

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE POLICE JURY, PARISH OF  
OUACHITA, STATE OF LOUISIANA, TAKEN AT A REGULAR  
MEETING HELD MONDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2009 AT 5:35 P.M.**

The Police Jury of the Parish of Ouachita, State of Louisiana met in regular and legal session in the Ouachita Parish Police Jury Meeting Room, Courthouse Building, Monroe, Louisiana on Monday, February 2, 2009 at 5:35 p.m., and was duly convened by Mr. Shane Smiley, President, who stated that the Police Jury was ready for the transaction of business.

<b><u>Members Present</u></b>	<b>(6)</b>
<b>Charles Jackson</b>	<b>District A</b>
<b>Mack Calhoun</b>	<b>District B</b>
<b>Walt Caldwell</b>	<b>District C</b>
<b>Dorth Blade</b>	<b>District D</b>
<b>Shane Smiley</b>	<b>District E</b>
<b>Pat Moore</b>	<b>District F</b>

<b><u>Members Absent</u></b>	<b>(0)</b>
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Invocation was given by Mrs. Pat Moore. Pledge of Allegiance to the flag was led by Mrs. Pat Moore.

Mr. Caldwell, seconded by Mr. Blade, offered a motion to adopt the minutes of the special police jury meeting including the committee meeting held on December 22, 2008. Motion passed without opposition.

The president recognized visitor Dave Terrell. Mr. Terrell was not present.

The president recognized Dr. John Sutherlin, 1601 McKeen Place, Monroe, Louisiana. Dr. Sutherlin along with Dr. Kevin Unter presented the report of the 2008 study of the fire department. Dr. Sutherlin recommended ways to improve the fire rating and assist the department in securing grants. Discussion ensued. No other action was taken on this matter.

The president presented the service awards for the month of February 2009.

**FIRE DEPARTMENT**

**JAMES SMITH – 5 YEARS  
BRETT TURNER- 5 YEARS  
JEREMY RODDEN – 5 YEARS  
REGGIE MCDOUGAL – 5 YEARS**

The president requested a motion to recess the regular meeting in favor of the Personnel

Committee Meeting. Motion offered by Mr. Caldwell, seconded by Mr. Blade to recess the Regular Police Jury Meeting. Motion passed without opposition.

## **PERSONNEL COMMITTEE MEETING**

The chairman, Mr. Dorth Blade called the Personnel Committee Meeting to order at 6:08 p.m.

The chairman recognized Mr. Cammack, Treasurer. Mr. Cammack spoke regarding a survey to offer a fitness program to parish employees. Ms. Latanya Harper, Human Resource Coordinator provided additional information regarding the matter. Motion offered by Mr. Jackson, seconded by Mr. Smiley to grant permission to conduct a survey of parish employees regarding the fitness program. Motion passed without opposition.

The chairman recognized Mr. Murray, Public Works Director. Mr. Murray requested to hire an Equipment Operator II. Motion offered by Mr. Caldwell, seconded by Mr. Calhoun to hire Charles Barfoot in the position of Equipment Operator II. Motion passed without opposition.

The chairman recognized Chief Hemphill, Fire Department. Chief Hemphill recommended terminating the extended sick leave of Denise Pilgreen effective January 20, 2009. Motion offered by Mr. Caldwell, seconded by Mr. Smiley to accept the recommendation of the chief. Motion passed without opposition.

The chairman recognized Mr. Hack Tull, Acting Director of Animal Control. Mr. Tull requested to hire an Animal Control Officer. Motion offered by Mr. Calhoun, seconded by Mr. Smiley to hire J. T. Gilmore in the position of Animal Control Officer. Motion passed without opposition.

The chairman recognized Mr. Rhodes, Director of Green Oaks Detention Center. Mr. Rhodes requested to promote Ms. Tanzy to Juvenile Supervisor and Mr. Marvin Jones to Juvenile Detention Officer III. Motion offered by Mr. Caldwell, seconded by Mr. Calhoun to accept the recommendation of Mr. Rhodes. Motion passed without opposition.

There being no other business to come before this committee, the chairman requested a motion to adjourn. Motion offered by Mr. Caldwell, seconded by Mr. Smiley to adjourn. The Personnel Committee Meeting was adjourned at 6:16 p.m.

The president requested a motion to convene as the Public Works Committee. Motion offered by Mr. Caldwell, seconded by Mr. Blade to convene as the Public Works Committee. Motion passed without opposition.

The chairman, Mr. Mack Calhoun called the Public Works Committee Meeting to order at 6:17 p.m.

## **PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE MEETING**

The chairman recognized Mr. Murray, Public Works Director. Mr. Murray reported that he had no items. Motion offered by Mr. Caldwell, seconded by Mr. Blade to adjourn the Public Works Committee Meeting. Motion passed without opposition. The committee meeting was adjourned at 6:18 p.m.

The president continued the regular police jury meeting. The following departments presented monthly reports.

## **DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS**

### **ANIMAL CONTROL: Hack Tull, OPSO, Acting Director**

Mr. Tull spoke regarding the change in adoption fees for cats. Mr. Hack requested that the adoption fee for cats be increase to \$50, and the claim fees be increase and the claim fees for impounded animals to 1<sup>st</sup> offense \$40, 2<sup>nd</sup> offense \$50.00 and 3<sup>rd</sup> offense \$65.00. Motion offered by Mr. Blade, seconded by Mr. Jackson to increase the fees as requested. Motion passed without opposition.

Mr. Tull spoke regarding the request to purchase ½ ton truck. Motion offered by Mr. Caldwell, seconded by Mr. Calhoun to grant permission to purchase ½ ton truck for Animal Control. Motion passed without opposition.

### **CODE ENFORCEMENT: Deputy Wayne Heckford**

Deputy Heckford informed the jury that he was preparing the information for the Great American Cleanup that is scheduled for March 7, 2009..

### **FIRE DEPARTMENT: Mr. Patrick Hemphill, Chief**

Chief Hemphill informed the jury that the fire department was taking applications for firefighters. Chief Hemphill stated that the due date for all applicants is February 6, 2009.

### **GREEN OAKS: Mr. Mike Rhodes, Director**

Mr. Rhodes revised the numbers submitted in his report and spoke briefly about the new programs that affect juvenile detainees.

### **HOMELAND SECURITY & EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS**

#### **AGENCY: Mr. Butch Beckham, Director**

### **HOUSING: Ms. Peggy Steele, Director**

Ms. Steele spoke regarding travel requests. Ms. Steele informed the jury that there are unexpected times travel is required before jury approval. Discussion ensued. Motion offered by Mr. Caldwell, seconded by Mr. Calhoun to waive the agenda to address the travel request of Ms. Steele at unexpected times. Motion passed without opposition. Discussion ensued. Motion offered by Mr. Caldwell, seconded by Mr. Blade to grant permission to Mr. Cammack to approve the travel request

of the Housing Office at unexpected times subject to being ratified by the Jury. Motion passed without opposition.

**LAJET:** **Mr. Leonard Tims, Director**

**LIBRARY:** **Ms. Cheryl Mouliere, Director**

Ms. Mouliere updated the jury regarding the construction sites of the new libraries. Ms. Mouliere indicated that at one of the location the soil needed work, which would delay the submission of the plans to the State Fire Marshall's Office.

**MOSQUITO CONTROL:** **Shannon Rider, Interim Director**

Ms. Rider was absent due to illness. Mr. Cammack cited two items from Mrs. Rider's report, namely bid tabulation for aerial spraying contract and the new position of Surveillance Coordinator. Mr. Caldwell recommended that these two items be tabled until the next meeting of the jury.

Mr. Cammack requested to address the matter on his agenda concerning the Bid-Sync Contract at this time. The president asked whether or not any one had a problem addressing this item at this time. No one did. Mr. Cammack spoke regarding the Bid-Sync Contract. Mr. Cammack stated that this contract allows for the parish to be in compliance with Act 590 of the legislature. Discussion ensued. Motion offered by Mr. Caldwell, seconded by Ms. Moore to approve the recommendation of the Treasurer. Discussion ensued again. Motion passed without opposition.

## **MOTIONS \* ORDINANCES \* RESOLUTIONS:**

The president recognized Mr. Jackson, District A.

### **MR. CHARLES JACKSON, DISTRICT A:**

Mr. Jackson spoke regarding the investment policy and procedures. Mr. Jackson stated that he would come back to this item after copies had been provided to each juror.

The following resolution was offered for adoption by Mr. Jackson, seconded by Mr. Caldwell.

### **RESOLUTION 09-01**

**A RESOLUTION APPOINTING MR. EDWARD VALENTINE,  
TO THE OUACHITA PARISH FIRE CITIZEN'S ADVISORY  
COMMITTEE, DISTRICT A, BEGINNING FEBRUARY 2, 2009 AND  
ENDING FEBRUARY 2, 2010; AND FURTHER PROVIDING WITH  
RESPECT THERETO:**

**WHEREAS**, there exists a vacancy on the Fire Advisory Committee; and Mr. Edward Valentine, 125 Lafayette Circle, West Monroe, LA 71291, District A has expressed a desire to serve on said committee,

**NOW, THEREFORE:**

**BE IT RESOLVED** by the Ouachita Parish Police Jury in legal and regular session that the following individual, Mr. Edward Valentine, District A, be and hereby is appointed to the Fire Advisory Committee, beginning February 2, 2009 and ending February 2, 2010.

The above resolution was adopted on the 2<sup>nd</sup> day of February 2009.

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Mr. Jackson spoke again regarding the investment policy and procedures. Discussion ensued. Motion offered by Mr. Jackson, seconded by Ms. Moore to adopt the investment policy and procedures. Motion passed without opposition.

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The president recognized Mr. Calhoun, District B.

**MR. CALHOUN, DISTRICT B:**

Mr. Calhoun spoke regarding the letter received from the residents of Hillcrest Estates. Motion offered by Mr. Calhoun, seconded by Mr. Caldwell requesting that Mr. Harrison prepare a cost estimate to blacktop Acorn Road located within Hillcrest Estates. Motion passed without opposition.

Mr. Calhoun spoke regarding the need for lime for the fish nursery at Cheniere Lake. Motion offered by Mr. Calhoun, seconded by Mr. Caldwell to purchase 8 tons of lime, to be hauled by Public Works to the fish nursery at a cost of \$405.00. Motion passed without opposition.

Mr. Calhoun asked Mr. Harrison to speak regarding the bathroom at Cheniere Lake Area 3. Mr. Harrison stated that the project was in the process of being repackaged. Mr. Harrison stated the bid opening date was scheduled for March 16, 2009. No other action was taken on this matter.

Mr. Calhoun spoke at length regarding the funding for West Ouachita Recreation District. Motion offered by Mr. Calhoun, seconded by Mr. Blade to remove \$4,000 from the district and put it back into the General Fund. Mr. Calhoun requested a roll call vote on the matter. A roll call vote was done, and the vote thereon was as follows:

YEAS (2)  
NAYS (4)  
ABSTAIN (0)

ABSENT (0)

Motion failed with Mr. Calhoun and Blade voting yes, and Moore, Smiley, Jackson, and Caldwell voting no. Mr. Calhoun requested that the matter be placed back on the agenda for the next meeting.

The president recognized Mr. Caldwell, District C.

**MR. CALDWELL, DISTRICT C:**

Mr. Caldwell stated that he had no items.

The president recognized Mr. Blade, District D.

**MR. BLADE, DISTRICT D:**

Mr. Blade asked Mr. Harrison to speak regarding Davenport Circle and Mary Ballard Rd. Mr. Harrison stated that requests to improve both of those roads had been received. Mr. Harrison indicated that Davenport Circle was number 167 on the Parish's Road Priority List and Mary Ballard was number 413 of the roads to be improved. No other action was taken on this matter.

**MR. SHANE SMILEY, DISTRICT E:**

The president stated that all committee appointments would remain the same except for the appointment to the Library Control Board. The president stated that he would be replacing Mr. Blade with Mrs. Moore on that board. No other action was taken on this matter.

The president recognized Ms. Moore, District F.

**MS. PAT MOORE, DISTRICT F:**

Ms. Moore spoke regarding the trip to Washington. Ms. Moore expressed the urgency in prioritizing the Jury's list of projects for possible funding through the anticipated Federal Stimulus legislation. Discussion ensued. Ms. Sue Nicholson addressed the jury concerning the need to prioritize the list of possible projects. Discussion ensued again. Ms. Moore decided to continue this matter until the next meeting.

Ms. Moore asked Mr. Mitchell to speak regarding the Tanglewood Playground Property. Mr. Mitchell stated that we were waiting on appraisals on the property and hopefully the appraisals would come in conducive to selling it. No other action was taken on this matter.

Mr. Caldwell left the meeting at this time.

The president recognized Mr. Cammack, Treasurer.

## **ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS:**

### **FISCAL: Mr. Brad Cammack, Treasurer**

Mr. Cammack spoke regarding the invoice from North Louisiana Economic Partnership in the amount of \$40,000. Mr. Cammack indicated that this amount had been put in the 2009 budget. Motion offered by Mr. Jackson, seconded by Ms. Moore to pay the invoice. Motion passed with Mr. Caldwell abstaining due to his absence.

Mr. Cammack spoke regarding the X-26 Tasers for the Correction Center. Mr. Caldwell returned to the meeting at this time. Motion offered by Mr. Caldwell, seconded by Mr. Blade to table this item until a later date. Motion passed without opposition.

Mr. Cammack spoke regarding the Louisiana Compliance Questionnaire for fiscal year 2008 that is required by the legislative auditor's office. Motion offered by Mr. Caldwell, seconded by Mr. Jackson to accept the questionnaire subject to the clarification. Motions passed without opposition.

Mr. Cammack spoke regarding the bid tabulation results for the aerial spraying contract (Mosquito Control). Motion offered by Mr. Caldwell, seconded by Mr. Jackson to ratify the action of the Mosquito Abatement Board taken on January 22, 2009 to contract with Clarke Environmental Mosquito Management, Inc. Motion passed without opposition.

The president recognized Chief Hemphill, Fire Department.

### **FIRE: Chief Pat Hemphill, Fire Department**

Chief Hemphill spoke regarding a piece of equipment owned by Public Works used to maintain the training facility. Chief Hemphill requested permission to enter into a cooperative endeavor agreement to purchase the equipment from Public Works at the appraised price of \$3,200. Motion offered by Mr. Caldwell, seconded by Mr. Blade to authorize the president to sign the Cooperative Endeavor Agreement approving the purchase of the equipment. Motion passed without opposition.

### **LEGAL: Mr. Jay B. Mitchell, Assist. Dist. Attorney**

Mr. Mitchell spoke regarding the ambulance contract. Mr. Mitchell stated that he anticipated receiving it in the mail before the next meeting. Motion offered by Mr. Jackson, seconded by Mr. Caldwell to authorize the president to sign the contract once received. Motion passed without opposition.

Mr. Mitchell requested that the jury authorize the president to execute the annual renewal of the third party administrator contract with Crawford & Company regarding the Parish's property, casualty, and workmen's comp insurance. Motion offered by Mr. Caldwell, seconded by Mr. Calhoun to authorize the president to execute said contract. Motion passed without opposition.

The president recognized Mr. Murray, Public Works Director.

**PUBLIC WORKS: Mr. John Tom Murray, Director**

Mr. Murray spoke regarding the purchase of 2009 Vehicle and Heavy Truck Purchases.

- One (1) ½ ton heavy-duty 4 WD pickup truck @ \$26,116
- Two (2) ½ ton heavy-duty 2 WD pickup trucks @ \$23,385 each
- Three (3) C8500 heavy-duty tandem axle dump trucks @ \$69,728 each

Motion offered by Mr. Calhoun, seconded by Mr. Caldwell to purchase the trucks. Motion passed without opposition.

The president recognized Mr. Harrison, Engineer.

**ROADS & DRAINAGE: Mr. Don Harrison, Engineer**

Mr. Harrison spoke regarding the Federal Economic Stimulus Package. Mr. Harrison provided an updated listing of possible projects that may be included in the package. A lengthy discussion ensued.

The following resolution was offered by Mr. Calhoun, seconded by Mr. Caldwell:

**RESOLUTION 09-02**

**A RESOLUTION REQUESTING LOUISIANA’S CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION TO ADVOCATE THE INCLUSION OF FUNDING FOR LOCAL FLOOD CONTROL AND DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS IN THE ECONOMIC STIMULUS LEGISLATION PRESENTLY BEING CONSIDERED BY CONGRESS.**

*WHEREAS*, the United States Congress is presently considering “Economic Stimulus” legislation that will provide unprecedented funding for infrastructure and public works projects;

*WHEREAS*, in Louisiana and many other parts of the Nation the threat of flooding presents a major risk and concern to local governments and their citizens;

*WHEREAS*, localized flooding jeopardizes countless homes and businesses and needlessly consumes vast private and public resources each year;

*WHEREAS*, local public drainage and flood control facilities constitute vital building blocks of the infrastructure of our Nation;

*WHEREAS*, the benefits to be derived from improvement and construction of local public drainage and flood control facilities include, but are not limited to, job creation, protection of homes and businesses, enhancement of quality of life, promotion of development, and improvement of the federal National Flood Insurance Program;

**WHEREAS**, the cost of needed drainage and flood control projects too often exceed the capacity of local governments; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Economic Stimulus legislation now being considered by Congress presents a unique opportunity for federal resources to assist local governments in the funding of important local drainage and flood control projects

**NOW THEREFORE:**

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Ouachita Parish Police Jury hereby requests that Louisiana's Congressional Delegation advocate the inclusion of funding for local flood control and drainage improvement projects in the Economic Stimulus legislation presently under consideration.

The above resolution was adopted the 2<sup>nd</sup> day of February 2009.

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**BEER AND WHISKEY APPLICATIONS:**

There were no applications for beer and whiskey.

**INVITATION FOR PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:**

Rev. John Sewell requested an update on the drainage project in the Tanglewood Subdivision. Mr. Harrison gave a brief update on the project.

Ms. Susan Poe expressed thanks to the jury in support of the latest Keep Ouachita Beautiful Grant.

There being no other business to come before the jury, motion offered by Mr. Blade, seconded by Mr. Jackson to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 8:03 p.m.

**A D J O U R N !**