

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

July 19, 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, July 19, 2010 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 William Hymes.

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

There were absent: None.

Staff Present: Parish Administrator Catherine Hamilton, Corrine Greg Lemoine, Sharon Harris, Earl Townsend, Penny Niette and Assistant District Attorney Billy Joe Harrington.

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.

President Jacobs then recognized Mr. Ralph Ingram who told the Jury that several years ago the Jury appointed him to the Natchitoches Parish Port Commission. Mr. Ingram stated that, currently, he serves as the Chairman for and also for the past three years. He told the Jury he was to say that in the last year the Port has purchased an additional 300 acres. Mr. Ingram also stated that a lot of tonnage was going through the Port and so far this year they have handled 3 million tons by rail, barge and by truck. He then stated that with the Port rail facilities, they had to hire a full time locomotive engineer. Mr. Ingram went on to say that they have people coming to look at the Port all the time and they are trying to work with those folks to find a place for new employees in this parish. He concluded by saying that he was enjoying what he was doing with the Port and the Jury to reappoint him to represent the Parish at that position.

President Jacobs then recognized Mr. Sam Dupree, Board member of the Chee Chee Bay Water System. Mr. Dupree told the Jury that recently he sent the Jury, Mr. Jacobs, Mr. Martin, and Mrs. Hamilton a letter explaining the situation of the Chee Chee Bay Water System. He then stated that this system was a very small water system that is located between the municipalities of Goldonna and Clarence. Mr. Dupree stated that the water system serves approximately 500 people and approximately 180 meters east side of Blake Lake and West Side of Saline Lake. Mr. Dupree also stated that they have operated since the early, basically off their own resources and had no problems to speak of but it was coming to the ladder years of their primary equipment. He stated that the Primary equipment consist of neutral pumps, well pumps, and chlorinates. Mr. Dupree stated that they have probably pumped an excess of 400 billion gallon of drinking water during that time with their current equipment. Mr. Dupree then told the Jury

that the Chee Chee Bay Water System hired Mr. Eugene Gardner to work with their water system. Mr. Dupree then stated that Mr. Gardner works with the Town of Goldonna who apply every year and receive funding through the Louisiana Local Government Assistance Program (LGAP). Mr. Dupree also stated that Mr. Gardner is familiar with the administrators of the program in Baton Rouge and has contacted them on their behalf. He then stated that since Chee Chee Bay Water System is a small non profit organization they were unable to apply directly. The Administrators said that in many parishes in the state, such as ours, the request comes from the police jury on their behalf. Mr. Dupree went on to say that he do not know how the process works but was present to request the assistance of the Police Jury.

President Jacobs then recognized Mr. Eugene Gardner who told the Jury the only thing he would add is that the water demand just like everything else is going up. He stated that they were pumping more water and their pumps are doing everything they can to try and stay up. Mr. Gardner stated that they have come a long way trying to fix and changing out meters, changing out vales and stuff and now it is the pumping equipment that they need help. After being told the price could be from \$100,000 or \$75,000, they was present to ask for whatever they could get. He then stated that the letter requested \$25,000 but in the last five years on the grant program that they worked on in Goldonna they were funded for five years straight. Mr. Gardner went on to say that sometimes they asked for \$20,000 or \$25,000 but only got \$10,000 maybe \$15,000 so whatever they could get would help. He then stated that they have raised their rates up five more dollars on there flat rate and the people just can not afford it anymore so they are looking for other sources. In talking with the people in Baton Rouge, Mr. Gardner stated that they were advised to go through the Police Jury and request support from the local representative and senator. In conclusion, Mr. Gardner stated that they would fill out the grant paperwork to make this happen.

President Jacobs then recognized Mrs. Hamilton, Parish Administrator, who stated if they were interested in applying for a grant all they had to do was come in and let the Jury know, give us the information needed for the grant application such as the amount and what the System is trying to do. Mrs. Hamilton stated that she was not sure if the new grant applications was available but should be within the next two or three weeks. She also stated that she had spoken with Mitch last week and was told the new applications have not been printed but they were in the process of getting the new applications together. Mrs. Hamilton then stated that once the applications become available they would start the process to submit. The Jury would have to adopt a resolution to approve submitting the application and would get with them.

President Jacobs then recognized Mr. Paige who stated that he was not an expert at this but had talked to some people who were talking to the USDA about possibly placing a water treatment plan in the north part of the parish. Mr. Paige stated that the Chee Chee Bay Water System and other water districts should come together to look at a long-range plan to locate a water treatment plan in the northern part of Natchitoches Parish and request funding by meeting with the senator.

Mr. Eugene Garder then stated that one thing he would like to see the Natchitoches Parish Police Jury do is hire a grant writer. He stated that Winn Parish have a grant writer who write grants for all things such as Sewage, water, and other things. For instance, Mr. Gardner stated that the City of Winnfield got almost 2 million dollars this year upgrading their water system. That may be something the Jury would like to look into and find out how to go about doing the same thing.

Mr. Paige then stated that he was trying to say if the little water districts out there such as the Chee Chee Bay Water System and surrounding water districts should work together to create this water treatment for the northern part of the Parish.

Mr. Hymes then stated that he was not not sure if they were familiar with the Jury's financial situation. He then told them they would have an opportunity to support the Jury when they ask the community to support the general fund of the Jury in order to possibly help the people to do that. Mr. Hymes went on to say that they are aware that the grant writers are out there but the community has to do its part of stepping up saying that we are willing to fund these type of things in the parish because we can not afford to pull them out of thin air.

President Jacobs then recognized Ms. Evelyn Stratton who told the Jury that she had move to Natchitoches a little over three years ago. She stated that she got tired of living in a cold climate and decided to find some place warmer and after reading a lot of materials, the arrows kept pointing this direction so she relocated in Natchitoches. Ms. Stratton also told the Jury that she was retired and had a lot of time to have fun. She stated that she was concerned about becoming a member of the Tourist Commission due to her traveling a lot, she love to travel and love being active. Ms. Stratton then asked the Jury to consider her for appointment to the Tourist Commission.

President Jacobs then recognized Mr. Joe Thibodaux who told the Jury that most of them knew him because he had been in Natchitoches since 1985 and had invested in real estate under the hotel and bed and breakfast business. He stated that he was involved with tourism and would like the Jury to consider him for appointment.

President Jacobs then recognized Mr. Thorn Lacaze who told the Jury that he currently serve as Development Manager of the Louisiana School Foundation that has over four thousand graduates with 320 incoming students for the fall. Mr. Lacaze also stated that as a school and a foundation he has an invested interest in tourism. He then stated that they bring in alumni over 4000 around reunion time in May. Mr. Lacaze went on to say that he lived in the Historic District in Natchitoches and would like to add a young thriving adult. He stated that he could bring a young prospective to the Tourist Commission and possibly bring in some of young adults that are in his age that would interested to live and work in Natchitoches. Mr. Lacaze then told the Jury he hope they would have time to over look my information in their boxes and consider him for appointment to the Tourist Commission.

President Jacobs then recognized Mrs. Marian Shaw, wife of Senator Buddy Shaw. Mrs. Shaw stated that her husband was proud to serve Natchitoches and Northwestern State University. She

stated that she have a great passion for individuals with developmental disabilities and especially the mentally ill. In fact for years, she have advocated for the mentally ill and most recently she approached a lawyer for the Louisiana Health and Welfare Department to set up meetings with people he felt would be a better fit to answer her questions. In fact, it turned out to be a group of four people from the state Department of Health and Hospital that gave her an overview of their intentions and concerns. She stated that she was then told that she could help them instigate a new organization or structure for the Department of Health and Hospitals. In this regards the State Health and Hospital is offering to Natchitoches Parish an opportunity to directly address the needs with developmental disabilities as well as the one with substance abuse and other problems concerning public health. Mrs. Shaw stated that the average person would have trouble identifying these people and one of their greatest needs is to have a place where these people can get their medicine and housing them to get the right care. The State Department of Health and Hospital are going to provide us with the opportunity to directly address the needs that we can identify in our community by securing the Police Jury's support by recommending individuals to serve on the Human Service District Board.

President Jacobs then recognized Mr. Russell Semon, Bureau Chief, Workforce Development, Louisiana Office of Mental Health, who stated that it was the opportunity for the Human Service District, or the local government services to rework the administration structure of the service district provided in Natchitoches to consolidate under a single function. He stated that the Human Service District will have a board with someone from each parish and three people appointed by the governor. Mr. Semon stated they would like the Police Jury to make a recommendation for appointment to the Board.

The state department of health and hospital are going to provide us with the opportunity to directly address the needs that we can identify in our community.

Rusty

The opportunity is the human service district, or the locals govern services. It is the reworking of the administration structure of the service district provided in Natchitoches, With the opportunity to Consolidate under a single function. The human service district will have a board, with will have someone from each parish, and three people appointed by the governor. What we will have the Police Jury to do is make a recommendation for someone to represent your Parish, and make recommendation for the three people the governor is going to choose to serve on the board. The board is going to consist of nine parishes that is one person from each parish and then three from the governor. The benefits from this concept are in these administrated regions if we save money in a given year, that money goes back to the state. The human service concept is that they can save the money and keep it for additional

services. Whether its staffing, resources, or services. Under the concept they can also hire staff depending on how much money they have. In these administrators regions if they would save some money in a year it goes back to the state. They can use that money to reinvest that in other services. The legislature approves that, if they tell you that you can only hire a hundred then that all you can hire. I'm not asking for any money, it's not going to cost you anything. There is no legal liability for that. There is also not any legal liability for you making recommendations for that board. That board will function as a separate service, it will be separate from the police jury you will have no ties with it. When the board member that you have appointed term ends then you will have to appoint someone else. Once the board is established there will be rules and bylaw set.

Mr. Hymes

I think that this is something that is very important to the parish of Natchitoches Parish. Think we should be active every step of the way.

New Business

Mr. Dollar

I see that Mr. Longlois has the down sizing on the agenda again. Some of us was able to go to very informal meeting last week with a couple of fellows from Tangipahoa Parish and some of the folks from the city and some jurors. What I would like to do rather than just consider down sizing. I would like at next months meeting for this jury to consider appointing a committee to search and explore governs alternatives for the parish and establish a time frame that the committee will have to report there finding back to this body for action. I think it is a great time for us to look at all kinds of different ways and see what is out there. You hear a lot of folk that want a change and I think if it is our time than we should look at what all is out there to offer. It would consist of some of us and maybe the city and also maybe some from Northwestern. Get 6 or 9 people to really look at what is out there and to also dig.

Mr. Paige

I want to know if it is too late for us to recall that tax? And put a term limit on it the tax to four or five years. I think we really need to think long and hard.

Mr. Collier

We are going to have to stop and look these things and we are going to make it through this year. The problem we have is the mandated fund that we have to pay. I hope we can get a tax passed, we are just going to have to go on living off a budget.

Mr. Hymes

We do need a tax. This is a hard thing for the police Jury to realize that the people are learning how the police jury works. I pay for my garbage, I pay for the streets and they are fixed. When you have 5 ½ Percent in the parish and 9.5% in the city. There is no way that you can make a living paying 5.5% for 6% taxes. People are looking for service in Natchitoches Parish that they are not willing to pay for. And no matter what system of government you put in place you don't get something for nothing.

Mr. Hoffpauir

We keep going on like this and over a period of time the money you are trying to collect from the tax will be all gone. If this tax take in a million dollars, The criminal justice system will just get bigger and bigger. In five years you will be right back where you are now, with no solution. If you ask people in my district and your district the first thing they say is we want them roads fixed. We are trying to pass a tax that is going to be eaten up.

Mrs. Stoker

The Supreme Court is not a paying court but they do have funds that are put up to help out little district courts. We herd them say that 50% of the cases that come before the judges is city.

Wetland Mitigation Contract

Mrs. Penny

This came about four months ago. He told us for sure that we could have the 12,000. We didn't know what it was going to cost this is the Russell Cemetery Bridge.

The Bridge in a estimated price is going to cost 500,000, the state will give us that. What we are going to have to pay is thirty-one thousand.

Mrs. Cat

What happens anytime you are taking, some wetland property, you have to replace it. This is the lowest we can find.

OCS report

I must say that the summer youth program has been an experience. It will be expiring on July 30th but I will be extending it to the 13th of August because we still have some money. We have 62 people hired I think we have 6 people on part time, We have 25 sites. I have been going to work sites and taking pictures.

Mr. Hoffpauir

I thought the head start was going to get the 200,000 dollars back to the police jury. I thought that yall were going to have fun raisers.

Mr. Hymes

If they sell the head start how will that work?

Mrs. Catherine

The review people in Dallas will find some one that will take the Headstart and the teacher will have to be certified.

Mr. Paige

I had some paperwork on the last study that was done with that. That was ten years ago, but it still going to have to be looked at. I think the right thing to do, until we know which direction to go in, I say we need to table this.

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 minutes of the Work Session/ Regular meeting held Monday, June 21, 2010 and the Special meeting held Wednesday, June 30, 2010.

Motion Carried

On motion by Mr. Hoffpauir, duly seconded by Mr. Dollar, that the Natchitoches Parish Police Jury, in regular and legal session convened, does hereby appoint Mr. Ralph Ingram to the Natchitoches Parish Port Commission.

Motion Carried

President Jacobs then stated that the next item on the agenda was the appointing of persons to the Natchitoches Parish Tourist Commission. He stated that since there were three applicants, a roll call vote would be taken: Relative to this, the following action was taken:

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

EVELYN STRATTON: Dollar, Huggins, Martin, Collier, Stoker and Jacobs.

JOE THIBODEAUX: Longlois, Paige, Garrett, Dollar, Hymes, Huggins, Martin, Collier, Hoffpauir and Jacobs.

THORN LACAZE: Longlois, Paige, Garrett, Hymes, Hoffpauir and Stoker.

With the vote being six (6) for Stratton, ten (10) for Joe Thibodeaux and (6) six for Lacaze, the following action was taken due to the fact that the vote was believe to be five (5) for LaCaze and six (6) for Stratton:

On motion by Mr. Longlois, duly seconded by Mr. Garrett, that the Natchitoches Parish Police Jury, in regular and legal session convened, does hereby appoint Ms. Evelyn Stratton and Mr. Joe Thibodeaux to the Natchitoches Parish Tourist Commission, due to Mrs. Theresa Gibson resigning and Mr. Jay Sharplin's term expiring.

Motion Carried

On motion by Mr. Garrett, duly seconded by Mr. Longlois, that the Natchitoches Parish Police Jury, in regular and legal session convened, does hereby change the name of a polling place from the Natchitoches Central Annex to the Frankie Ray Jackson, Sr. Center.

Motion Carried

On motion by Mr. Longlois, duly seconded by Mr. Paige, that the Natchitoches Parish Police Jury, in regular and legal session convened, does hereby enter into a Wetland Mitigation Contract with Cross and Company, Area Sponsor, to obtain a mitigation site in the amount of \$31,200.00 to satisfy the Jury's obligation to the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, U. S. Department of Interior, Fish and Wildlife Services and others for wetland damages it will incurred elsewhere.

Motion Carried

Work Session/Regular Meeting
Monday, July 19, 2010

page 2.

On motion by Mr. Dollar, duly seconded by Mr. Stoker, 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

On motion by Mr. Longlois, duly seconded by Mr. Paige, that the Natchitoches Parish Police Jury, in regular and legal session convened, does hereby table the downsizing of the Police Jury from eleven (11) members to seven (7) members.

Motion Carried

President Jacobs then recognized Mr. Earl Townsend, Director of Public Works, who reported emergency Expenditures for the period of June 22, 2010 through July 19, 2010 in the amount of **\$608.56**.

On motion by Mr. Dollar, duly seconded by Mr. Longlois, that the Natchitoches Parish Police Jury, in regular and legal session convened, does hereby approve the expenditures for the period of June 22, 2010 through July 19, 2010 in the amount of **\$1,671,505.20**.

On motion by Mr. Longlois, duly seconded by Mr. Dollar, 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:

Fred Jacobs, President

Catherine Hamilton,
Parish Administrator

Visitors

Marian Shaw:

Hi I'm Marian Shaw and I'm the wife of Buddy Shaw. He is proud to serve Natchitoches and northwestern. I have a great passion for those with developmental disabilities, especially the mental ill. In fact for years I have advocated for the mentally ill. Most recently I approached a lawyer for the health and welfare of the committee and state legislature to learn is certain needs I felt were absolutely crucial. To my surprise the lawyer set up a meeting with those he felt would be better fit to answer my question. In fact it turned out to be a group of four people from the state department of health and hospital. Who after giving an overview of their intentions and concerns that said that they thought that I could help them instigate a new organization of structure for the department of health

and hospital. In this regards the state health and hospital are offering to Natchitoches Parish an opportunity to directly address the needs with developmental disabilities as well as the one with substance abuse, and other problem concerning public heath. The average person would have trouble identifying these people. One of our great needs is that we provide a place where these people can get the med. they need for this. Also some of these people will need to be housed for the right care. The state department of health and hospital are going to provide us with the opportunity to directly address the needs that we can identify in our community.

Rusty

The opportunity is the human service district, or the locals govern services. It is the reworking of the administration structure of the service district provided in Natchitoches, With the opportunity to Consolidate under a single function. The human service district will have a board, with will have someone from each parish, and three people appointed by the governor. With we will have the police jury to do is make a recomdation