

MINUTES**VERNON PARISH POLICE JURY
REGULAR MEETING****PARISH GOVERNMENT COMPLEX BUILDING
300 SOUTH 3RD STREET, 2ND FLOOR
LEESVILLE, LOUISIANA****TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2011
10:00am**

The Vernon Parish Police Jury met in Regular Session, Tuesday, February 22, 2011 at 10:00am in the Police Jury Meeting Room with the following members

PRESENT: Honorable James B. Tuck, President, Howard "Pete" Dowden, Jackie Grimes, 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:** Tommy McMahon

The invocation was given by Mr. Blair and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mr. L. Johnson.

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.

A motion was made by Mr. M. Haymon, seconded by Mr. Clay and carried, to approve the minutes of the January 3, 2011 Special Call meeting, the January 10, 2011 Special Call meeting, and the January 18, 2011 Regular monthly meeting and dispense with the reading of the minutes.

Jackie Grimes, Chairman, Economic Development and Planning Committee, reported that the committee met on Monday, February 14, 2011 at 5:00pm in the Police Jury Meeting Room.

The committee recommends that the jury approve the request to join the SWLA Economic Development Alliance for \$297.00 per year.

Received after the 02/14/2011 committee meeting:

Authorize President to sign the amended cooperative endeavor agreement for the Vernon Parish Visitor Center, FP&C Project No. 50-J58-05B-01.

A motion was made by Mr. Grimes, seconded by Mr. R. Johnson and carried, to adopt the additions made after the 02/14/2011 committee meeting.

A motion was made by Mr. Grimes, seconded by Mr. M. Haymon and carried, to adopt the Economic Development and Planning Committee report as read.

Curtis Clay, Chairman, Finance Committee, reported that the committee met on Monday, February 14, 2011 at 5:00pm in the Police Jury Meeting Room.

The committee recommends the jury approve invoice from Patrick-Miller Tractor Company, Inc. for the amount of \$1076.38, District 6, equipment number H-33.

The committee recommends the jury approve invoice from AECOM for \$22,500.00 (grant) for professional services related to Plan Vernon Parish.

The Vernon Parish Tourism Commission is contributing \$5,000.00 to the Police Jury to go towards the Parish Wide Comprehensive Plan for additional services requested from AECOM for the amount of \$7,880.00.

Authorize January pothole patching, in the amount of \$10,192.14, to be transferred to the overlay account.

The committee recommends the jury approve quote from Brown Security to upgrade/repair the fire alarm system at the Courthouse; \$3,867.97 to replace a defective voice evacuation control panel and \$1,204.25 to install a new digital communicator that monitors the alarm system.

Received after the 02/14/2011 committee meeting:

Authorize payment to Meyer & Associates, Inc. in the amount of \$2,604.00 for Anacoco Recreation Complex (Capital Outlay grant).

A motion was made by Mr. Clay, seconded by Mr. Grimes and carried, to adopt the additions received after the 02/14/2011 committee meeting.

A motion was made by Mr. Clay, seconded by Mr. M. Haymon and carried, to adopt the Finance Committee Report as read.

Reginald "Reggie" Johnson, Chairman, Highway Committee, reported that the committee met on Monday, February 14, 2011 at 5:00pm in the Police Jury Meeting Room.

The committee recommends the jury approve request from Vernon Parish Health Unit to fill in four (4) wells located at 5365 Hwy 117, Leesville, District 12, they are a public health nuisance and hazard; property owner is Charles Christ; foreman stated there are only three (3) wells at the location.

The committee recommends the jury approve request from the VP Sheriff's Office to assist in the elimination of some trees and bushes behind the Vernon Correctional Facility.

The committee recommends the jury approve the following requests from the Vernon Parish School Board for maintenance of the following bus routes:

- a. Gravel on road at 542 Mitchell Rd., Leesville; road is muddy and has potholes.
- b. Cold Springs Loop, Anacoco; grading and repair.
- c. Bus route at 1031 Woodland Drive, Leesville; grading and pothole repair; this request is pending, requires agreement with Leesville (road is in city limits).
- d. Toro Road, Anacoco; grading and potholes

The committee recommends the jury approve resolutions to perform work inside the municipalities of: **Village of Simpson:** 1.) grade and/or repair potholes where needed. 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 Johnson Rd., Pine Tree Ln., Ponderosa Dr., Quail Creek Rd., Royce Parker Rd., Chipper Ln., Third St., Wise Rd., 2.) grade and fill pot holes on bridges, Welcome Cemetery Rd., 3.) grade and apply gravel or rock, Wildwood Ln., 4.) fill potholes on bridges, Shadywood Dr. **Town of Hornbeck:** 1.) bush hogging, wing (boom) mowing ditches on all the streets in the city limits of Hornbeck 2.) ditch cleaning and pot hole repair on all streets inside the city limits for January 2011 and March 2011 3.) remove beaver dam in Brushy Creek South which is causing the road to flood, 4.) pot hole repair on Old Valley Electric Rd., Trimble St., Westbrook Rd., Corley Rd. at the corner of Williams Rd., and Rose Ave. **Village of Anacoco:** perform the following road maintenances services: clean ditches at 219, 247, and 259 Ball Park Rd., grade Huey Bean Rd. and Johnny Guy Rd. **Town of Rosepine:** pot hole patch the following streets: First St., Duett St., Sunny Ln., Ernestine Dr., Louisiana Ave.,

and the edge of North St. on both sides. Also hot patch on Fagan Cr. by driveway and repair the corner of Hwy 1146 and Evans St.

The committee recommends the jury approve hardship request for Tamara Rojas, 198 Redtown Rd., Leesville, District 10 Ward 1, \$441.42.

The committee recommends the jury approve hardship request for Raphael Rivera, 387 Jackson Rd., Leesville, District 12 Ward 1, \$448.36.

The committee recommends the jury approve request from Parish Road Supervisor to accept into the parish road inventory Hazel Lane and Evelyn Lane, District 7 Ward 7, both roads were accepted into the parish road system in December 2009 and were inspected on Feb. 7, 2011.

Received after 02/14/2011 committee meeting:

Recommend jury approve request from the Vernon Parish School Board for the following:

- e. Parking lot repair; Pitkin High School
- f. Parking lot repair; Simpson High School
- g. Bus turn around; Sandy Dr., Anacoco
- h. Parent pick up road repair; Vernon Middle School
- i. Baseball/Softball road repair; Leesville High School
- j. Baseball/Softball parking lot repair; Simpson High School

Recommend the jury approve request for West Vernon Parish Waterworks District to purchase six (6) loads of prime rock and six (6) loads of road/drive base for new office location located at the North Booster Station in Anacoco; estimated cost is \$4,900.00 to \$5,400.00. This request will be placed back in committee to confirm who is paying for the rock.

A motion was made by Mr. R. Johnson, seconded by Mr. Grimes and carried, to adopt the additions received after the 02/14/2011 committee meeting.

A motion was made by Mr. R. Johnson, seconded by Mr. Blair and carried, to adopt the Highway Committee report as read.

Reginald "Reggie" Johnson, Chairman, Road Construction Committee, reported that the committee met on Monday, February 14, 2011 at 5:00pm in the Police Jury meeting room.

\$82,500.00 worth of rock was purchase by the Indigo Mineral Company for Hood Camp Rd. Recommend jury approve to reimburse fuel cost to Parish Wide Maintenance and District 6 for hauling the rock from overlay. In the future,

companies drilling will need to build the road to our specifications before they begin drilling.

A motion was made by Mr. R. Johnson, seconded by Mr. Blair and carried, to adopt the Road Construction Committee report as read.

Leonard Johnson, Chairman, Permit & Claims Committee, reported that the committee met on Monday, February 14, 2011 at 5:00pm in the Police Jury Meeting Room.

Two 12-volt batteries and the door that covers the battery compartment were stolen and the battery cables were cut from a motor grader (D89) at the District 7 yard. A report was filed with the Sherriff's Office and damage is estimated between \$1,500.00 and \$3,000.00.

Received quote from Louisiana Machinery to repair vandalized motor grader, District 7; equipment # D89; \$3,906.12; to be paid by Parish Wide Maintenance.

On Feb. 16, 2011, an individual at the Old Courthouse was sitting in the theatre seats in the old courtroom, she retrieved some paperwork and upon returning to her seat did not push the retractable seat back down and fell to the floor. She sought medical attention and is seeking assistance with two (2) prescriptions. The committee recommends the jury deny this claim.

A motion was made by Mr. L. Johnson, seconded by Mr. R. Johnson and carried, to adopt the additions received after the 02/14/2011 committee meeting.

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

Jerry Blair, Chairman, Personnel Committee, reported that the committee met on Monday, February 14, 2011 at 5:00pm in the Police Jury Meeting Room.

The committee recommends that the jury approve request from Parish Road Supervisor to change Justin Williams, District 6, from Equipment Operator to Grader Operator with adjusted pay increase as soon as possible.

The committee recommends that the jury approve request from Randy Kay requesting a 4% pay increase for all employees of the Vernon Parish Health Unit.

The committee recommends that the jury approve request from Parish Road Supervisor to hire Timothy L. Burlison, District 1, 4, 8, & 9 as Equipment Operator, effective immediately.

The committee recommends that the jury approve request from Parish Road Manager to hire Justin Wright, Parishwide Maintenance, to replace Dallas Dauzat, who declined to accept the position he was approved for last month.

James Goins, District 3, Voluntary Termination, effective 2/15/2011.

James McDonald, District 5, Layoff, effective 1/31/2011.

The committee recommends that the jury approve request from Parish Road Manager to change current Foreman to Grader Operator, D7, effective immediately.

Recommend jury proceed with legal counsel review of decreasing employee pay.

The committee recommends that the jury approve request from Parish Road Manager to change Earl W. Simmons, Jr., District 7, from Grader Operator to temporary Foreman and increase pay to \$13.78 per hour for 90 day probation period; effective immediately.

The committee recommends that the jury approve request from Vernon Parish Tourism Commission to raise the salary of John Crook by \$2,400.00 per year (\$100.00 per pay period), effective 02/01/2011.

The committee recommends that the jury approve request from Vernon Parish Tourism Commission to raise the salary of Mary Fussell by \$1,000.00 per year (.60 cents per hour), effective 02/01/2011.

A motion was made by Mr. Blair, seconded by Mr. Clay and carried to adopt the Personnel Committee report as read.

Joseph "Bo" Cryer, Chairman, Solid Waste Committee, reported that the committee met on Monday, January 14, 2011 at 5:00pm in the Police Jury Meeting Room and there was no business to discuss.

Received after the 02/14/2011 committee meeting:

Request from IESI to implement a fuel surcharge clause in their contract effective January 1, 2011; the total due for January 2011 is \$1,400.46.

A motion was made by Mr. Cryer, seconded by Mr. Clay and carried, to adopt the additions made after the 02/14/2011 committee meeting.

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

Jackie Grimes, reported that the Subdivision Committee met on Monday, February 14, 2011 at 5:00pm in the Police Jury Meeting Room.

The committee recommends that the jury approve request from Parish Road Supervisor to accept the plat only for Saddlewood Estates, Phase I, lots # 1-12, District 4, Ward 1.

The committee recommends that the jury approve request from Parish Road Supervisor to accept the plat only for David and Lisa Gunter, District 5, Coker Rd.; there are no problems.

Received after the 02/14/2011 committee meeting:

Recommend jury approve request from Parish Road Manager to accept the plat only for North Star Estates, Lots #1-22, District 6, off of Hwy 117.

A motion was made by Mr. Grimes, seconded by Mr. R. Johnson and carried, to adopt the additions received after the 02/14/2011 committee meeting.

A motion was made by Mr. Grimes, seconded by Mr. R. Johnson and carried, to adopt the Subdivision Committee report as read.

Melvin Haymon, Chairman, Ways & Means Committee, reported that the committee met on Monday, February 14, 2011 at 5:00pm in the Police Jury meeting room.

John Crook, Elize Howerton, Logan Morris, and Christina Lord were present at the meeting to discuss the Vernon Arts Council's decision to sell beer at this year's Mayfest. They maintain that the decision to sell beer at Mayfest was a financial one since the grants that have funded Mayfest in the past are no longer available to them. Mr. Cryer and Mr. K. Haymon expressed their displeasure with the decision to sell beer and felt that the Arts Council would alienate some of the residents of the parish by their decision and that they could not support the decision. Mr. Tuck stated that while he could not condone the sale of beer at Mayfest, he would continue to support the festival itself.

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. Also, there is a state law (La. R.S. 47:337.10 (J) that exempts the kind of medications Dr. Upadhyay reference that applies only to parishes with populations between 230,000 and 300,000 persons (Caddo Parish). So, the exemption that Dr. Upadhyay references is a state law, not an exemption provided for by the parish governing body or local taxing authority. The committee recommends the jury send a letter to Dr. Upadhyay explaining the situation and a letter to the legislative delegation requesting an amendment to the legislation so it includes Vernon Parish.

Notification from Cameron Communications of a rate increase, effective March 2011, on cable TV from \$62.50 to \$65.50 for the Digital Video package and includes 126 channels. The price increase is attributed to content provider increases, the addition of 23 new channels, and increase operational costs.

Sissy Troutman and Elaine Brister, LWIA, were present at the meeting to discuss the decision to downsize from eighteen (18) to eight (8) service delivery areas in the state. They feel that the residents of Vernon Parish will not receive the service they need if they have to travel all the way to Alexandria. The jury expressed its interest in keeping an LWIA office nearby and stated they would do what they could to try to keep it here. The committee recommends the jury send a letter to the state legislative delegation expressing their concerns and asking the state to reconsider their position.

Received after the 02/14/2011 committee meeting:

A unanimous motion was made and seconded to adopt a Memorial Resolution for Mrs. Ara Mae Johnson.

A motion was made by Mr. M. Haymon, seconded by Mr. Fulton and carried to adopt the additions received after the 02/14/2011 committee meeting.

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

Sam B. Fulton, Jr., Chairman, Wildlife & Lakes Committee, reported that the committee met on Monday, February 14, 2011 at 5:00pm in the Police Jury meeting room.

Mr. Arno Arpke, Chairman, Fish & Wildlife Commission, was present at the meeting. Mr. Arpke reported that GPS locations of the boat lanes at the lakes will be available soon and recommends that the parish add that information to the website. He also reported that Anacoco Lake is at the top of the state lake restoration fund and when funds are available, it will be the first lake done.

Authorize the purchase of shirts for Fish and Wildlife Commissioners.

The committee recommends that the jury approve Parish Road Supervisor get quotes for a used truck, with a crew cab, for Mr. Al Peltier so he can carry a larger crew to work at the lakes, to be paid by Parishwide Maintenance and the Fish and Wildlife Commission.

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

A motion was made by Mr. Blair, seconded by Mr. K. Haymon and carried, to hold a public hearing on Monday, March 21, 2011 at 10:00am to hear public input on proposed speed limit change on Turner Rd. and Rabbit Run Rd., District 12, from 25 MPH to 15 MPH and on Tony Carter Rd., District 6, from 35 MPH to 25 MPH.

A motion was made by Mr. Fulton, seconded by Mr. Clay and carried, to enter into public hearing to hear input on the proposed Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance.

There was no public input.

A motion was made by Mr. K. Haymon, seconded by Mr. Fulton and carried, to return to regular meeting agenda.

A motion was made by Mr. M. Haymon, seconded by Mr. Clay to adopt the Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance and accept the new Flood Insurance Rate Maps in compliance the FEMA guidelines. The foregoing ordinance was subject to a roll call vote and recorded as follows: **YAES:** Tuck, Dowden, Grimes, R. Johnson, Blair, L. Johnson, M. Haymon, Fulton, Clay, Cryer, K. Haymon. **NAYS:** None. **ABSTAIN:** None. **ABSENT:** McMahan.

A motion was made by Mr. Clay, seconded by Mr. Fulton, to adopt an ordinance to repeal and replace Chapter 6, Flood Damage Prevention and Control, of the Vernon Parish Code of Ordinances with the newly adopted Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance. The foregoing ordinance was subject to a roll call vote and recorded as follows: **YAES:** Tuck, Dowden, Grimes, R. Johnson, Blair, L. Johnson, M. Haymon, Fulton, Clay, Cryer, K. Haymon. **NAYS:** None. **ABSTAIN:** None. **ABSENT:** McMahan.

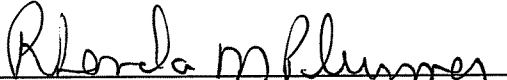
A motion was made by Mr. M. Haymon, seconded by Mr. Clay, to adopt a resolution authorizing the authorizing the advertising for bids for the purchase of \$7,500,000.00 of General Obligation Bonds, Series 2011, of the Parish of Vernon, State of Louisiana, authorized at an election held on April 4, 2009, and providing for other matters in connection herewith. The foregoing resolution was subject to a roll call vote and recorded as follows: **YAES:** Tuck, Dowden, Grimes, R. Johnson, Blair, L. Johnson, M. Haymon, Fulton, Clay, Cryer, K. Haymon. **NAYS:** None. **ABSTAIN:** None. **ABSENT:** McMahan.


A motion was made by Mr. Clay, seconded by Mr. M. Haymon, and carried to authorize payment of all invoices as authorized by the Finance Committee, and authorize payment of all expenditures above the budgeted amounts from Ward Maintenance and/or Construction Accounts.

A motion was made by Mr. Fulton, seconded by Mr. M. Haymon to add to the agenda a resolution declaring April 2011 National Association of Counties month. The foregoing motion was subject to a roll call vote and recorded as follows: **YAES:** Tuck, Dowden, Grimes, R. Johnson, Blair, L. Johnson, M. Haymon, Fulton, Clay, Cryer, K. Haymon. **NAYS:** None. **ABSTAIN:** None. **ABSENT:** McMahan.

A unanimous motion was made and seconded to adopt a resolution declaring April 2011 National Association of Counties month.

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


Rhonda M. Plummer
Secretary/Treasurer


James B. Tuck
President