

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

December 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, December 14, 2009 at five o'clock (5:00) p.m.

The Invocation was given by Juror Chris Paige, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Juror Fred Jacobs.

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

There was absent: None.

The Police Jury of the Parish of Natchitoches was then 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 then stated that if the Jury had no objections he would entertain Agenda Item #27 relative to conducting a public hearing to reduce the number of Police Jurors. Relative to this, the following action was taken:

On motion by Mrs. Stoker, duly seconded by Mr. Jacobs, that the Natchitoches Parish Police Jury, in regular and legal session convened, does hereby conduct a public hearing to hear any and all comments or objections relative to reducing the number of Police Jurors.

Motion Carried

President Dollar then declared the Public Hearing open and asked if there was anyone who would like to make a comment or objection concerning downsizing the Police Jury. He then recognized Mr. Joseph Randolph Stelly, Sr., aka "Randy Stelly" who told the Jury that he published the Real View newspaper in Natchitoches. Mr. Stelly also stated that he was from District #6 (Mr. Huggins' District) and was not present to represent the newspaper. He stated that he was present as a citizen and as a representative of the Progressive Independent Party that is registered with the State. Mr. Stelly then stated that he has been involved with politics just about all of his life. He went on to say that he was speaking for blacks and whites and they all wanted better government. In using an African American man for a reason, he stated that the group he represented were very disappointed with the African American representation on the Police Jury for not even voting for this discussion to take place.

Mr. Stelly also stated that he had tried to talk to people in the horseshoe individually with the exception of Mr. Garrett. He then told the Jury that he had talked about downsizing the Jury for years and the time to do it is now. In 2010, the Census is coming up and districts have to be recounted. Lines have to redraw and they could be redrawn in a way that both the City and rural areas is represented by everyone on this horseshoe. He stated that he had heard the number seven but he would like to see five. If there are two African Americans out of five that would be 40%, a higher percentage than four out of eleven we have now. He stated the Jury need to consider not only downsizing but have a different attitude on how to approach doing business in Natchitoches Parish. We have a President that throw down tons of money and will throw down even more for infrastructure and all kinds of programs. Mr. Stelly then stated that he knew how some of the Jurors feel about being in a safe seat and that is part of the problem. Some of these seats are not represented enough collectively. He stated that he go all over this Parish and have listen to the people. The Jury have not improved in the last ten to twelve years. In conclusion, Mr. Stelly told the Jury that he was in favor of downsizing and reorganizing.

President Dollar then recognized Mr. Jacobs who told Mr. Stelly that the reason he voted against it was because it is really about race tonight. The reason he voted against it was because he was elected to serve people in his district, which is District 11. Mr. Jacobs stated that he wanted to keep it that way and felt he had a handle on the problems they had in District 11. He stated that he have noting to do with the racial stuff.

President Dollar then recognized Mr. Nick Pollacia who stated that he was with the Natchitoches Area Chamber of Commerce and he would like to say thank you for having this hearing. Mr. Pollacia also stated that the Chamber's position has not been one way or another and have not said they wanted downsizing or see a change in government but their position has always been to let the people decide. He stated that an issue that has caused as much controversy as this has should be decided by the people. Mr. Pollacia concluded by saying if the Chamber can do anything to help the Jury let them know.

President Dollar then recognized Mr. Simmons who told the Jury that he has never been a politician and was glad that we had people that stand up for what they think is right. He stated that he became interested in the size of not only the Police Jury but also the School Board. He also stated by law in Mississippi, there can only be five members of any school board or police juror. Mr. Simmons told the Jury he would like to see this board go to five members.

President Dollar then recognized Mr. Phillip Wilkerson who told the Jury that he thought downsizing needs to put up to a vote of the people. He stated that the whole thing boils down to which it should not be the Police Jury deciding what everyone else wants. It needs to be put to the people of the Parish. Mr. Wilkerson then asked what the legal procedure was to do this? He then asked if it had to go to the Federal government to put this on the ballot? President Dollar then stated that it was up to the Jury and there was some voting requirement for voter registration and federal things that are involved. He also stated that there will be reapportionment and some cost about \$8,000 dollars and the election would cost about \$50,000.00.

President Dollar then recognized Mr. Paige who stated that you would have to have a committee to look at the whole process and not just the ones involved. Mr. Paige also stated that you have to look at the district lines based on population. He also stated that each Juror has about 3,600 individuals that they serve and if you talk about going to five or seven you would be talking about giving each district another 2,000 people or so to serve.

President Dollar then recognized Mr. Hoffpauir who stated that he was not going to commit on this but if you look at country people they like to talk to someone. Mr. Hoffpauir stated if you look at the map at the sizes of the districts, he represented 3,600 people and if you go to five he would represent 8,000 and it would be tuff to get calls from 8,000 people. He also stated that the people expect to see their jurors and be able to call them. Mr. Hoffppair went on to say that for the most part, the people who expresses an interest in downsizing are people inside the city limits of Natchitoches. He concluded by saying that he saw that they are going to have most of the Police Jurors elected inside or close to the city limits of Natchitoches and the rural people are going to have the least of representation. President Dollar then recognized Mr. Sam Fowler who stated that he was from the rural area of Mr. Hoffpauir and agree the Jury should downsize. Mr. Hymes then stated that the Jury has heard 4 people out of 39,000.

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

On motion by Mrs. Stoker, duly seconded by Mr. Jacobs, that the Natchitoches Parish Police Jury, in regular and legal session convened, does hereby close the public hearing to hear any and all comments or objections relative to reducing the number of Police Jurors.

Motion Carried

On motion by Mr. Paige, duly seconded by Mr. Garrett, 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, November 16, 2009 and the special meeting held Thursday, November 19, 2009.

Motion Carried

President Dollar then recognized Mr. Paige who stated that he wanted the jurors to look into creating a new commission. Mr. Paige then stated that he would like to table this matter until he talk with Ms. Martha from Shreveport to see what they did to move this forward. President Dollar then recognized Mr. Hymes who stated that over the week he had a chance to set down with the City of Natchitoches Fire Chief and he had some views concerning this matter. 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 table creating a new 911 Commission.

Motion Carried

On motion by Mrs. Stoker, duly seconded by Mr. Paige, that the Natchitoches Parish Police Jury, in regular and legal session convened, does hereby approve a letter of engagement from Johnson, Thomas & Cunningham for audit services for fiscal year ending December 31, 2009.

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 approve the North Louisiana Criminalistics Laboratory 2010 Proposed Budget and the Amended 2009 Annual Budget for the operation of the North Louisiana Criminalistics Laboratory System.

Motion Carried

President Dollar then stated that there was a conflict with time with the District Attorney concerning the adoption of an animal ordinance and asked the Jury to consider tabling this adoption. He stated that the last time he spoke with the District Attorney he had about three versions of the ordinance that the city currently has in place. President Dollar also stated that the District Attorney had what the jury had proposed some years ago and met in the middle with both of them. He went on to say that the District Attorney also have some questions on the ordinance. President Dollar then stated that some of the folks from the Humane Society that are working with the City is trying to schedule a meeting with District Attorney to help fine tune the ordinance.

Relative to this, the following action was taken:

On motion by Mrs. Stoker, duly seconded by Mr. Garrett, that the Natchitoches Parish Police Jury, in regular and legal session convened, does hereby table adopting an animal ordinance for the Parish of Natchitoches.

Motion Carried

President Dollar then read the next Agenda Item, which led to a brief discussion. Several questions was asked and the following action was taken:

On motion by Mr. Hymes, duly seconded by Mr. Paige, that the Natchitoches Parish Police Jury, in regular and legal session convened, does hereby table adopting a resolution supporting the Natchitoches Medical Specialists Project and allowing this project to receive the local benefits of the Enterprise Zone Program.

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 start the process to appoint someone to the Natchitoches Parish Tourist Commission, due to Mr. Rick Seale's term expiring.

Motion Carried

President Dollar then recognized Mrs. Harris, Director of the OCS/Head Start Programs, who told the Jury that they all had the monthly report for November in front of them. She stated that she was going to start with LIHEAP program. This Program received funding from the Louisiana Community Action Association of Baton Rouge on November 30th. Mrs. Harris also stated that once they received the money they started taking appointments and gave out 170 appointments. She also stated that they were doing appointments right now and Natchitoches Parish got \$74,442.47, which is only a ¼ part that is budgeted. Mrs. Harris stated that on the average they spend about \$440 dollars on an applicant and will have until September 30<sup>th</sup> to spend the 2010 money. Mrs. Harris then asked if there were any questions concerning the other programs.

President Dollar then stated that the next item on the agenda was to conduct a public hearing for the budget. Relative to this, the following action was taken:

On motion by Mr. Hoffpauir, duly seconded by Mr. Huggins, that the Natchitoches Parish Police Jury, in regular and legal session convened, does hereby conduct a public hearing to hear any and all comments or objections relative to adopting the 2010 Consolidated Budget.

Motion Carried

President Dollar then declared the public hearing opened. He then asked if anyone would like to speak. He then recognized Ms. Miley, Parish Treasurer, who told the Jury that the general fund is the same and was basically the same thing for the last couple of years. Ms. Miley stated that she did not take anything out that we paid for this year and had left everything in that we were able to pay. In the Highway Budget, she left out our FEMA money because we will finish our big FEMA project. She stated in the equipment line item on the road maintenance budget, they did put in a 7-yard dump truck, track hoe, tractor, a bush hog and an ice machine. Ms. Miley went on to say in government building budget, we have \$264,000 as of November the 30<sup>th</sup> and will start out the year with \$211,000. She then stated if Government building has no surprises, everything will be the same. She stated that in the Health Unit budget nothing changed and everything is the same. Ms. Miley then told the Jury that the Old Courthouse lease will be up in June 2010 but the biggest thing the Jury will face is the Criminal Court Fund Budget. She stated that she started out at \$0 because she did not know where the funds was going to end up and she put each line item to the bear minimum. She also stated that she did the same thing for the coroner and she made it as small amount as she could. Mr. Hymes then asked Mr. Dollar if he had taken a look at the matter. President Dollar then stated he had a number of conversations, in fact, he and Ms. Miley had spoken earlier today. He then told the Jury that they hope to set down with the Director of Finance with the City and the Mayor hopefully before the end of the year to try and go to a flat fee or a salary budgeted amount beginning in January as supposed to per incident. He stated that State law allows for either. President Dollar then stated that he has not talked with the Mayor but have talked with Pat Jones and it appears that it may be good option both for the Jury to put a cap on some expenses as well as the City. Ms. Miley then stated that this was the 2010 budget. Since there was no other comments, the following action was taken:

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

Motion Carried

Relative to this, the following action was taken:

On motion by Mr. Paige, duly seconded by Mr. Stoker, that the Natchitoches Parish Police Jury, in regular and legal session convened, does hereby adopt the 2010 Consolidated Budget.

Motion Carried

Ms. Miley then stated that she has prepared a new Prisoner headcount and then asked if there were any question. She then stated that the other exhibit was for the cash balances as of November 30<sup>th</sup>. Ms. Miley stated that this month, the general fund budget balance, while the payroll account, criminal court, the weatherization and rural transit came out with a positive \$43,357.70, which is due to the payroll account it goes up and down. Ms. Miley also stated that this time at the end of the month we were only in the hole \$14,000 dollars. She then stated that as far as head start it has a negative \$438,000 but we did not get our deposit in until the first. After the deposit was added, it lowers the deficit back to the \$242,010.56. Relative to this, the following action was taken:

On motion by Mr. Hymes, duly seconded by Mr. Jacobs, 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 Mrs. Corrine Young, Parish Planning Director, who presented the Jury with a report on the activity of the Planning office. Mrs. Young stated that she did a comparison of 2008 to 2009. She stated that she basically took the type of construction and compared it from 2008 to 2009. There was a big difference from 08 to 09 permits with some of the figures being a little off due to the fact, if there was a mobile home moved to another place there would not have been a cost. Mrs. Young went on to say the fees are not included in this report, but the fees will be in the budget that was presented.

Mr. Hoffpauir asked to be excused from the meeting.

On motion by Mr. Jacobs, duly seconded by Mr. Paige, that the Natchitoches Parish Police Jury, in regular and legal session convened, does hereby award the bid for Crushed Stone to the only bidder Madden Contracting Company, Inc.

Motion Carried  
With  
Mr. Dollar  
"abstaining"

On motion by Mr. Jacobs, duly seconded by Mr. Paige, that the Natchitoches Parish Police Jury, in regular and legal session convened, does hereby award the bid for Grader Blades to the only bidder Doggett Machinery Service.

Motion Carried  
With  
Mr. Dollar  
"abstaining"

On motion by Mr. Jacobs, duly seconded by Mr. Paige, that the Natchitoches Parish Police Jury, in regular and legal session convened, does hereby award the bid for Hot Mix Asphalt to the only bidder Madden Construction Company.

Motion Carried  
With  
Mr. Dollar  
"abstaining"

On motion by Mr. Jacobs, duly seconded by Mr. Paige, that the Natchitoches Parish Police Jury, in regular and legal session convened, does hereby award the bid for Light-Weight Aggregate to the only bidder Big River Industries.

Motion Carried  
With  
Mr. Dollar  
"abstaining"

On motion by Mr. Jacobs, duly seconded by Mr. Paige, that the Natchitoches Parish Police Jury, in regular and legal session convened, does hereby award the bid for Liquid Asphalt CRS-2 to the lower bidder Ergon Asphalt & Emulsions, INC.

Motion Carried  
With  
Mr. Dollar  
"abstaining"

On motion by Mr. Jacobs, duly seconded by Mr. Paige, that the Natchitoches Parish Police Jury, in regular and legal session convened, does hereby award the bid for Lumber, Timber, & Piling to the only bidder Kennedy's Treated Wood.

Motion Carried  
With  
Mr. Dollar  
"abstaining"

On motion by Mr. Jacobs, duly seconded by Mr. Paige, that the Natchitoches Parish Police Jury, in regular and legal session convened, does hereby award the bid for Metal Culvert to the low bidder Contech Construction Products, Inc.

Motion Carried  
With  
Mr. Dollar  
"abstaining"

On motion by Mr. Jacobs, duly seconded by Mr. Paige, that the Natchitoches Parish Police Jury, in regular and legal session convened, does hereby award the bid for oil and Grease Products to the only bidder Lott Oil Company.

Motion Carried  
With  
Mr. Dollar  
"abstaining"

On motion by Mr. Jacobs, duly seconded by Mr. Paige, that the Natchitoches Parish Police Jury, in regular and legal session convened, does hereby award the bid for Sweeping, Rolling And Laying of Hot Mix to the only bidder J.D. Lites & Sons.

Motion Carried  
With  
Mr. Dollar  
"abstaining"

On motion by Mr. Longlois, duly seconded by Mr. Hymes, that the Natchitoches Parish Police Jury, in regular and legal session convened, does hereby authorize the re-advertisement of sealed bid proposals for Winn Rock and Glauconite.

Motion Carried

On motion by Mr. Hymes, duly seconded by Mr. Longlois, that the Natchitoches Parish Police Jury, in regular and legal session convened, does hereby conduct a Public Hearing to hear any and all comments or objections relative to removing a portion of P. R. #639, the Mathis Road, out of the Parish Road System.

Motion Carried

President Dollar then stated that he had received a phone call from Mr. John LaBorde of the School Board concerning the road. President Dollar stated that the nature of the conversation was whether the road was a bus route or not and when we hung up he was going to contact the Bus Company to find out more information. He stated that he have not heard back from Mr. LaBorde but believe there is a bus that goes that route and the child that rides the bus is in the Natchitoches Parish School.

Mr. Hoffpauir returned to the meeting.

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

Motion Carried

Since a motion was not offered, no action was taken on removing a portion of P. R. #639, the Mathis Road, out of the Parish Road System.

President Dollar then recognized the Parish Administrator Catherine Hamilton to discuss the next item on the agenda concerning the Policy and Procedure Manual. Mrs. Hamilton told the Jury that they have already approved most of these changes. She stated that most of the changes were for employees that are paid through grant funds. She also stated that she incorporated all of the changes in the Personnel Policy and Procedure Manual. Mrs. Hamilton stated that the only changed that was not approve was Item G, the job evaluation, and this had already been talked about at previous meetings. She stated that the evaluation would be given every year on the employee anniversary date. Mrs. Hamilton also told the Jury that a copy of the form is in the copy of the Jurors Manual along with the job description of the employees. President Dollar then recognized Mrs. Sharon Harris who stated that people say that the OCS/Head Start personnel are employees of the Natchitoches Parish Police Jury. She then asked could you separate them? Mrs. Harris stated that with the Grant, her staff is following the Jury's insurance policy. She then asked do we have to follow all the policy? What if they do not have the money? Mrs. Harris then stated that most of the grants say that the Police Jury has to pay if they have no money. She also stated that since they are not in the selection process of the insurance they could not make a decision setting at the table to look at the insurance. She stated that it is given to them by the Grantees saying that the insurance is \$100. Mrs. Harris then stated that it is told to them what the insurance is going to be and they do not have a say whether they set at the table to see if they want the insurance. Mrs. Hamilton then replied neither does the Jury's employees, this body approved the insurance. Mrs. Sharon then told Mrs. Catherine that the OCS/Head Start employees are saying that they may be able to afford something cheaper but if the body approves it then this what they would follow. President Dollar then recognized Mr. Hymes who stated that in problems like this, the Jury is the districts and the OCS/Head Start is the agency within the district, so the agency policy cannot supersede the district's policy. He stated, therefore, for whatever the agency is doing they can come up to where the Jury is or go down to where the Jury maybe but they cannot be greater. Mr. Hymes then stated that in the selection process our district policy does not provide for the selection from any employee and that limits that agency from going over the district policy. He also stated that in the area where the policies conflict than that needs to be looked at, issue by issue to determine whether their policy is going over the district. Mr. Hymes went on to say that the agency policy needs to be brought to compliance at the minimal standards of the district policy. So that does need to happen.

President Dollar recognized Mr. Chris Paige who told the Jury that he thought the reason these changes was put in the manual was to allow the head start employees to opt out of the insurance. Mr. Paige stated that the manual should have that the Jury do not cover Head Start employees insurance. He also mentioned that it was stated something about paying the 100 dollars for insurance but it was his understanding that some people pay and some people do not pay.

Mr. Paige also mentioned that he was trying to understand that you are requiring all eleven of us to put money in a kitty to pay and nine do not but still have the insurance.

President Dollar then recognized Mrs. Erica Dupree who stated that the Jury addressed this issue on August 14 when they addressed to Ms. Miley and Mrs. Hamilton that some employees were paying at that time \$68.44 and were still receiving the same coverage as the one who were not paying that amount. Ms. Dupree stated that the point they stressed was could it be investigated because come January 2010, \$108.37 was going to be taken out of her check for the additional coverage. She then repeated that they had addressed this issue in August that there were some people that were paying the \$68.44 and there was some people that was not paying the amount but still had the same coverage. Ms. Miley then stated that it was one lady and they had already billed her and she is now paying for the coverage.

President Dollar stated that one thing with the grant funding is it does not matter whether you pay the \$108 or not you still have the same coverage that everyone else in the building has with the Jury. The problem is and has been funding and if you look at all those different paragraphs it addresses the situation. President Dollar then stated to keep the cost down we require, like Mrs. Hamilton says, either the Jury offers health insurance or if you get insurance somewhere else all you have to do is bring us a copy of the insurance and you will not be required to keep ours. Relative to this, the following action was taken:

On motion by Mr. Hymes, duly seconded by Mr. Longlois, that the Natchitoches Parish Police Jury, in regular and legal session convened, does hereby adopt the revisions to the Natchitoches Parish Police Jury Personnel and Procedures Manual.

Motion Carried

On motion by Mr. Jacobs, duly seconded by Mr. Longlois, that the Natchitoches Parish Police Jury, in regular and legal session convened, does hereby start the process to appoint/reappoint persons to the Fire Protection District #5 Board due to Mrs. Carol O'Quinn and Mr. Buster Roque's terms expiring.

Motion Carried

On motion by Mr. Hymes, duly seconded by Mr. Longlois, that the Natchitoches Parish Police Jury, in regular and legal session convened, does hereby start the process to appoint someone to the Fire Protection District #10 Board due to one of their members resigning.

Motion Carried

President Dollar then recognized Mr. Earl Townsend, Director of Public Works, who reported **no emergency expenditures** for the period of November 17, 2009 through December 14, 2009.

On motion by Mr. Paige, duly seconded by Mrs. Stoker, that the Natchitoches Parish Police Jury, in regular and legal session convened, does hereby approve expenditures for the period of November 17, 2009 through December 14, 2009 in the amount of **\$1,122,083.69.**

Motion Carried

President Dollar then went around the table and each Juror wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Since there was no other business, 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 adjourn until the next regular or called meeting of the Natchitoches Parish Police Jury.

Motion Carried

Attest:

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David Dollar, President

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Catherine Hamilton,  
Parish Administrator