

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE POLICE JURY OF THE PARISH OF NATCHITOCHEs,
STATE OF LOUISIANA, TAKEN A REGULAR MEETING HELD, MONDAY,**

April 13, 2009

5:00 P. M.

The Police Jury of the Parish of Natchitoches, State of Louisiana, met in regular and legal session in their regular meeting place, the Police Jury Board Room of the Natchitoches Parish Courthouse, on Monday, April 13, 2009 at five o'clock (5:00) p.m.

The Invocation was given by Juror Mimi Stoker, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Juror Johnny Martin.

There were present: The Honorable David Dollar, President, Police Jurors: Gerald Longlois, Chris Paige, J. D. Garrett, Charles Huggins, Johnny Martin, Tom Collier Jr., Jessie Hoffpauir, Mimi Stoker and Fred Jacobs.

There was absent: William Hymes.

The Police Jury of the Parish of Natchitoches was then duly convened as the governing authority of said parish by the President who stated that the Police Jury was ready for the transaction of business.

President Dollar stated that the first visitor was Mr. Aubrey Matthew who is seeking re-appointment to the Blake Lake Commission. Mr. Martin then stated that Mr. Matthew might be in later due to him coming from out of town.

President Dollar then recognized Mr. Richard Moses, Biologist Manager of Wildlife and Fisheries Commission, who told the Jury that he wanted to speak with them concerning the old Black Lake Bridge. He stated that they have had several meeting with the Department of Transportation and Development and both agencies have agreed to work on this project. Mr. Moses stated that things look promising but there were still things that needed to be worked out. He also stated that Wildlife and Fisheries would have control over the bridge and would like to convert it to a fishing pier that will be a big benefit for the residents. He stated that people would be able to walk on the bridge and fish. Mr. Moses went on to say DOTD has told them that they would take off the pavement but the road base will be left in place and that they would also make an entrance and exit to come off the new road to access the area. He then asked the Jury if they would allow the motorgrader to keep the area accessible once everything had been worked out. Mr. Moses concluded his conversation by stating that the Wildlife and Fisheries Department will assume the responsibility of the materials for the bridge.

President Dollar then stated that he was going to skip down to Item #20 on the agenda to recognize one of our employees who was retiring. The following action was then taken:

On motion by Mr. Hoffpauir, duly seconded by Mr. Jacobs, that the Natchitoches Parish Police Jury, in regular and legal session convened, does hereby adopt Resolution #08-09 extending the Jury's sincerest appreciation and gratitude to Mr. Albert Moss, Jr. for 30 years of dedicated service and wishing him a Happy retirement.

Motion Carried

He then asked Mr. Albert Moss Jr. to please step forward. President Dollar congratulated Mr. Moss for 30 years of dedicated service to the Parish and presented him with a resolution extending the Jury's appreciation and gratitude.

Next, President Dollar recognized Mr. Jim Rudd of the American Legion and VFW, along with Mr. Grant Bowden, Veterans Service Officer. Mr. Rudd told the Jury he was in attendance to present the last and final check to help with the salary of Mr. Bowden. Mr. Rudd stated that the Veteran Service Office was very important to the community and read a letter to the Jury from the members of the local American Legion and Veteran's of Foreign War's. Mr. Rudd concluded his comments by asking the Jury to reconsider paying the sum of 211.00 per month to the Veteran's Service Office.

President Dollar then recognized Mr. Millard Rutledge, Mr. Charles LaCaze and Mr. Norman Nassif who told the Jury they were present to ask the Jury for appointment to the Fire Protection District #6 Board of Directors. President Dollar then stated that since we were discussing this matter the Jury would go ahead and vote. He stated that there would be a roll call vote to decide. On a roll call vote, the vote thereon was as follows:

CHARLES LACAZE: Paige, Garrett, Huggins and Dollar

MILLARD RUTLEDGE: Longlois, Martin, Collier, Hoffpauir, Stoker and Jacobs.

NORMAN NASSIF: None

With the vote being **four (4) for Charles Lacaze, six (6) votes for Millard Rutledge** and **zero (0) for Norman Nassif, Mr. Millard Rutledge** was appointed to the FPD #6 Board of Directors.

On motion by Mr. Hoffpauir, duly seconded by Mr. Jacobs, that the Natchitoches Parish Police Jury, in regular and legal session convened, does hereby adopt the minutes of the combine meeting of the Work Session/Regular meeting held Monday, March 16, 2009.

Motion Carried

On motion by Mr. Paige, duly seconded by Mr. Longlois, that the Natchitoches Parish Police Jury, in regular and legal session convened, does hereby appoint Dr. Thomas A. Burns to the Natchitoches Parish Library Board of Directors, due to the death of Dr. Ada Jared.

Motion Carried

On motion by Mr. Paige, duly seconded by Mr. Jacobs, that the Natchitoches Parish Police Jury, in regular and legal session convened, does hereby adopt Resolution #04-09 requesting Representative Rick Nowlin and Senator Gerald Long to seek funding in the amount of \$100,000.00 to make repairs and improvements to the Natchitoches Parish Jail.

Motion Carried

On motion by Mr. Collier, duly seconded by Mr. Paige, that the Natchitoches Parish Police Jury, in regular and legal session convened, does hereby adopt Resolution #05-09 supporting and approving the horizontal alignment to meet the current LA DOTD recommended design standards and guidelines for superelevation requirements and minimum curve radii.

Motion Carried

Since Mr. Matthew did not show up, it was agreed to move the appointing/reappointing of someone to the Northwest (Black Lake) Fish & Game Preserve Commission to the May meeting.

President Dollar then recognized Mrs. Stoker who stated to the Jury that she did not represent the area where the waterworks district was located but have friends in the water district area that have discussed concerns not with these particular board members but board members who will be coming up for reappointment that do not attend meetings regularly. Mrs. Stoker also stated that she thought four board members lived in the same area. She also stated that since so many people are moving in the district and complained about the quality of water and the District have received a bunch of money, the Jury need to make sure that we appoint board members that represent the entire area of the water district and not a cluster of people.

On motion by Mr. Hoffpauir, duly seconded by Mr. Longlois, that the Natchitoches Parish Police Jury, in regular and legal session convened, does hereby reappoint Mr. Clyde Masson, Jr. and Mr. Norman Rachal to the Waterworks District #2 Board, due to their term's expiring.

Motion Carried

On motion by Mr. Collier, duly seconded by Mr. Longlois, that the Natchitoches Parish Police Jury, in regular and legal session convened, does hereby adopt a resolution proclaiming the month of April, 2009 as Fair Housing Month in the Parish of Natchitoches, State of Louisiana.

Motion Carried

On motion by Mr. Paige, duly seconded by Mr. Jacobs, that the Natchitoches Parish Police Jury, in regular and legal session convened, does hereby adopt a proclamation declaring the week of May 3-9, 2009, as National County Government Week in the Parish of Natchitoches.

Motion Carried

President Dollar then recognized Ms. Sharon Harris who told the Jury that one of the biggest things going on with OCS is energy assistance. She stated that the number is getting bigger and they are about to run out of money except for Jackson and Bienville Parishes. She stated that her office had given out a 150 appointments and hoped they will be able to see everyone. Ms. Harris also told the Jury that they had received some funding for the emergency food shelter program. She went on to tell the Jury that she had received correspondence for the upcoming monitoring review. She said the dates that was given to her was anywhere from October 1, 2009 through September 30, 2010 and in the meantime the lady they hired was looking over everything. Mrs. Harris also told the Jury that they were doing a self assessment to look at their strengths and weaknesses and once they are finish she would report back to the Jury and give their findings. She also stated they had only received a portion of their funding in the amount of \$871,679 and the other would be forth coming. In concluding her report, Ms. Harris told the Jury that she had received an email about Exhibit #9 saying that they will be receiving money from the Recovery Act. Ms. Harris stated the only thing the money could be used for is cost of living adjustments (COLA) and quality improvement(QI).

On motion by Mr. Longlois, duly seconded by Mr. Jacobs, that the Natchitoches Parish Police Jury, in regular and legal session convened, does hereby accept Report of Office of Community Services.

Motion Carried

On motion by Mr. Longlois, duly seconded by Mr. Garrett, that the Natchitoches Parish Police Jury, in regular and legal session convened, does hereby authorize the participation in the NACo Prescription Drug Card Program.

Motion Carried

President Dollar then recognized Mr. Paige who told the Jury that the thought of changing the meeting date was acceptable but when he thinks about the problems of this Parish he felt the Jury should be meeting every other day. He stated that he was just giving his interpretation and felt that meeting less was a disservice to the people.

President Dollar then recognized Mr. Hoffpauir who further stated to the Jury that he had a hard time with us coming up on Thursday and does nothing. He stated that he drives all the way from the country and we do absolute nothing. Mr. Hoffpauir went on to say that items needing more studying should be put on next month agenda and that he will drive anytime there is a meeting.

President Dollar then recognized Mr. Collier who stated that he was going to support the change but thought there will be times we would run across some items that will need to be tabled until the following month. Mr. Collier also stated he was kind of like Chris that there would be some things we would not want to make a haste decision.

President Dollar then stated that he could see both sides and the other things that pushes me is like tonight you had three good men to select from and we had just as hard of a decision tonight or next Thursday even if we put it off sooner or later we have to make a decision. He agreed that there would be some things that we will not be prepared to vote on and will have to use the judgement of this body to decide if we need a called meeting. President Dollar also stated that Mr. Collier remains the Chairman of the Highway Steering-Solid Waste Committee and if something was to come up he can call a meeting as needed.

President Dollar then recognized Mrs. Stoker who stated that she agreed with Tom and was willing to give it a try. Mrs. Stoker also stated that there are going to be times and she did not need to find out on Friday we are going to meet on Monday and Thursday. She stated if we are going to do this for three months we needed to have a general outline if there is going to be a meeting. Mrs. Stoker went on to say we needed to have a deadline set about when we are going to find out the schedule. She stated that she was not in a hurry to get out of the meeting and wanted things to be taken care of in a proper manner by hashing out things to the full extent. Mrs. Stoker concluded her statement by saying we are going to make mistakes anyway but we can eliminate some of them if we have the background information and proper research done before the vote.

President Dollar then recognized Mr. Collier again who stated that as long as the office keeps getting materials to my house, he would have enough time. Mr. Collier also stated that you could look on the agenda and know what is going to be a hot item. After a lengthy discussion, the following action was taken:

On motion by Mr. Huggins, duly seconded by Mr. Longlois, that the Natchitoches Parish Police Jury, in regular and legal session convened, does hereby approve combining the Regular Meeting with the Work Session Meeting on a three (3) months trial basis.

Motion Carried
With
Mr. Paige
Voting "no"

On motion by Mr. Martin, duly seconded by Mr. Collier, that the Natchitoches Parish Police Jury, in regular and legal session convened, does hereby adopt Resolution #06-09 authorizing the President to sign the necessary forms for the Chestnut-Readhimer Water System to apply for a Community Water Enrichment Grant Fund in the amount of \$25,000.00 to make repairs and improvements to its water system.

Motion Carried

On motion by Mr. Martin, duly seconded by Mr. Longlois, that the Natchitoches Parish Police Jury, in regular and legal session convened, does hereby adopt Resolution #07-09 authorizing the President to sign the necessary forms for the Sandy Point Water System to apply for a Community Water Enrichment Grant Fund in the amount of \$18,607.50 to make repairs and improvements to its water system.

Motion Carried

On motion by Mr. Longlois, duly seconded by Mr. Jacobs, that the Natchitoches Parish Police Jury, in regular and legal session convened, does hereby approved the submittal of an application for supplemental funding for the Head Start Program under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) and authorizing the President to sign all the necessary documents required.

Motion Carried

President Dollar then told the Jury that we needed to add to the agenda appointing Mr. Greg Lemoine as the Parish Building Official. Relative to this, the following action was taken:

On motion by Mr. Collier, duly seconded by Mr. Jacobs, that the Natchitoches Parish Police Jury, in regular and legal session convened, does hereby add to the agenda appointing Mr. Greg Lemoine as the Parish Building Official.

Motion Carried

After the item was added, the following action was taken:

On motion by Mr. Collier, duly seconded by Mr. Garrett, that the Natchitoches Parish Police Jury, in regular and legal session convened, does hereby appoint Mr. Greg Lemoine as the Parish Building Official.

Motion Carried

President Dollar then recognized Mrs. Penny Niette of the Parish Highway who reported emergency expenditures for the period of March 17, 2009 through April 13, 2009 in the amount of **\$1,710.63.**

Motion Carried

On motion by Mr. Collier, duly seconded by Mr. Longlois, that the Natchitoches Parish Police Jury, in regular and legal session convened, does hereby approved expenditures for the period of March 17, 2009 through April 13, 2009 in the amount of **\$723,337.63.**

Motion Carried

President Dollar then stated that he would go around the table to hear comments from Jurors. He then recognized Mr. Jacobs who asked about the status of the Shooting Range and the Hospital. Mr. Collier then stated people were still shooting at the Shooting Range after hours. Mr. Collier also stated that the shooting had awaken the Morgans from their sleep the other night at 10:30 p.m. He then stated the shooting has not stopped after hours and it was aggravating people out there. Mrs. Stoker stated that she would give a report at next month's meeting. President Dollar then stated that the District Attorney was working on something with the Sheriff, since he was interested in the Shooting Range.

President Dollar then recognized Mr. Paige who asked the Jury about submitting some names for the committee that would possibly work with the residents of Natchitoches Parish. Mr. Paige stated that he was not sure if any names had been submitted and once again 2010 would be here very shortly and a lot of renewal are going to come up. He then stated that you can't quit paying for the VA and want to pay for the agriculture center and various other things and not have people on board with what you are trying to do. Mr. Paige then stated that

whatever the group wanted to go to 5,6, or 7 Jurors they need to do their homework and find out what other parishes are experiencing. Mr. Paige also stated that he has talked with Dan Garrett and others at the Police Jury Association and he would be glad to give anyone their numbers for them to call. He went on to say that when you go and look at re-dividing and drawing the lines a lot of times the rural people are going to be left out of the process with the preparation and that the individual is going to come from inside the city limits. In conclusion, Mr. Paige stated that if you are going to draw a line for seven that plan has already been drawn. He then stated that it does not matter to him because it is not about him it is about the parish.

President Dollar then told the Jury that we still had some unpaid bills for the coroner services and that Mrs. Hamilton, Ms. Miley and he are working on, not only the bills we can't pay but also the city paying a portion. He stated that Ms. Miley breaks it down into bills from people in the city limits whether it is an interdiction or an autopsy and is passed to the City. President Dollar then stated that we had a meeting with the coroner and representatives from the City and Sheriff Department. He then stated that everyone is aware of the problem and is committed to helping to bring some money in services to the table because transportation may come through from the Sheriff Department in the future.

President Dollar then recognized Mr. Huggins who stated that the Jury should go for a ½ cent sales tax for the jail, county agency and veteran services. Mr. Huggins stated not an ad valorem tax but a sales tax.

Since there were no other comments, the following action was taken:

On motion by Mr. Hoffpauir, duly seconded by Mrs. Stoker, that the Natchitoches Parish Police Jury, in regular and legal session convened, does hereby adjourn until the next regular or called meeting of the Natchitoches Parish Police Jury.

Motion Carried

Attest:

David Dollar, President

Catherine Hamilton,
Parish Administrator

