

PROCEEDINGS OF A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE
NATCHITOCHEES PARISH POLICE JURY
HELD WEDNESDAY, JUNE 30, 2010

3:00 P.M.

The Police Jury of the Parish of Natchitoches, State of Louisiana, met in special session in the Police Jury Board Room of the Natchitoches Parish Courthouse, on Wednesday, June 30, 2010 at three (3:00) o'clock p.m.

The invocation was given by Juror Mimi Stoker and the Pledge of Allegiance led by Juror Chris Paige.

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

There were absent: J. D. Garrett and Jessie Hoffpauir.

President Jacobs stated that the purpose of this meeting was to revise the Police Jury 2010 Budget. He then recognized Ms. Debbie Miley, Parish Treasurer, who told the Jury that they have the budget revisions before them. She stated that after the last meeting she had done more research, made more phone calls and found out that some of what we had requested could not be done. At this point, she stated that to the best of her knowledge the Jury salaries could not be split and had to stay in administration. Ms. Miley also told the Jury that nothing could be taken out of the highway department based on the way the proposition was written. She stated that the proposition was written to maintain the highway department. After speaking with someone from the Legislative Auditor, she felt that since the health unit, Government Building, and library have the word "operation" in the proposition, it would be okay for the administration staff only. Ms. Miley also stated that this does not mean there would be no audit finding, however, at this point, the Jury does have any options. She then stressed that we have to quit spending money that was not ours, this was the only plan that she could come up with. Ms. Miley then stated that the lady from the Legislative Auditor's office told her she had to balance the Criminal Court Fund no matter what and the only way she could balance it was with the changes that she have put in the budget revisions. She also stated that she would have to make the transfers for the deficits in weatherization, transit, head start old grant, and CSBG this year. In order for this to be possible, the Jury would have to pay 20% of their wages back and pay their insurance at full cost. Ms. Miley told the Jury she had to pay them and whether or not they donate back to the Jury was up to them. This was one of the things that would go into the budget to make it work. She then stated that the administrative employees, the administrator; the treasurer, the assistant treasurer, computer Technician and the receptionist will only be allowed to work a 32-hour workweek and were asking for Fridays to be closed. Legally from what she have been told from the Police Jury Association and the legislative Auditors is that the Judges and the District Attorney offices cannot be close a whole day but could close half days and that is up to them, Ms. Miley stated.

It would also take the District Attorney and the Assistant District Attorneys to take wages reduction and their staff reduced to 32 hours. She also stated that the District Attorney and the Assistant District Attorney to pay all of their insurance at 100%. The other employees would remain just like the Jury employees as long as they work 32-hours a week to keep their insurance and retirement. Anything under the 32 hours would be a different story.

Mrs. Stoker then asked if the staff at the District Attorney's office would be reduced to 32-hours also?

Mrs. Miley then stated that this was all the Jury could pay and this is what she was asking the Jury to do is adopt this budget. What they decide to pay is up to them but all the money the Jury has is to pay them 32 hours for a workweek. Ms. Miley also stated that this would reduce the court reporters and other staff to work 32 hours a week. Ms. Miley then told the Jury that she would split the Administrator 10% with government buildings, and 15% with the health Unit, because they don't have a supervisor and she does more with them so the Jury could do that. The remaining of her salary will remain in general fund. She then stated that the reason for her decision was meeting with all supervising, inventories, phone calls, purchasing issues, issuing PO's and on a daily base reviewing budget and payroll. The legislative auditor told her to tell the Jury her reason. She stated that this revision would allow for the treasurer to be split into the government buildings, library and health unit at 10% per fund and the remainder to be out of the general fund and her reason for this is meetings, phone calls, deposits, PO's, system inputs, budgets revisions, monthly insurance reports, annual insurance reports, coding, reviewing monthly payroll, transfer, those are her reason. The assistant treasurer and the receptionist will be put 100% in summer youth, for a couple of months. Since they have been working on the summer youth since February/March and instead of having to go back and do transfer this would allow for the fund to pay their salaries for a couple of months. After that they will have to be split out because the summer youth program would be over in August. This will give a couple of month of relief for general fund. Ms. Miley then told the Jury she had tried to present a realistic plan based on payroll and the amount of deposits for these funds. She then stated that the Jury will be getting \$50,000.00 dollars that will go into the general fund and if she had tried to balance this whole thing without the funds, it would have been much worse. Mrs. Stoker then stated that the \$50,000.00 was coming from Senator Gerald long and is non-restricted funds for the Jury. She also stated that she was checking the revenue everyday to see what funds have been given out. Ms. Miley also told the Jury that General Fund was going to give the Criminal Court Fund a total of \$736,529.00 and to the best of her calculations only \$628,894.00 was the Jury's responsibility but would be giving a little more.

President Jacobs then recognized Judge Harrington who told the Jury that shortening the workweek would limit public access to the court system. Judge Harrington also stated that this action would reduce the number of cases heard and also increase the number of pretrial cases. Judge Harrington went on to tell the Jury that this plan would only make the financial situation worse not better. He stated that supporting the Court System was different than addressing potholes. After several other comments, Judge Harrington told the Jury to make their cuts somewhere else. Judge Hawthorne told the Jury that they were essentially shutting them down.

Ms. Miley then stated that the Jury is just voting for our employees to go to a 32-hour workweek. My proposal was based on 32-hours not 28. Working 28 hours would cause employees to lose their insurance and retirement. We want to keep everyone where they could keep the insurance and retirement.

Mrs. Stoker then stated that what we found out is legally Jurors have to be paid. Mrs. Miley stated that whatever the jurors give back will go into that line item. Mrs. Stoker stated if the Jury get a truckload of money we could revise the budget again but now the Jury is at a point where they have to revise the budget.

After this discussion, the following action was taken:

On motion by Mr. Paige, duly seconded by Mr. Collier, that the Natchitoches Parish Police Jury, in special and legal session convened, does hereby approve revising the Police Jury 2010 Budget.

On a roll call vote, the vote thereon was as follows:

YES: Longlois, Paige, Dollar, Hymes, Collier, Stoker and Jacobs.

NO: Huggins and Martin.

ABSTAIN: None.

ABSENT: Garrett and Hoffpauir.

With the vote being seven (7) yes and two (2) no, the motion to revise the Police Jury 2010 Budget passed.

Motion Carried

On motion by Mr. Longlois, duly seconded by Mr. Dollar, that the Natchitoches Parish Police Jury, in special and legal session convened, does hereby approve a 32-hour workweek as presented.

On a roll call vote, the vote thereon was as follows:

YES: Longlois, Paige, Dollar, Hymes, Collier, Stoker and Jacobs.

NO: Huggins and Martin.

ABSTAIN: None.

ABSENT: Garrett and Hoffpauir.

With the vote being seven (7) yes and two (2) no, the motion to revise the Police Jury 2010 Budget passed.

Motion Carried

On motion by Mr. Dollar, duly seconded by Mr. Longlois, that the Natchitoches Parish Police Jury, in special and legal session convened, does hereby approve discontinue paying the cost of insurance for Assistance District Attorneys and Police Jurors but allow them to remain if they pay full cost for the insurance coverage.

On a roll call vote, the vote thereon was as follows:

YES: Longlois, Paige, Dollar, Hymes, Huggins, Martin, Collier, Stoker and Jacobs.

NO: None.

ABSTAIN: None.

ABSENT: Garrett and Hoffpauir.

With the vote being seven (7) yes and two (2) no, the motion to revise the Police Jury 2010 Budget passed.

Motion Carried

Mr. Hymes then told the Jury that starting July 1, 2010 he would be donating 50% of his salary back to the Jury. Mr. Dollar stated that he would donate his check back after taxes are taken out. Mrs. Miley stated what will happen is she would give the Jurors their checks and they will have to write a check back to the Jury and she would put the money into that line item. Mr. Longlois stated that he would donate his check back too and pay his own insurance. He will donate his whole check. Mr. Collier was donating the balance of his check. Mrs. Stoker stated that she would donate something. She would be like David and donate something but not all. Mrs. Stoker stated that the Jurors are already giving because they used to get mileage when they traveled the parish, but now they do not and some Jurors may need the mileage pay. Mr. Jacobs then stated that he would be donating 50% of his check back to the jury.

Mrs. Stoker also stated that this is not something we enjoy or like to do, but after talking to Debbie, we have looked at it, we have received emails concerning this, we have looked at numbers and this is not what we want to do but we are at a point this is what we have to do.

President Jacobs then stated that it had been requested the Natchitoches Parish Police Jury go into Executive Session to discuss personnel. 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 special and legal session convened, does hereby go into Executive Session to discuss personnel.

Motion Carried

After resuming special session and since there were no other business to come before the Jury, a motion was made by Mr. Longlois, duly seconded by Mr. Martin, that the Natchitoches Parish Police Jury, in special and legal session convened, does hereby adjourn until its next regular or called meeting.

Motion Carried

ATTEST:

Fred Jacobs, President

Catherine Hamilton,
Parish Administrator