

**MINUTES****VERNON PARISH POLICE JURY  
REGULAR MEETING  
PARISH GOVERNMENT COMPLEX BUILDING  
300 SOUTH 3<sup>RD</sup> STREET, 2<sup>ND</sup> FLOOR  
LEESVILLE, LOUISIANA****TUESDAY, JANUARY 18, 2011  
10:00am**

The Vernon Parish Police Jury met in Regular Session, Tuesday, January 18, 2011 at 10:00am in the Police Jury Meeting Room with the following members

**PRESENT:** Honorable James B. Tuck, President, Howard "Pete" Dowden, Tommy McMahon, Reginald "Reggie" Johnson, Jerry Blair, Leonard Johnson, Melvin Haymon, Sam B. Fulton, Jr., Curtis Clay, Joseph "Bo" Cryer, and Kenny Haymon.

The following member was **ABSENT:** Jackie Grimes

The invocation was given by Mr. Curtis Clay and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mr. Melvin Haymon.

The Vernon Parish Police Jury was convened as the governing authority of the Parish of Vernon, by James B. Tuck, President, and was then ready for the business on the agenda.

The President asked if there was any public comment on agenda items, there were none.

Senator John Smith was present at the meeting to offer his support for Constitutional Amendment #3, Act 1049, House Bill # 246 which passed at the state level during the November elections. This amendment exempts the next \$75,000.00 of value for a property owned and occupied by a veteran with a service-connected disability rating of 100%. If the Police Jury wants to adopt this amendment at the local level, a vote must be called during the October elections.

Senator Smith also offered his thanks to the Police Jury for all the hard work they do on behalf of the citizens of the parish. The jury expressed the same to Senator Smith and thanked him for everything he does for the Vernon Parish and for the State of Louisiana.

The first item on the agenda was the election of officers for 2011.

A motion was made by Mr. Sam B. Fulton, Jr., seconded by the entire jury, to nominate Mr. James B. Tuck, President for year 2011.

By acclamation, Mr. James B. Tuck was elected President for the year 2011.

Mr. Tuck thanked the jury for their vote of confidence and for the opportunity to serve another year as president. Mr. Tuck stated that governing the parish is a team effort and it would not be possible without the Police Jury as a whole. He thanked the jurors for all the work they did on behalf of the parish in 2010 and looked forward to 2011.

A motion was made by Mr. Reginald "Reggie" Johnson, seconded by Mr. Leonard Johnson, to nominate Mr. Curtis Clay, Vice President for 2011.

By acclamation, Mr. Curtis Clay was elected Vice President for the year 2011.

Mr. Clay thanked Mr. Jackie Grimes, who decided to step down for health reasons, for all his work on behalf of the citizens of Vernon Parish as the Vice President. Mr. Clay thanked the jury for their vote of confidence and he will serve the jury and the president to the best of his ability.

A motion was made by Mr. Joseph "Bo" Cryer, seconded by Mr. Melvin Haymon and carried, to approve the minutes of the December 20, 2010 regular monthly meeting.

Mr. Sam B. Fulton, Jr., Chairman, Wildlife & Lakes Committee, reported that the committee met on Monday, January 10, 2011 at 5:00pm in the Police Jury Meeting Room.

Recommend the jury get quotes to survey Vernon Lake Spillway in preparation of Capital Outlay improvements project.

Recommend the jury authorize President to sign letter requesting a change in scope of the Capital Outlay appropriation – Creation of Vernon Lake Cultural Center, Recreational and Tourism Park, Planning and Construction (FP&C No. 50-J58-01-01) – to read "Security Fencing and Gates, RV Sites, Waste Water Treatment, and Restrooms/Comfort Station."

Mr. Fulton thanked Senator Smith for the Capital Outlay monies that parish has been allocated for improvements to the Vernon Lake Spillway Park.

A motion was made by Mr. Sam B. Fulton, Jr., seconded and carried, to adopt the Wildlife & Lakes Committee report as read.

Mr. Tommy McMahon reported that the Economic Development and Planning Committee met on Monday, January 10, 2011 at 5:00pm in the Police Jury Meeting Room.

On Tuesday, January 18, 2011 at 11:30am representatives from FEMA will be available to the jurors to answer questions regarding the new Flood Insurance Rate Maps.

The committee recommends the jury authorize James B. Tuck, Rhonda M. Plummer, and Belinda S. Diehl to attend the New Partners for Smart Growth Conference in Charlotte, North Carolina, by request of CPEX, to assist with parish planning efforts.

The committee recommends the jury approve getting quotes for Welcome to Vernon Parish signs; check with agencies to see if grants are available and check with surrounding areas for potential funding opportunities.

Mr. Tuck reminded everyone that the next round of Plan Vernon Parish meetings will take place at the end of March. Interested individuals should go to [www.planvernonparish.org](http://www.planvernonparish.org) for more information and to sign up for updates and reminders.

A motion was made by Mr. Tommy McMahon, seconded by Mr. Reginald "Reggie" Johnson and carried, to adopt the Economic Development & Planning Committee report as read.

Mr. Curtis Clay, Chairman, Finance Committee, reported that the committee met on Monday, January 10, 2011 at 5:00pm in the Police Jury Meeting Room.

The committee recommends the jury approve invoice from Vernon Parish Sheriff's Department in the amount of \$245.55 for the Police Jury's portion of the cost to replace the battery at the communication tower.

Discount of 40% was given for three VPSO inmates treated at Byrd Regional Hospital. The negotiated amounts due are:

1. \$3096.00 (original \$5160.00)
2. \$5751.29 (original \$9585.48)
3. \$1586.16 (original \$2643.60)

The committee recommends the jury deny payment to Green Provence for Citra Power Degreaser, \$254.32. Mr. Wilson did not order the product and returned it to the company when he received it.

The committee recommends the jury approve payment of invoice from AECOM for Professional Services related to Plan Vernon Parish, \$43,500.00 (grant).

The committee recommends the jury approve payment of invoice from Fertitta Insurance for liability insurance at the Vernon Parish Landfill; \$18,478.95 (no increase over last year).

The committee recommends jury authorize pothole patching in the amount of \$9814.40 for December 2010, to be transferred to the overlay account.

A motion was made by Mr. Curtis Clay, seconded by Mr. Melvin Haymon and carried, to adopt the Finance Committee report as read; Mr. Sam B. Fulton, Jr. abstained from voting on the item involving Byrd Regional Hospital.

Mr. Reginald "Reggie" Johnson, Chairman, Highway Committee, reported that the committee met on Monday, January 10, 2011 at 5:00pm in the Police Jury Meeting Room.

The committee reviewed Resolutions to perform work inside the municipalities of: **Village of Anacoco**: potholes on Ryan St. between Port Arthur and Cypress St., grade Huey Bean Rd. and Johnny Guy Rd., clean up brush pile on corner of Roy Ave. and Liles Rd., repair bus turnaround at end of Sandy Dr.; **Town of Rosepine**: clean drainage ditch on east side of Ruth St., clean ditch on the west side of Louisiana Ave. from 1064 Louisiana Ave. to Calhoun St.; **Village of Simpson**: grade and/or repair potholes on the following roads: Acorn Dr., A. Jackson Rd., Andre St., Buck Run, D. Davis Rd., D. Welch Rd., Dogwood Ln., Elmer Bennett Rd., Forest Dr., G. Parker Rd., Joy Lawrence Rd., Kountry Rd., Magnolia Rd., Misty Rd., Netherland Rd., Oak St., Odie Jackson Rd., Pine Tree Ln., Ponderosa Dr., Quail Creek Rd., Royce Parker Rd., Shadywood Dr., Welcome Cemetery Rd., Chipper Ln., Third St., Wildwood Ln., and Wise Rd. The committee recommends the jury perform work as requested with the exception of the bus turnaround on Sandy Drive; this request must come from the School Board.

The committee recommends jury approve Hardship Request received from Christene Bredthauer, 440 C. Davis Loop; \$158.92, D3 W3.

The parish received 158 cubic yards of reclaimed asphalt from the state; each district will receive 13.6 yards (approximately 1 load) each.

The committee recommends the jury approve Dirt Pit Agreement from KC Robinson, 2750 Hwy 489; approximately 7 acres; at no charge.

The committee recommends jury approve request from Rosepine High School for 200 yards of fill dirt to be used on campus.

Request from Town of Rosepine for the parish to abandon Eagle Nest Road so that the town can adopt it is a town road. The committee recommends jury approve this request pending receipt of paperwork and documentation from the Town of Rosepine.

**Received after the 01/10/2011 committee meeting:**

Resolution to perform work inside the municipality of **Town of Hornbeck:** clean ditches, bush hog or wing (boom) mow ditches, and pot hole repair on all streets inside the municipality. The committee recommends the jury perform the work as requested.

The committee recommends the jury approve Hardship Request for Ellwood Busby, pending receipt, review, and approval of paperwork.

A motion was made by Mr. Reginald "Reggie" Johnson, seconded by Mr. Curtis Clay and carried, to add the additions received after the 01/10/2011 committee meeting.

A motion was made by Mr. Reginald "Reggie" Johnson, seconded by Mr. Tommy McMahon and carried, to adopt the Highway Committee report as read.

Mr. Reginald "Reggie" Johnson, Chairman, Road Construction Committee, reported that the committee met on Monday, January 10, 2011 at 5:00pm in the Police Jury Meeting Room.

The committee discussed the road overlay list with Parish Road Manager.

**Received after the 01/10/2011 committee meeting:**

Authorize jury to adopt a resolution to change the name of Foshee Road #7191, D7 W5, to Bishop Road, in its entirety.

Authorize the jury to adopt a resolution authorizing President and/or Secretary/Treasurer to sign letter amending project scope for Plainview Road improvements; Capital Outlay project to go before the interim emergency board.

A motion was made by Mr. Reginald "Reggie" Johnson, seconded by Mr. Kenny Haymon and carried, to adopt the additions received after the 01/10/2011 committee meeting.

A motion was made by Mr. Reginald "Reggie" Johnson, seconded by Mr. Tommy McMahon and carried to adopt the Road Construction Committee report as read.

Mr. Kenny Haymon, Chairman, Parish Capital Property Committee, reported that the committee met on Monday, January 10, 2011 at 5:00pm in the Police Jury Meeting Room.

The committee recommends the jury authorize Secretary/Treasurer to receive quotes for fencing at the Vernon Parish Communications Tower and the Evans Communication Tower:

1. For fence around the entire tower area
2. For fence around the guide wires only

Once quotes have been received we will determine the best and most cost effective option.

The committee recommends the jury get quotes for a generator maintenance agreement for the generator at the Vernon Parish Communications Tower.

The committee recommends the jury authorize Collins & Associates to survey Oak Ridge Dr. in the Empire Point Subdivision for an estimated cost of \$900.00.

The committee recommends the jury authorize Collins & Associates to survey Henry Collins Road Ext.; emergency access for Beltz Rd. In 2004, the area was surveyed incorrectly and a portion of the right of way, on an adjoining land owner's property, was never deeded to the parish. Mr. Melvin Haymon will work with surveyor to find out what happened during the initial survey.

The committee recommends the jury authorize Collins & Associates to survey the Police Jury property located on Ottis Johnson Rd., D5 W7. This property will be used as a trade with the state for the property and structures currently used as the D5 Maintenance Yard. Also, authorize the parish to receive quotes for fencing of the property.

A motion was made by Mr. Kenny Haymon, seconded by Mr. Reginald "Reggie" Johnson and carried, to adopt the Road Construction Committee report as read.

Mr. Kenny Haymon, Chairman, Rural Fire Protection Committee reported that the committee met on Monday, January 10, 2011 at 5:00pm in the Police Jury Meeting Room.

Mr. RV Bolton was present at the meeting and informed the committee that he was re-elected President of Vernon Parish Fire District #1; Mr. Donald Haymon was elected Vice President.

**Received after the 01/10/2011 committee meeting:**

Request from the City of Leesville to replace Captain Len Edwards with newly appointed Fire Chief Dewayne Lawon on the Vernon Parish Fire Board; effective immediately; committee recommends the jury approve this request.

A motion was made by Mr. Kenny Haymon, seconded by Mr. Melvin Haymon and carried, to adopt the additions received after the 01/10/2011 committee meeting.

A motion was made by Mr. Kenny Haymon, seconded by Mr. Melvin Haymon and carried, to adopt the Rural Fire Protection Committee report as read.

Mr. Howard "Pete" Dowden, Chairman, Parish Equipment Committee, reported that the committee met on Monday, January 10, 2011 at 5:00pm in the Police Jury Meeting Room.

The committee recommends the jury approve request from Parish Road Manger to purchase a John Deer 544k loader for an estimated cost of \$135,000.00; to be paid from overlay account.

The committee recommends the jury approve request from Parish Road Manger to advertise for bids for Fuel Tanks

1. 6 – 2000 gallon tanks for district yards
2. 12 – 1000 gallon tanks for district yards
3. 1 – 500 gallon tank for PWM

The estimated cost for these tanks is between \$60,000.00 and \$65,000.00; to be paid from overlay account.

**Received after the 01/10/2011 committee meeting:**

Request from Parish Road Manager to purchase pickup truck for D2, either through State Contract or bids; recommend the jury approve this request.

A motion was made by Mr. Howard "Pete" Dowden, seconded by Mr. Sam B. Fulton, Jr. and carried, to adopt the additions received after the 01/10/2011 committee meeting.

A motion was made by Mr. Howard "Pete" Dowden, seconded by Mr. Tommy McMahon and carried, to adopt the Parish Equipment Committee report as read.

Mr. Leonard Johnson, Chairman, Permit and Claims Committee, reported that the committee met on Monday, January 10, 2011 at 5:00pm in the Police Jury Meeting Room and there was no business to discuss.

**Received after the 01/10/2011 committee meeting:**

Reviewed claim for damages from AT&T in the amount of \$638.07; parish cut cable while installing new culverts at 3710 West Boundary Rd.; locates were called in on 8/12/2010, work was performed on 10/27/2011; recommend jury deny this claim.

Accident report from Murrell Jackson; struck a blade that had come off of a parish tiller being used on Merle Jackson Rd., D 6, on 12/31/2010; lowest quote to repair is from Morris Tire Service of Leesville in the amount of \$201.76; Parish Road Manager recommends that jury approve the claim; recommend the jury approve this claim.

Accident report from Brandi Kay; received two flat tires on Leach Rd., and one on Camp Baker Rd. while delivering mail on 01/12/2011; D 12; lowest quote for repairs is from Henry Tire and Wheel in the amount of \$278.91; Parish Road Manager recommends that jury approve the claim; recommend the jury approve this claim.

Letter received from Jim Roberts stating the Police Jury had damaged a gate on his property during road grading; D 7; the quote to repair the gate \$173.85; put back in committee pending review by Parish Road Manager.

A motion was made by Mr. Leonard Johnson, seconded by Mr. Jerry Blair and carried, to adopt the additions received after the 01/10/2011 committee meeting.

A motion was made by Mr. Leonard Johnson, seconded by Mr. Jerry Blair and carried, to adopt the Permit & Claims Committee report as read.

Mr. Jerry Blair, Chairman, Personnel Committee, reported that the committee met on Monday, January 10, 2011 at 5:00pm in the Police Jury Meeting Room.

The committee recommends the jury approve request from Parish Road Manger to hire Scotty Jeane, D 1, 4, 8, & 9, full time, as an equipment operator; effective immediately.

The committee recommends the jury approve request from Parish Road Manger to hire Dallas J. Dausat, PWM, full time, as a truck driver; effective January 31, 2011.

The committee recommends the jury approve 2011 annual raises for parish road crew employees, office staff, landfill, and animal shelter; increase starting salaries by 6% as well. Recommend the jury approve the budgeted 6% raise to be effective February 1<sup>st</sup>.

The committee recommends the jury approve the following salary adjustments for office staff. We are operating with less staff due to the retirement of Ms. Mary Ann Coburn. Recommend the jury consider giving main office and parish wide office staff a \$1.25 an hour increase, effective February 1<sup>st</sup>. Ms. Belinda S. Diehl has been promoted to Ms. Coburn's position and it is recommended that she receive a promotional raise of \$3.00 per hour instead of the \$1.25 per hour. The parish will still have an annual savings of approximately \$28,000 from the wages and benefits received by Ms. Coburn.

Jimmie S. Walker, D1, 4, 8, & 9, Retired; effective January 1, 2011.

A motion was made by Mr. Jerry Blair, seconded by Mr. Reginald "Reggie" Johnson and carried, to adopt the Personnel Committee report as read.

Mr. Joseph "Bo" Cryer, Chairman, Solid Waste Committee, reported that the committee met on Monday, January 10, 2011 at 5:00pm in the Police Jury Meeting Room.

The parish is looking into establishing recycling drop off location(s) within the parish. Discussions are taking place between the parish, IESI, the City of Leesville, Fort Polk representatives, and residents of the parish. Recommend the

parish look into potential locations and get quotes and specifications for the construction and maintenance of the drop off locations (to potentially consist of a concrete slab, open pavilion, and two large roll offs from IESI).

A motion was made by Mr. Joseph "Bo" Cryer, seconded by Mr. Curtis Clay and carried, to adopt the Solid Waste Committee report as read.

Mr. Melvin Haymon, Chairman, Ways & Means Committee, reported that the committee met on Monday, January 10, 2011 at 5:00pm in the Police Jury Meeting Room.

The committee recommends the jury approve request from Gas Utility District #1: Due to the death of Paul Snell, the board is asking to appoint Cathy Vittoria to Mr. Snell's remaining term (ends Dec. 31, 2011).

Norris Insurance Consultants will be reviewing the vehicle and property insurance policies for the parish. They are working on a cost estimate and are ready to begin work as soon as the quote is approved.

**Received after the 01/10/2011 committee meeting**

Request from West Vernon Parish Waterworks District to appoint Mr. Joseph Smith to the unexpired term of Mr. Thurman Davis who resigned due to ill health; recommend the jury approve this request.

Received quotes from Norris Insurance Consultants, Inc. for the review of vehicle and property insurance:

- a. Option A1: Will provide twelve (12) months consulting services including policy review, arraigning for and managing competitive quotes for liability and property insurance policies (excluding Workers Compensation) for an annual flat fee of \$15,000.00.
- b. Option A2: Will provide twelve (12) months consulting services including policy review, arraigning for and managing competitive quotes for Workers Compensation policy for an additional annual flat fee of \$8,000.00

Recommend the jury approve Option A1.

Regarding the letter from Dr. Upadhyay sent the parish regarding sales taxes being charged on non-chemotherapy medications. The internet vendor that Dr. Upadhyay uses (McKesson) charges taxes on all non-chemotherapy drugs (including Remicade, which is an arthritis medication). The previous vendor Dr. Upadhyay used waived taxes on these medications, the current vendor does not. The parish is still

looking into the matter and hopes to have further information at the next Police Jury meeting.

Jurors discussed Constitutional Amendment #3, Act 1049, House Bill #246 – in addition to the current Homestead Exemption, this exemption would also exempt the next \$75,000.00 of value for property owned and occupied by a veteran with a service-connected disability rating of 100%. Stated that it would be a good benefit to pass on to our vets; however, it has to be brought to a vote by the people of Vernon Parish before it can be effective. A meeting is scheduled this week to discuss this with the Tax Assessor and all other taxing authorities of the parish.

A motion was made by Mr. Melvin Haymon, seconded by Mr. Curtis Clay and carried, to adopt the additions received after the 01/10/2011 committee meeting.

A motion was made by Mr. Melvin Haymon, seconded by Mr. Curtis Clay and carried, to adopt the Ways & Means Committee report as read.

A motion was made by Mr. Leonard Johnson, seconded by Mr. Jerry Blair and carried, to re-schedule the monthly February regular meeting from Monday, February 21, 2011 to Tuesday, February 22, 2011 at 10:00am in observance of President's Day.

A motion was made by Mr. Melvin Haymon, seconded by Mr. Curtis Clay and carried, to adopt a resolution to adopt the Vernon Parish Hazard Mitigation Plan Update and authorize the President and/or Secretary/Treasurer to sign all documents or contracts related to the adoption of the Hazard Mitigation Plan Update.

A motion was made by the entire jury, seconded by the entire jury and carried, to adopt a Memorial Resolution for former Police Juror and School Board member, Ted Paris.

A motion was made by Mr. Reginald "Reggie" Johnson, seconded by Mr. Jerry Blair and carried, adopting the list of roads that are maintained by the Police Jury and/or the Forest Service and authorized the President to sign an Intent to Cooperate for the Standard Road Agreement.

A motion was made by Mr. Curtis Clay, seconded by Mr. Melvin Haymon and carried, to authorize payment of all invoices as authorized by the Finance Committee, and authorize payment of all expenditures above the budgeted amount from ward maintenance and/or construction accounts.

There being no further business, a motion was made by Mr. Curtis Clay,  
seconded by Mr. Tommy McMahon and carried, to adjourn.

Rhonda M. Plummer  
**Rhonda M. Plummer**  
Secretary/Treasurer

James B. Tuck  
**James B. Tuck**  
President