juror Hurst reported on a request from Messrs. Paul Schexnayder and Derek Moreau to relocate a ditch on the east side of Delta Place Road at New Roads to improve drainage and place ditch along the property line.

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

RESOLVED, That a request to relocate a ditch on the east side of Delta Place Road at New Roads on the property of Mr. Paul Schexnayder to improve drainage and place ditch along the property line be approved, pending no challenges of litigation from the homeowners, proper legal documents and right-of-ways are executed and recorded, and no drainage is obscured during the transfer process.

Unanimously carried.

ACCEPT PROPOSAL FROM GEOGRAPHIC PLANNING & DEMOGRAPHIC SERVICES, LLC TO MERGE OR CONSOLIDATE PRECINCTS WITH LESS THAN 300 ACTIVE REGISTERED VOTERS

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

RESOLVED, That the proposal submitted by Geographic Planning & Demographic Services, LLC in the amount of \$1,500.00 to provide professional services to consolidate precincts with less than 300 active registered voters in the parish be accepted.

Unanimously carried.

ACCEPT LOW PROPOSAL TO REPAIR THE ROOF ON THE COURTHOUSE ANNEX BUILDING

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

RESOLVED, That the low proposal submitted by Bordelon Builders in the amount of \$11,582.50 to repair the roof on the Courthouse Annex Building #2 be accepted.

Unanimously carried.

CONSIDER AND TAKE ACTION ON COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS:

FINANCE

Chairman Cox reported on a Finance Committee meeting held August 15, 2017. Copies of the minutes were emailed to each Juror. He presented the following recommendations/resolution for approval:

In response to Juror Hurst, Chairman Cox reported once the court reporters retire, and because Iberville and West Baton Rouge Parishes have only one (1) court reporter, is the reason they are reviewing a reduction in court reporters in our parish.

In response to Juror Taylor, Chairman Cox gave an explanation stating because of budget restraints and an annual savings of \$30,000 a year, and the vacant office space, is the reason why the lease agreement is being cancelled and the Detective Office being moved into the Courthouse Annex Building. He reported on the proposed upgrades that are scheduled for the building. He reported on being aware of the detectives needs and having discussions with them about the upgrades and accommodations when upgrading the building. He reported no decisions or renovations were going to be made until the Jury agreed to the recommendations of the committee to relocate the detectives.

Detective Richard Torres was present and voiced concerns about their needs and upgrades to the building.

President Bueche promised everyone they are going to accommodate and meet the needs of the detectives in upgrading the building, the same as they have done in the past when they had relocated

into other buildings.

Juror Smith voiced concerns about needing the detectives input and involvement in the relocation and upgrades to the building, and thanked the Jurors for their response to his concerns.

In response to Tourism Representatives Jeanie Andre and Wilma Moore, President Bueche stated the committee was asked to review this request by Juror Dukes, since they were located in the office in the past.

In response to Mrs. Andre, Chairman Cox clarified that the committee is only offering the available office space to tourism, and the move would not affect or reduce their yearly financial contributions from the Jury.

Mrs. Andre reported the Tourist Commission was unaware of this offer, and would have to discuss this matter further.

Juror Hurst reaffirmed that the committee and Jury have agreed to communicate and consider the needs of the detectives in preparing the building for their relocation.

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

RESOLVED, That Chairman Justin Cox be authorized to obtain information on the internet system at the Detention Center and bring information back to the committee for review; and be it

RESOLVED further, That the budget be amended to include eight (8) new security street lights at a cost of \$10 per light, \$25 for two (2) new pole installations, and \$80 monthly cost located in the areas of Normandy and St. Marty Subdivisions and LA Highway 419 in Juror District 1; and be it

RESOLVED further, That Bradley-Blewster & Associates be authorized to conduct three (3) additional ADA Compliance Reports for the Courthouse, Courthouse Annex and Detention Center at a cost of \$850.00 per building.

RESOLVED further, That the purchase and payment of an ice machine from Acme Refrigeration of Baton Rouge, LLC in the amount of \$3,087.92 for the Maintenance Department be ratified; and be it

RESOLVED further, That a letter be sent to the Judges Office informing them of the Jury's budget restraints and ask they consider another way that is less expensive to retain juveniles; and be it

RESOLVED further, That an invoice from the Clerk of Court in the amount of \$5,512.50 be forwarded to Attorney Leo Hamilton for legal advice regarding payment of the invoice and possible reduction in rate of invoice; and be it

RESOLVED further, That legal advice be obtained from Attorney Leo Hamilton regarding the reduction of court reporters; and be it

RESOLVED further, That the payment of an invoice in the amount of \$600.00 from LaCour Tree Service for cutting one (1) dead tree in Meadow Lane Subdivision be ratified; and be it

RESOLVED further, That the payment of an invoice in the amount of \$1,600.00 from LaCour Tree Service for cutting two (2) dead trees obstructing drainage in Juror District 10 be ratified; and be it

RESOLVED further, That the Jury employees proceed with the process to accommodate the Sheriff's Detectives in the vacant buildings by January 1, 2018; and be it

RESOLVED further, That Assistant District Attorney John Wayne Jewell be authorized to

prepare a letter informing Admiral Investments regarding the breaking of the lease of the building located on Hospital Road; and be it

RESOLVED further, That Assistant District Attorney John Wayne Jewell be authorized to prepare a letter to the Sheriff informing him of the new accommodations; and be it

RESOLVED further, That an offer be made to the Office of Tourism to relocate into the front office in the lobby of the Courthouse Annex Building.

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

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

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: Messrs. Cline and Dukes.

On a vote of 10-0-2, the motion carried.

PLANNING

Juror Olinde reported on a Planning Commission meeting held August 17, 2017. Copies of the minutes were emailed to each Juror. He presented the following recommendation/resolution for approval:

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

RESOLVED, That upon recommendations of the Pointe Coupee Parish Planning Commission and Parish Sanitarian, a map showing a tract of land into Tract 1 & Tract 2 belonging to Toni Marino Cornett, formerly being a portion of Lot A of the Nita Rougon Estate located off of LA Highway 413 in Section 48, T5S & R11E and Section 78, T5S & R10E at Lakeland for Joseph E. Bajoie, III be approved; and be it

RESOLVED further, That Mrs. Melanie L. Bueche be authorized to execute the above plat for Joseph E. Bajoie.

Unanimously carried.

PERSONNEL

Chairman Olinde reported on a Personnel Committee meeting held August 17, 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. Taylor:

RESOLVED, That Mr. Vinston P. Watson, Jr. be employed as a Meter Reader, Pay Grade 202, Step 1 at an annual salary of \$21,796.00; and be it

RESOLVED further, That the Long Boom Excavator remain parked for the rest of the year and the Finance Committee recommends an increased salary for this position; and be it

RESOLVED further, That the secretary simultaneously post a Position Vacancy Announcement for one (1) week and advertise a Position Notice for two (2) weeks in the official journal for a Laborer at an annual salary of \$20,808.00.

Unanimously carried.

Chairmen Cox and Olinde agreed to have a joint meeting of the Finance and Personnel Committees in a few days to review increasing the salary for an operator of the Long Boom Excavator.

Motion by Mr. Olinde and seconded by Mr. Langlois, the meeting adjourned at 7:03 p.m.

Gerrie P. Martin
Secretary

Melanie L. Bueche
President