

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

September 14, 2009

5:00 P. M.

The Police Jury of the Parish of Natchitoches, State of Louisiana, met in regular and legal session in the Police Jury Board Room of the Natchitoches Parish Courthouse, on Monday, September 14, 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 Charles Huggins.

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

There was absent: Tom Collier.

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 recognized Ms. Peggy Glasscock who told the Jury she was present to ask for a parish animal shelter. Ms. Glasscock stated the Sheriff has offered to donate the land for the animal shelter. She also stated that DeSoto Parish just inherited \$28,000,000.00 from the shale money and was in the process of building a brand new shelter. Ms. Glasscock then stated that she would like the Jury to ask DeSoto Parish to donate \$100,000.00 to start an animal shelter in Natchitoches Parish. She also stated that they could get started with volunteers, maybe with some detention workers labor and maybe gets some dog and cat food donated. Ms. Glasscock concluded by stating that after they got started the Police Jury might give them a laborer. President Dollar then recognized Mr. Paige who said he thought it would be wise that we did accept the resolution from DeSoto Parish because they were building an animal shelter. He also stated that they wanted it built for the northern part of the State and not just there in DeSoto Parish. Mr. Paige went on to say that DeSoto Parish have a lot of money and are doing different things but Natchitoches Parish do not have a lot of money. During the past years, Mr. Paige stated that the Jury had looked at a Parish animal shelter and had even talked about a tax to fund one but that fell apart. Mr. Paige also stated that with no money the Jury could never get anything off the ground. President Dollar then recognized Mrs. Stoker who stated that there is going to be a regional center and part of the Jury passing a resolution in support of it would allow us to make use of the shelter. She also stated that she did not have a problem asking them for the money, but did not know if we will be successful in getting a figure that high. President Dollar then stated that he thought there were some great concern in the Parish. He also stated that the Jury has a pending ordinance that had been summated to the District Attorney office under a former committee. President Dollar also stated that he had talked with the Assistant District Attorney and we may try to get it back on.

President Dollar told Ms. Glasscock that he had talked with the City, Sheriff Jones and DeSoto Parish and all have agreed to look at this situation together. He also stated that he did not know if DeSoto Parish could legally write a check out of their taxpayers and leasing proceeds. He went on to say that he had a copy of the original ordinance from 2007 was not sure if it was exactly what the Parish needed. President Dollar then stated that before the Jury meeting ended tonight he would like to set a public hearing for next month meeting.

President Dollar then recognized Mr. Jacobs who stated that everyone was thinking that we were going to remove the dam and that is not the case. He stated that there used to be two culverts that had caved in and would like to replace the culvert. Mr. Townsend told the Jury that he had been in contact with the Army Corp of Engineers in Vicksburg, Mississippi who informed him that he would have to get a permit in which he received a letter today assigning a number to it. Mr. Townsend also told the Jury that the cost would include the permit and a 72 inch by 40 feet culvert. He said what he was asking was to put it back to it original design. By doing this, Mr. Townsend said would not be a problem because it would fall under the Nationwide Free Maintenance Rehabilitation Act. Mr. Hymes stated that since it is coming under the Act there should be funding for the project. Mr. Townsend then stated that the Corp did not say anything about funding but did say it was the responsibility of the Natchitoches Parish Police Jury. President Dollar then asked Mr. Townsend if his budget could stand this right now. Mr. Townsend stated yes and he had talked with Mrs. Miley, Parish Treasurer, who told him his budget could replace the culvert in the amount of \$3,280.00. Relative to this, the following action was taken:

On motion by Mr. Jacobs, duly seconded by Mr. Hymes, that the Natchitoches Parish Police Jury, in regular and legal session convened, does hereby approving the purchase of a culvert in the amount of \$3,280.00 and installing it in the Earth Dam on Old River Road.

Motion Carried

President Dollar then recognized Mr. Blake Cooper and Mr. Daniel Brown, Accountant, of Roy O. Martin, Inc. Mr. Cooper thanked the Jury for allowing him to speak. He stated that many of you know that the plywood market is not doing very well right now. However, the owners of Roy O. Martin are committed to coming out of this recession and blossoming better than it is currently doing. President Dollar then stated that Mr. Cooper was in attendance for items #6 and #7 and asked to get a motion to conduct a public hearing. Relative to this, the following action was taken:

On motion by Mr. Paige, duly seconded by Mr. Jacobs, that the Natchitoches Parish Police Jury, in regular and legal session convened, does hereby open a public hearing to hear any and all views and proposals relative to the submission of an application for project funding under the State of Louisiana FY 2010/2011 Community Development Block Grant (LCDBG) Economic Development Program for Martco expansion.

Motion Carried

Mr. Cooper then stated that he was coming to the Jury to ask for the Jury's approval to begin the process for the Louisiana Community Development Block Grant. He stated that the Jury had a history of doing this in the past and hope they would approve this one today. Mr. Cooper went on to say that they recently had a \$10,000,000.00 dollar expansion in which a fifth dryer was added. He said that would increase their employees' number by about 40 or so individuals with about a salary of \$38,000.00 a year. He also stated that the expansion should be finished by early spring 2010 and that the LCDBG funding would support the overall expansion. After a brief discussion, the following action was taken:

On motion by Mr. Paige, duly seconded by Mr. Garrett, that the Natchitoches Parish Police Jury, in regular and legal session convened, does hereby close the public hearing.

Motion Carried

On motion by Mr. Hymes, duly seconded by Mr. Hoffpauir, that the Natchitoches Parish Police Jury, in regular and legal session convened, does hereby adopt a resolution authorizing the submission of an application for project funding under the State of Louisiana FY 2010/2011 Community Development Block Grant (LCDBG) Economic Development Program for Martco expansion.

Motion Carried

President Dollar then recognized Mr. Rayburn Smith who told the Jury that he had bought a piece of property close to his house at the end of the S. T. Sibley Road. Mr. Smith stated that it was a public road that has not been maintained since August of 2003. He stated that there were five landowners involved and the road goes nowhere. Mr. Smith also told the Jury that the road was basically a trash dump and drug dealing area. He also stated that he had letters from four of the landowners that wanted to take the road out of the system in order to stop the traffic and drug trading. Mr. Paige stated that the Jury needed to start the process and conduct a public hearing to give all the other people who wanted to keep it in or take it out. Relative to this, the following action was taken:

On motion by Mr. Martin, duly seconded by Mr. Hoffpauir, that the Natchitoches Parish Police Jury, in regular and legal session convened, does hereby add to the agenda starting the process to conduct a public hearing to hear any comments or objections relative to removing the S. T. Sibley Road out of the Parish Road System.

Motion Carried

On motion by Mr. Martin, duly seconded by Mr. Hoffpauir, that the Natchitoches Parish Police Jury, in regular and legal session convened, does hereby start the process to conduct a public hearing to hear any comments or objections relative to removing the S. T. Sibley Road out of the Parish Road System.

Motion Carried

President Dollar then recognized Mrs. Karen Terrell who stated that she was in attendance to ask the Jury to reappoint her to the Natchitoches Parish Library Board. Next, President Dollar recognized Mr. Tommy Roque who told the Jury that he was present to ask the Jury to reappoint him to the Natchitoches Parish Library Board. He stated that he had been on the Library Board for several years and enjoyed serving the children and the needs of the Parish as far as the Library is concern.

President Dollar then recognized Mr. Emile Metoyer who told the Jury that he was present to ask the Jury to reappoint him to the Waterworks District #2 Board. Mr. Metoyer also told the Jury that he had served on the Board for many years. He went on to say that WW#2 had a big project going on and would like to stay on the Board until it is finished.

President Dollar then recognized Mrs. Earnestine Wallace from the Shady Grove Community who told the Jury that her complaint was that she operates the center in the area and they had some vandalism in which four or five air conditioning window units were stolen. Mrs. Wallace also told the Jury that these units need to be replaced before it gets cold. She went on to say that at the present they were utilizing the kitchen area because that unit was not stolen. In conclusion, Mrs. Wallace asked the Jury to fix some windows before it gets cold.

President Dollar then recognized Parish Administrator Catherine Hamilton who told the Jury that she had been in contact with Mr. Walter Crenshaw about the building and at the last meeting the Jury adopted a resolution to apply for a LGAP Grant for the installation of a air conditioning unit and repairs to the building.

Mrs. Wallace then asked the Jury to get those air holes stopped up before it gets cold. She then asked if they could get some gravel on the Scarborough Road. Mrs. Wallace stated that people was going on the road with four wheelers and tearing them up. Mr. Hymes then asked if it would be okay for Harry to assist them with this problem? He also stated that he could also do a survey on the electrical in the building. Relative to this, the following action was taken:

On motion by Mr. Paige, duly seconded by Mr. Jacobs, that the Natchitoches Parish Police Jury, in regular and legal session convened, does hereby add to the agenda adopting a resolution to request an additional \$5,000.00 for the Shady Grove Community Center bringing the total to \$15,000.00 instead of the \$10,000.00.

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 resolution to request an additional \$5,000.00 for the Shady Grove Community Center bringing the total to \$15,000.00 instead of the \$10,000.00.

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 the minutes of the Work Session/Regular meeting held Monday, August 17, 2009.

Motion Carried

On motion by Mr. Paige, duly seconded by Mr. Hymes, that the Natchitoches Parish Police Jury, in regular and legal session convened, does hereby adopt the Annual Certification of Compliance with State of Louisiana, Off System Bridge Replacement Program.

Motion Carried

On motion by Mr. Jacobs, duly seconded by Mr. Hoffpauir, that the Natchitoches Parish Police Jury, in regular and legal session convened, does hereby appoint Mr. John Batten, Jr. and Mr. Emile Metoyer to a four year term and Mr. Ted Duggan's two year term to the Waterworks District #2 Board of Commissioners.

Motion Carried

President Dollar then recognized Ms. Juanice Gray who asked the Jury to revisit the animal ordinance. After a brief discussion, the following action was taken:

On motion by Mrs. Stoker, duly seconded by Mr. Hoffpauir, that the Natchitoches Parish Police Jury, in regular and legal session convened, does hereby add to the agenda starting the process to adopt an animal ordinance for the Parish of Natchitoches.

Motion Carried

On motion by Mr. Hoffpauir, duly seconded by Mr. Stoker, that the Natchitoches Parish Police Jury, in regular and legal session convened, does hereby authorize starting the process to adopt an animal ordinance for the Parish of Natchitoches.

Motion Carried

President Dollar then stated that the next item was to consider overturning the decision of the Natchitoches Parish Planning Commission denying the request of Ms. Shantel Hardison to rezone Lots E & F of Payne Subdivision, Unit #1 located in Section 4, T9N, R7W on Louisiana Highway 6 East from B-2 to B-3 to develop an amusement entertainment center. He then asked if things had been worked out concerning this matter. President Dollar then recognized Mrs. Della Armstrong who stated that her house is 10 feet from the building not 300 feet and they were present to make sure that the Jury denies this request. After several comments, the following action was 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 overturn the decision of the Natchitoches Parish Planning Commission denying the request of Ms. Shantel Hardison to rezone Lots E & F of Payne Subdivision, Unit #1 located in Section 4, T9N, R7W on Louisiana Highway 6 East from B-2 to B-3 to develop an amusement entertainment center.

With the vote being unanimously no, the motion to overturn the decision of the Planning Commission denying the request of Ms. Shantel Hardison to rezone failed.

Motion Failed

On motion by Mr. Paige, duly seconded by Mr. Longlois, that the Natchitoches Parish Police Jury, in regular and legal session convened, does hereby renew the lease with Mr. Charles Honeycutt for the use of his property as a site for the Vowells Mill Community Center.

Motion Carried

President Dollar then recognized Mrs. Harris who told the Jury each of them had a copy of her report in front of them. She stated that they have been busy on the energy assistance this month. She also stated that her office was booming with people calling for applications to help with their utility bills. Mrs. Harris told the Jury that Natchitoches Parish was almost out of money for energy assistance but her office was going to ask for more money in which they may be able to get an additional \$53,000.00 for Natchitoches and it must be spent by September 30th. Mrs. Harris went on to say that they had their risk management meeting in Dallas on August 26th and it went fairly well. She stated that Mr. Dollar should receive correspondence in reference to any action or step that they need to take. The action or step would be a visit from the region office within three months probably in November. Relative to the report, the following action was taken:

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

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 appoint Mrs. Karen Terrell, Mr. James Guin and Mr. Tommy Roque to the Natchitoches Parish Library Board of Directors.

Motion Carried

President Dollar then recognized Ms. Juanice Gray who asked the Jury to revisit the animal ordinance. President Dollar then asked if he had a motion to revisit the ordinance from 2007. He stated that it would be set for public hearing and reviewed at the next month meeting. President Dollar then recognized Mr. Hoffpauir who stated that he would like to see something written up before the public hearing. President Dollar stated that copies could be obtain from Mr. Delphin and that he was like Mr. Paige in that he was not sure of what we want to end up with at next month meeting. Mr. Paige then stated that there is a month from now in which you should be able to come up with something and still have time to review. He also stated that the Jury could adopt a resolution but it was still going to take money and without the money we could not go anywhere.

President Dollar then recognized Mrs. Penny Niette who told the Jury that the Russell Cemetery Bridge is one of the bridges that is in the Off System Bridge Replacement Program. She stated some of the right of way had been done but the Army Corp of Engineers informed them the Wetland property had to be done a different way. She stated that she was told that it would cost around \$12,000.00 an acre and would have to contact a bank that participated in this procedure. Mrs. Niette then told the Jury that she and Mrs. Hamilton had contacted someone with one of the bank and was informed that they did not have anymore credits. President Dollar then asked how much land would have to be purchase? Mrs. Niette then stated about .924 acres of wetland. Relative to this, the following action was taken:

On motion by Mrs. Stoker, duly seconded by Mr. Longlois, that the Natchitoches Parish Police Jury, in regular and legal session convened, does hereby authorize purchasing a parcel of Wetland property to build the Russell Cemetery Bridge not to exceed \$15,000.00.

Motion Carried

President Dollar then recognized the Parish Administrator who told the Jury that Mr. Collier had asked to apply for a grant for the Old City Bank building in Campti that housed a museum. He had informed her that the third floor of the building use to be rented out by Weyerhauser and they moved out because it needed a lot of repairs. She stated that Mr. Collier felt if the building was repaired, the Jury could lease it out to someone else. Relative to this, the following action was taken:

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 resolution authorizing the President to sign the necessary forms to submit a grant to the Louisiana Government Assistance Program in the amount of \$15,000.00 for the Police Jury building that houses the Museum in Campti.

Motion Carried

President Dollar then recognized Parish Treasurer Debbie Miley who told the Jury that last month she recorded deficits and this month she added a column to report the deficits as of August 31, 2009. She stated there was a mistake in the \$267,175.95 reported when the amount should have been \$241,509.16. She also stated that she did not carry over the weatherization numbers and instead of the total being \$392,000.00 it was \$417,717.84 in deficits. President Dollar then recognized Ms. Beverly Washington who stated that they had applied for a grant and have not heard back from the Dallas Office. She then stated that some of the programs had received their money. Ms. Washington also stated that the August funding for Head Start is pending and has not been requested. She then stated that all these monies are waiting to be transferred into the current year. Mrs. Miley then reported the pre-trial detainees' headcount. She stated, as of today the count was 92 detainees.

On motion by Mr. Stoker, duly seconded by Mr. Longlois, that the Natchitoches Parish Police Jury, in regular and legal session convened, does hereby accept the report of the Treasurer.

Motion Carried

President Dollar then recognized Mr. Earl Townsend, Director of Public Works, who reported emergency expenditures for the period of August 17, 2009 through September 14, 2009 in the amount of **\$576.45.**

On motion by Mr. Paige, duly seconded by Mr. Longlois, that the Natchitoches Parish Police Jury, in regular and legal session convened, does hereby approve expenditures for the period of August 17, 2009 through September 14, 2009 in the amount of **\$726,970.51.**

Motion Carried

President Dollar then recognized Mrs. Betty Huck from the Shady Grove Community who told the Jury that she was present to let them know what was going on in their community. She also stated that she wanted to inform the Jury about what they were doing in their community and to make sure they were not violating any Parish ordinances. Mrs. Huck then told the Jury that they had started Project 911 in their community to identify the homes in the area. She stated that she had talked with Larry Atteridge of the Natchitoches Regional Medical Center who told her they were having problems trying to find homes in their area when someone called for emergency reasons. Mrs. Huck stated that she and several residents also started Project 911 to help the elderly and disabled in the community. She went on to say that they will post signs on residents' property with the house number of the homes to help emergency responders. She also stated that her husband, a couple of other residents and herself will be making the signs and that they will either be posted on the property next to the mailbox or on the homes. Mrs. Huck then stated that she would like to thank Mimi Stoker because she heard us on the radio a few weeks ago on the Public Service Announcement and she walked into the radio station and gave us a donation. She also said that Mrs. Stoker's husband also came to the meeting and was able to shed some light on the fire protection situation. Mr. Paige then asked if they were having problems with road signs? Mrs. Huck replied "no" but some of the roads were not identified. Mr. Hoffpauir stated that the Jury ordered them every so often and on rainy days put them out. He stated that all of the Parish roads should be marked and needed the communities to take care of them after they are put up. Mr. Hoffpauir then stated that people like to steal the signs and they had to put them higher in the air so that they could not steal them.

President Dollar then recognized Mr. Jack Green who told the Jury that they had a fire station in their area but had no trucks. He stated that they had enough people to volunteer and asked the Jury to call and get them a truck. Mrs. Stoker then told them that they should attend the Fire Protection District #7 Board meeting. President Dollar then told them if they go there and do not get any response to come back to the Jury.

President Dollar then asked if there were anyone else who would like to speak? Since there were no one he stated that he would go around the table. He then recognized Mr. Huggins who stated that the veterans' recognition ceremony that was held in the coliseum was a success. He also stated that his phone had been jumping off the hook from people who did not know about the event. Mr. Huggins went on to say that there would be another ceremony in Natchitoches soon.

Coach Garrett stated that representatives from the Dallas office will be coming to Natchitoches pretty soon and they will be asking a lot of questions. Coach Garrett went on to say that they have been meeting in order to have everything ready for the visit.

Mr. Paige told the Jury for the last fifteen years, he have set in the Jury meeting room raising sand left and right about fair recruiting of African American doctors in Natchitoches and now Dr. Britain has been recruited by the Hospital Board and Administration. Mr. Paige then told the Jury that he thought a letter should be mailed from the Jury to that affect. He also stated that he thought the recruitment of the first African American doctor speaks volume.

Mr. Longlois then invited the Jurors to a meeting he was having Wednesday morning at 9:00 a.m. concerning the discussion from the last meeting on the hauling ordinance.

President Dollar then told the Jury that we got word this week that Mr. Fair maybe leaving the District Attorney's office. He stated that he had talked with Mr. Fair once since the last meeting and sent a couple of emails to the Sheriff and a member of the Shooting Range. President Dollar also stated that everyone is in general agreement but Mr. Fair is changing a few things and hopes to have it ready by October 1st.

Mrs. Stoker told the Jury that we have a big problem in this Parish with people purposely destroying Parish roads by mud riding and all kinds of stuff with four wheelers. She said that the deputies are trying to catch these guys but when they see or hear them they take off through the woods and the deputies have no way to get to them. Mrs. Stoker then told the Jury that Mr. Townsend had received a phone call from the Sheriff Department to see if he wanted to press charges. The man they arrested is 25 years old and was charged with simple criminal damage to property. It then agreed by the Jury that a letter be sent to the District Attorney office requesting that this man be prosecuted and make restitution for the damages he created.

Next President Dollar recognized Mrs. Hamilton who told the Jury that DOTD was ready to proceed with the Hart Road Bridge. However, there was a problem with the Sandy Point Water System having water lines in the Parish right of way that has to be relocated. She then asked the Jury about authorizing sending a letter to the Sandy Point Water System requesting them to relocate their water line in order for DOTD to proceed with the replacement of the Hart Road Bridge. Relative to this, the following action was taken:

On motion by Mr. Paige, duly seconded by Mr. Jacobs, that the Natchitoches Parish Police Jury, in regular and legal session convened, does hereby add to the agenda authorizing a letter be sent to the Sandy Point Water System requesting them to relocate their water lines that are currently located near the Hart Road Bridge at their expense.

Motion Carried

On motion by Mr. Paige, duly seconded by Mr. Hymes, that the Natchitoches Parish Police Jury, in regular and legal session convened, does hereby authorize sending a letter to the Sandy Point Water System requesting them to relocate their water lines that are currently located near the Hart Road Bridge at their expense.

Motion Carried

On motion by Mr. Hoffpauir, duly seconded by Mr. Jacobs, 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