

PROCEEDINGS OF A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE
NATCHITOCHE PARISH POLICE JURY
HELD TUESDAY, AUGUST 31, 2010

5:00 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 Tuesday, August 31, 2010 at five (5:00) o'clock p.m.

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

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 was absent: J. D. Garrett and Jessie Hoffpauir.

President Jacobs stated that the purpose of this meeting was to change the polling place at Ward 3, Precinct 2 from its current location at **Beulah to** the **Ajax Community Center** due to severe damages to the building caused by a hailstorm.

President Jacobs then recognized Mr. Louie Bernard, Clerk of Court who told the Jury that there has always been a partnership between the Jury's office and his. He told the Jury that he was not trying to get in their business but was merely trying to help. He stated that he thought that if the Jury had a polling place change that they would come and say what do you think since you all are the ones that conduct the election. Mr. Bernard stated that he try to do a little homework and save the Jury some time in the end but it was their decision and whatever they decide he would go with it. He then told the Jury that he had called Mr. Hoffpauir when the incident happened the other day. Mr. Bernard stated that when he went out to look at the building, it was not so much the ability to clean up the water and the insulation that has fell down. He stated it was the molding that was inside the building. He stated that he was very concerned for the ladies that have to go and sit in there for 14 hours a day. No one would want their wife to go and sit in a place like that. So he asked Mr. Hoffpauir about the

ability of changing this location to the Ajax community center. Mr. Bernard told the Jury that the new location is located about 4 1/2 mile up around the interstate and the building and location was very nice. He then stated that he had visited with the lady who talked to the board members and they all was willing to use their building as a polling place if the Jury saw fit. Mr. Bernard also stated that he wanted Mr. Hoffpauir to know before the Jury took any action and his voters asked why did he move my precinct. He stated anytime you move a polling place where people are used to going to, there will be objections. Mr. Bernard told the Jury that the new place has a hall and is flat on the ground for handicap standpoint. The building has air condition, a little kitchen with a table and chairs. He stated that the building was very nice and the ladies working at the polls are going to think they have died and gone to heaven.

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Mr. Hymes stated that he would like to see the Jury go ahead and approve the change of polling place so that the voters could have a better place to go and vote at. He then thanked Mr. Bernard for making these visits for the jury because it makes everything work smooth.

Mr. Paige then asked if this was a one-time thing or is this permanently?

Mr. Bernard stated that this would be for the election in October and then after that if the Jury would like it to be permanent.

Mr. Paige then asked if he had to have approval for that?

Mr. Bernard stated that he had taken the liberty to look into all that. The Jury has to submit a resolution to the state. The voters has to be notified and Debbie Waskom office will notify all the voters. A letter must be submitted to the Justice Department and the Justice Department has to approve it, but in the case of an emergency of moving of a precinct, the state will accept it before they get the clearance from the Justice Department. But that has to come later. Mr. Bernard told Mr. Paige to answer his question, as always the Jury has to have

someone at that precinct to tell voters that the polling place has moved.

Mr. Paige then asked if someone would be there?

Mr. Bernard stated that just like we did at the love and care mission. This is the first election since we have changed the place and we did have someone out there.

Mrs. Stoker asked if there was a bathroom in the building?

Mr. Bernard stated that there is a bathroom in the building.

Mr. Jacobs told the Jury that he had went out and looked at the building and it was in bad shape. He stated that the Jury was going to have to do something with the building later. Mr. Jacobs also stated that they had talked about moving the building but found out that it was too small to house two voting machines.

Mr. Bernard then asked if he could make a comment on the update of the Fire station on the Laird Fletcher Road. He stated that this has been a journey and not a destination and ideally they would have found a place in the heart of the district which would be out at point place. He stated that there has never been a place out there but they were able to get this building. Mr. Bernard stated that this time they had a RV back up to the back of the building for them to use the rest room. It was nicer to go in a RV than in a portable potty in 100-degree weather. He then stated that if one day a building should pop up in the point place area he would be at the Jury meeting to request the changes. After a lengthy discussion, the following action was taken:

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On motion by Mr. Hymes, duly seconded by Mr. Dollar, that the Natchitoches Parish Police Jury, in regular and legal session convened, does hereby change the polling place at Ward 3, Precinct 2 from its current location at **Beulah** to the **Ajax Community Center** due to an extreme emergency caused by severe damages to the building from a hailstorm.

Motion Carried

Since there were no other business to come before the Jury, a motion was made by Mr. Dollar, duly seconded by Mr. Longlois, 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