

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

May 17, 2010

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, May 17, 2010 at five o'clock (5:00) p.m.

The Invocation was given by Juror Stoker, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Juror Charles Huggins.

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

There were absent: Fred Jacobs.

Staff Present: Catherine Hamilton, Corrine Young, Debbie Miley, Greg Lemoine, Sharon Harris, Judie Barnum, Beverly Washington, Diane Moran, Earl Townsend and Penny Niette.

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

Vice-President then recognized Mr. Ed Gibson of the Natchitoches Parish Fair Board, who told the Jury that his Board did not have to ask for any grants or funding and now they have one of the best exhibits for livestock in this part of the country including a 400 feet building that has pins for small and large animals. Mr. Gibson stated that they used the facility for about 15 different shows once a year. One of the shows being the National showing of pigs, goats and last weekend they brought in over 70 youths. He also stated that some of them traveled over 7 hours and the judges were brought in from California, Washington, and places far off. Mr. Gibson also stated they have become in the Association, the place to come for an Exhibit. He then stated that in Natchitoches they have, the Cane River Classic, a local show they sponsor themselves to help bring in people. Mr. Gibson concluded by telling the Jury that they actually support some of the same things they do such as the 4-H program.

Vice President Longlois then recognized Mr. Bob Black, Parish Librarian, who told the Jury that they had finally gotten rid of the old house. He then stated that he wanted to thank Mr. David Dollar for all his help on the matter. Mr. Black went on to say that he wanted to give a brief report on the library. He stated that they had a retired library director who came down about a year ago and did a study on where they could put branches in the Parish. In his report, Mr. Black stated that the Library Board was given a choice to decide between bookmobiles and branches because the Library did not have enough money to do both. My board voted for the book mobile. Mr. Black then told the Jury that the Library Board has plans to build a bookmobile parking lot and garage for to park the bookmobiles.

He then stated that the bookmobile they have is wearing out and the renovation for the bookmobile garage is cost effective and will serve the whole parish. Mr. Black went on to say that he had looked back at the 1980 and 1986 records and found that the bookmobile was checking out more books than all five of the branches. He also stated that with the cost of diesel the Library have one bookmobile that goes to the rural schools and another bookmobile that goes to 28 communities out in the parish. Mr. Black then stated that if they had a branch library in Campti and Provencal and discontinue the bookmobile service, they would not be serving very many people. Mr. Black then told the Jury that the board had voted to use a bookmobile in order to serve more people. Currently, the bookmobile serves about 5,000 adults and 1,800 school children. He went on to tell the Jury that he wanted to be up front about the money by letting them know that the Library have \$466,227.44 in a treasury note and felt they could accomplish all their goals with out touching any of that money. In concluding his report, Mr. Black then told the Jury as for next year, the State Library has made cutbacks and they may have to pay for their Internet services because the Parish Library could not operate without the Internet. Finally, he stated that the Library does have plans for the investment money in the following year. As with schools, Mr. Black stated that they have a big salary budget which is about a million dollars with 21 full time employees and that is what is going on with the library. Mrs. Stoker then asked if he knew the amount of the reduction from the state in his budget? He replied 2,400 dollars times 12. Mr. Paige then stated that at one time the Library had a million dollar in a CD here and a million dollars in various places and when he saw the surplus was only \$400,000, it made him wonder what happen to the various amounts. Mr. Black then told the Jury that there has never been a million dollars since he had been there and all he could give you the balance which is \$460,000. Mr. Paige stated that he knew the Library had hired five or six people that came walking across the parking lot one day when I was sitting in the Jury's office. Mr. Black then stated that Ms. Debbie Miley is in charge of that and to his knowledge there has not been any deposits in the three years he has been at the Library. He then told the Jury that they were ready to proceed with the parking lot but have not gotten with Mrs. Catherine yet. Finally, Mr. Black told the Jury that he could not tell them exactly what the parking lot was going to cost but he did have an estimate. The parking lot, the bookmobile, the bookmobile garage, and the storage would cost approximately \$400,000 or more.

Vice President Longlois then recognized the following persons who asked the Jury to be appointed to the Parish Children Youth and Planning Board; Rozalyn Hudson, Rene' Lewis, Toni Cedars, Barbara Leach and Steven Grusbeck. Relative to this, the following action was taken:

On motion by Mr. Dollar, duly seconded by Mr. Hymes, that the Natchitoches Parish Police Jury, in regular and legal session convened, does hereby add to the agenda appointing Rozalyn Hudson, Rene' Lewis, Toni Cedars, Barbara Leach and Steven Grusbeck to the Natchitoches Parish Children Youth and Planning Board.

Motion Carried

On motion by Mr. Dollar, duly seconded by Mr. Hymes, that the Natchitoches Parish Police Jury, in regular and legal session convened, does hereby appoint Rozalyn Hudson, Rene' Lewis, Toni Cedars, Barbara Leach and Steven Grusbeck to the Natchitoches Parish Children Youth and Planning Board.

Motion Carried

Vice President Longlois then recognized Mr. Randy Parker of Southern Monitoring Systems who told the Jury he was present to talk with them about what he has to offer concerning ankle monitoring. He stated that most people who are in law enforcement know that 70% of Juveniles are incarcerated over two or three weeks and once released 70% of them return to crime. He went on to say that their product would be able to track the juveniles and other prisoners. Mr. Parker also told the Jury that there will be guidelines on where a person can and cannot go, what time they could be somewhere or should be at home.

He stated that the device would also tell them exactly where they are located or headed. If that person steps out of bounds the appropriate person would be notified. The unit is good on charged for two days but they tell their vendor for one day. It tracks everyone in the parish that has a device, it tell that person what level they are on or what percentage that is charged. If it gets to 60% we start calling and when it gets to 50% we call in and we report it to make sure they recharge the device. The devices are run by GPS and would cost about \$8.00 to \$10.00 per day.

Vice President Longlois then stated that the next item on the agenda was new business. He then recognized Mr. Huggins who told the Jury that he got a call from a lady who is an attorney for a pipelining group. Mr. Huggins told the Jury she wants to meet here on Wednesday at 4:30. He then stated that he has informed Mrs. Hamilton and they will meet with them to talk about the pipeline. They will also be talking with the Mayor.

Vice President Longlois then recognized Mr. Paige who stated that he would like to add to the agenda for the approval of this body to ask the City of Natchitoches about the resolution that we have sent once before to get rid of the Police Jury, the City Council and Mayor, then draw the parish lines up to where it want be so much duplication. Mr. Paige then stated that this needed to happen so when people come into town the money could be split up evenly. He then stated that he thought they need to talk about fairness and there are many different aspects they could bring to the table. The various towns do not have to have a constable. The Sheriff can be the whole law enforcement agent for the whole Parish. Mr. Paige then told the Jury he thought they need to get some people in on this that really understands this, someone in the state that understands how to compile these agencies into one and tell us what can and cannot happen. Mr. Paige concluded his comments by saying that this is one way to show that we are trying.

Mr. Dollar then asked Mr. Paige what his thoughts would be to ask the city to have a joint committee. The Jury puts some members as well as the City Council and even brings some of the outside folks and let them talk. Mr. Paige replied that this is a way to look at every thing, instead of someone coming up to you saying you need to go to 3 or 5, we need to look at the whole parish and do what is right. He then stated if the people say no, they do not want to entertain this, that is fine, but at least we have done our part to be fair to every citizen that comes in this Parish. Mr. Paige also stated that he had talked to people all over and they thought this was going to be the only way that the Jury would be able to look at this. In conclusion, Mr. Paige stated that there are things we can be doing in this Parish to better it by looking at it all and being fair. The Jury needs to send a letter to tell them we want to look at everything. Relative to this, the following action was taken:

On motion by Mr. Paige, duly seconded by Mrs. Stoker, that the Natchitoches Parish Police Jury, in regular and legal session convened, does hereby add to the agenda authorizing the Parish Administrator to send a letter to the City of Natchitoches to explore the possibility of a City/Parish form of Government.

Motion Carried

On motion by Mr. Paige, duly seconded by Mrs. Stoker, that the Natchitoches Parish Police Jury, in regular and legal session convened, does hereby authorize the Parish Administrator to send a letter to the City of Natchitoches to explore the possibility of a City/Parish form of Government.

Motion Carried

On motion by Mr. Paige, duly seconded by Mrs. Stoker, 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, April 19, 2010.

Motion Carried

On motion by Mr. Hoffpauir, duly seconded by Mr. Paige, that the Natchitoches Parish Police Jury, in regular and legal session convened, does hereby Mr. Joe Hays and Mr. Johnny Sims to the Fire Protection District #7 Board.

Motion Carried

On motion by Mr. Paige, duly seconded by Mr. Dollar, that the Natchitoches Parish Police Jury, in regular and legal session convened, does hereby appoint Mr. John Pluckett to the Natchitoches Parish Tourist Commission to fill the unexpired term of Mr. Terrel Delphin, who resigned.

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 reappoint Dr. Albert Wurster to the Natchitoches Parish Fire Protection District #6 Board.

Motion Carried

Vice President Longlois then read the next item on the agenda concerning the Parish Animal Ordinance. He then recognized Mr. Dollar who stated that the Jury has had some parish animals that had been picked up and taken to the City Animal Shelter in the previous years and never had any money to pay for it. As we have adopted the animal ordinance a couple of months ago, I really do not know where this is headed, but the committee has done a real good job with the District Attorney. Mr. Dollar then stated that they had talked with the Sheriff and this may end up as a cooperative agreement with the City so that we will have some place for the parish animals to go and we pay a part for our share. He also stated that this may end up as a cooperative agreement with Desoto Parish and that is coming up because they are building a big building with there new found of wealth.

Mr. Dollar then stated that the District Attorney received an attorney general opinion and the Jury can use the health unit money for rabies and animal control. He then stated that he would like to get a line item established in the Health Unit budget, approved by this body, so when the Jury get ready to move forward and have a plan, we can pay our way.

Mr. Hoffpauir then stated that he did not want them to have a blank check in the Health Unit Fund to do that.

Mr. Dollar then replied that he had looked at the over all cost of the animal shelter and some of the things they have to do along with some conversations with the Sheriff and if half the animals were from the City, he would like to propose a dollar amount no more than \$75,000 dollars. The total expenditure exceeds \$150,000.00 to \$75,000.00 a year. Mr. Dollar then stated that when we look at the transportation, the spading and neutering, the shelter staying for the City, the budget is over \$150,000.00. He then stated that at least half the animals were brought in from the parish and if he cut it down from \$175,000.00 to \$75,000.00, he figured the Jury could do it.

On motion by Mr. Dollar, duly seconded by Mr. Collier, that the Natchitoches Parish Police Jury, in regular and legal session convened, does hereby table amending the Health Unit Budget to pay for rabies and animal control.

Motion Carried

Vice President Longlois then stated that the next item on the agenda was the cutoff day for adding things to the agenda. He then recognized Mr. Hoffpauir who told the Jury that he noticed that our current system with adding things on the agenda was off. He stated that he would get a package about what is on the agenda, which told him that he could start studying because this issue was going to come up at the meeting. Mr. Hoffpauir then stated when things are added after it has been mailed it rushes things up sometimes. He then stated that there are some issues that cannot get through that we need to give a lot of thought to.

Mrs. Stoker then stated that her objection to it is if we do it and have the cut off day Wednesday and something needs to be added like we have added several things tonight, it has to be voted on and it has to pass and everyone has to vote the same way. She then stated that the Jury could have one person that could hold up a decision for the Jury for a whole month. Mrs. Stoker also stated that the Jury needs the people in this parish to see everything moving along. I think you should be able to put something on the agenda by Friday at noon. After a brief discussion, the following action was taken:

On motion by Mr. Hoffpauir, duly seconded by Mr. Collier, that the Natchitoches Parish Police Jury, in regular and legal session convened, does hereby approve Wednesday at noon as the cutoff day to add items to the agenda.

Motion Carried
With
Mrs. Stoker
"opposing"

On motion by Mr. Dollar, duly seconded by Mr. Hymes, that the Natchitoches Parish Police Jury, in regular and legal session convened, does hereby start the process to appoint/re-appoint persons to the El Camino East/West Corridor Board, due to the members' terms expiring.

Motion Carried

Vice-President Longlois told the Jury that the next item on the agenda was to consider terminating the lease with the Northwest Louisiana Athletic League. He then recognized Parish Administrator Catherine Hamilton who told the Jury that the Sheriff was looking for more space and since it seems as though we were not getting anything done with the shooting range, he was trying to work out something else with the Jury. We had the old hwy department building. Mr. Paige then stated that the first agreement the Sheriff gave the City of Natchitoches was a good one about their prisoners. He stated that he thought it was the Jury's responsibility to house them. Mr. Paige went on to say that he have been over looking at the Live Oak Building and they have tarps inside and it is that bad. He stated as for him he would not like to talk of a sale of Parish property because one day the Jury will look up and see that they never have anything. He then stated that this would happen because the Jury are too busy worrying about not having money and need to sale this and sale that. Mr. Paige told the Jury he had a serious problem with selling the Old Highway department and just because the Sheriff has the money does not mean we should just give in and sell it to him. He then stated that he do believe the Jury need to work with him to house his people but should come to some kind of agreement and leasing out the building could help offset with some of our prisoners.

Mrs. Hamilton then told the Jury that she thought Mr. Jacobs was trying to do this because it is coming to the point that we will soon owe the Sheriff another \$200,000.00 in deficit. She stated that since we have not done the shooting range, they were trying this. Mrs. Hamilton also stated that the Sheriff has been very good about allowing the Jury a couple of extra months before we have to pay it. She then stated that Mr. Jacobs was trying to find ways to help with the deficit.

Mr. Paige then stated that what he was saying Mrs. Hamilton, here we are now, it is going to keep going on this way. We have as many prisoners out there and the cost is never going to go away. He then stated that the Jury said 80 in the agreement and he was not sure if the Jury could legally say a number. Mr. Paige then stated that someone has to have some sense around here and say we cannot pay this. The bill is not going down, it is getting higher and higher.

Mr. Hoffpauir stated that if you see we have a problem coming then you start trying to build a dam around it, you start trying to show up. If we said these bed was what we were going to be able to pay, what ever we have in the budget, each month we need to send one twelfth of that to what we owe, instead of waiting and spending it all in the first seven or eight months and don't have anything to send now? A guy might like to get something instead of nothing. If he gets something along the way and when he gets 4 months in a roll he gets nothing, then it become a bigger problem. He then stated that he thought the Jury should take the budget and divide it based on how much money we have and pay out 1/12 a month, on anything as far as that goes. That way we would not get to November and December and not have any money.

Mr. Dollar then stated that for the full budget standpoint, he agrees with Mr. Hoffpauir, you are one hundred percent. He stated that the problem is that we do not have the authority of stopping the Judges from locking people up. The Jury said this is what we can afford but we have to work on the Judges and the District Attorney offices to stay at that number. We still owe the Sheriff money from 2008 and are running out of choices and out of money. After a lengthy discussion, the following action was taken:

On motion by Mrs. Stoker, duly seconded by Mr. Dollar, that the Natchitoches Parish Police Jury, in regular and legal session convened, does hereby terminate the lease with the Northwest Louisiana Athletic League relative to leasing the Old Highway Building.

Motion Carried

On motion by Mr. Dollar, duly seconded by Mrs. Hoffpauir, that the Natchitoches Parish Police Jury, in regular and legal session convened, does hereby authorize negotiating leasing the Old Highway building located on Trudeau Street to the Natchitoches Parish Sheriff Office.

Motion Carried

Vice-President Longlois then stated that the next item on the agenda was to conduct a public hearing to amend the original hospital ordinance. Relative to this, the following action was taken:

On motion by Mr. Dollar, duly seconded by Mrs. Stoker, that the Natchitoches Parish Police Jury, in regular and legal session convened, does hereby conduct a public hearing to hear any and all comments relative to amending the original ordinance creating the Natchitoches Parish Hospital Board of Directors that deals with the selection of Board members and entering into a cooperative endeavor agreement with said board.

Motion Carried

Vice President Longlois then recognized Mr. Dollar who told the Jury they had a meeting Friday, mainly about the district board, and the same question came up between the hospital board as it did between us. He stated that they were able to talk about this to the point they are willing to make some changes or at least discuss it with the hospital board. But the board does not meet until after the Jury's meeting. Mr. Dollar also stated that he thought they have heard some of the concerns, particularly from Baton Rouge, on some of the things we can not give up whether we want to or not. He stated that Mr. Wheeler told them that and Mr. Kyzar told us that and they are willing to meet us in the middle and did not want to do something that got us in trouble with the ethics board. There is a simpler way to get this done and they wanted to take it to the board rather than acting on what was put in front of us at the last meeting, Mr. Dollar stated that he would like the Jury to table it. Since there were no other comment or objection, the following action was taken:

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

Motion Carried

After closing the Public Hearing, the following action was taken:

On motion by Mr. Dollar, duly seconded by Mrs. Stoker, that the Natchitoches Parish Police Jury, in regular and legal session convened, does hereby table approving or not approving amending the original ordinance creating the Natchitoches Parish Hospital Board of Directors that deals with the selection of Board members and entering into a cooperative endeavor agreement with said board.

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 the proposal from Ed's Sheet Metal to repair the Live Oak Annex roof in the amount of \$14,923.00.

Motion Carried

Vice President Longlois then stated that in searching for a grant for Coroner, a lady from EnCana was here when he was doing all those meetings with the roads and he had a chance to speak with this lady. He stated that we are going to try to apply for some money to purchase a vehicle for the coroner and hopefully it will cut down cost on transportation. Relative to this, the following action was taken:

On motion by Mr. Dollar, duly seconded by Mrs. Stoker, that the Natchitoches Parish Police Jury, in regular and legal session convened, does hereby authorize the submittal of a grant application to EnCana Oil & Gas, Inc., for the purchase of a van for the Coroner's office to transport cargo.

Motion Carried

On motion by Mr. Paige, duly seconded by Mr. Dollar, that the Natchitoches Parish Police Jury, in regular and legal session convened, does hereby authorize the submittal of a grant application to Chesapeake Oil Company for the Extension and Veteran's Offices.

Motion Carried

Vice President then asked Ms. Harris to step forward to give her report. She then asked the Jury if they had any questions since they have had the opportunity to go over her report. She stated that her office was in the process of doing the summer youth program and her plans is to hire at least 50 summer youth throughout Natchitoches, Parish. She stated that they were actually taking application now and have been giving out application since last Monday. Ms. Harris stated that she had given out over 100 applications and had received 36 applications and they are divided into two categories; the summer youth which are the ages 16 to 18 and the other ages from 19 to 24. She also stated that the program would be called a work experience program. She then told the Jury she had received 28 request of work sites to have students placed and was trying to do the agreement so she could get all those things out. One thing about the program is that it is geared through the community service block grant, which they have to advertise throughout the parish. It is an income driven program, a community service block grant that is geared to low income household or families. Ms. Harris also told the Jury they have to really make sure that these applicants, or there household fit into an income level that is approved. She stated that in their package, there is an income level that has been set by the Department of Labor, which is 200% of the poverty guidelines for 2009. So we are asking as many folks, the one hundred applications they have given out to make sure they have the need. When they bring in the applications they review the application before they leave and make sure that the entire items that they have ask for is in order. However they do not tell them if they are eligible, we do not tell them we are going to get it all together and go at that point. After a brief discussion, the following action was taken:

On motion by Mr. Dollar, duly seconded by Mr. Hymes, that the Natchitoches Parish Police Jury, in regular and legal session convened, does hereby accept the report of the Office of Community Services/Head Start Program.

Motion Carried

Vice President then recognized Mrs. Hamilton who told the Jury that Ms. Miley was at a conference dealing with payroll but Beverly Washington from Head Start was here to do her part.

Ms. Washington told the Jury that Mr. Mark Thomas, Auditor was supposed to come out last Tuesday to review over the close out for head start but was unable to come, so they will be in the office tomorrow. She stated that they were starting the audit and started with Head start. Ms. Washington stated that with the old program, she was still waiting for Debbie to get back, because the transfers were not uploaded. She stated that they were still having activity on the transfer post in last year. Ms. Washington also told the Jury that Health insurance should come out of the old year and to the current year. She then told the Jury that the budget was still looking good and they would have a couple of hundred dollars left.

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

Motion Carried

Vice-President Longlois then recognized Mr. Tom Collier, Chairman of the Highway Steering-Solid Waste Committee, who presented the following, report:

Relative to the above report, the following action was taken:

On motion by Mr. Dollar, duly seconded by Mr. Longlois, that the Natchitoches Parish Police Jury, in regular and legal session convened, does hereby accept the donation of approximately \$29,610.00 from Mr. Ron Prewitt to overlay 2,000 feet of a section of P. R. #141, the Fish Hatchery Road.

Motion Carried

On motion by Mr. Garrett, duly seconded by Mr. Dollar, that the Natchitoches Parish Police Jury, in regular and legal session convened, does hereby approve installing a culvert on Rock Hill Road from funds that will be received from a private citizen.

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 add to the agenda authorizing the purchase of a repeater for the Parish Highway radio system in the amount of 5,083.00.

Motion Carried

On motion by Mrs. Stoker, duly seconded by Mr. Collier, that the Natchitoches Parish Police Jury, in regular and legal session convened, does hereby authorize the purchase of a repeater for the Parish Highway radio system in the amount of 5,083.00.

Motion Carried

This concluded action on the report of the Highway Steering-Solid Waste Committee.

President Jacobs then recognized Mr. Earl Townsend, Director of Public Works, who reported emergency expenditures for the period of April 20, 2010 through May 17, 2010 in the amount of \$685.24.

On motion by Mr. Paige, duly seconded by Mr. Dollar, that the Natchitoches Parish Police Jury, in regular and legal session convened, does hereby approve expenditures for the period of April 20, 2010 through May 17, 2010 in the amount of \$ 918,046.95.

Motion Carried

On motion by Mr. Dollar, 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:

Gerald Longlois, Vice President

Catherine Hamilton,
Parish Administrator