

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE POLICE JURY, PARISH OF OUACHITA,  
STATE OF LOUISIANA, TAKEN AT A REGULAR MEETING HELD ON,  
MONDAY, MARCH 15, 2010 AT 5:31 P.M.**

The Police Jury of the Parish of Ouachita, State of Louisiana met in a regular session in the Ouachita Parish Police Jury Meeting Room, Courthouse Building, Monroe, Louisiana on Monday, March 15, 2010 at 5:31 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>Ollibeth Reddix</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>

The invocation was given by Mr. Jackson. Mr. Jackson led the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

**VISITORS:**

The president noted the large number of visitors present at the meeting. The president asked his fellow jurors would it be okay to address a matter on Mr. Jackson's agenda at this time. No one objected to taking up the matter at this time. Mr. Jackson, seconded by Mr. Calhoun offered the following resolution for adoption:

**RESOLUTION NO. 10-07**

**A MEMORIAL RESOLUTION IN HONOR OF CORPORAL J.R. SEARCY,  
OUACHITA PARISH SHERIFF'S OFFICE.**

**WHEREAS**, on March 4, 2010, Corporal J.R. Searcy of the Ouachita Parish Sheriff's Office, suffered a mortal gunshot wound in the line of duty;

**WHEREAS**, at the time of this tragic incident Corporal Searcy had completed his assigned shift but had volunteered to assist a fellow deputy, an embodiment of the loyalty and dedication to duty typical of not only Corporal Searcy but of our local law enforcement community;

**WHEREAS**, Corporal Searcy, by his actions embodied the very highest standards of his profession and earned the lasting respect and gratitude of the citizens of Ouachita Parish;

**THEREFORE,**

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Ouachita Parish Police Jury hereby commends the memory of Corporal J. R. Searcy of the Ouachita Parish Sheriff's Office for his heroism and courage in the line of duty and his invaluable sacrifice made in service of the people of Ouachita Parish; and,

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Ouachita Parish Police Jury hereby formally expresses condolences to the family of Corporal Searcy on behalf of the citizens of Ouachita Parish.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Ouachita parish Police Jury hereby evidences its support of the initiative to memorialize Corporal Searcy in the naming of the new library branch presently under construction on La. Hwy 34, and respectfully requests that the Board of Control of the Ouachita Parish Public Library give consideration thereto.

The above resolution was passed this 15<sup>th</sup> day of March 2010.

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The president recognized Daris Warren, President of the Library Board of Control. Mr. Warren stated that a special meeting had been called to address the matter concerning the renaming of the Southwest Branch of the library.

The president recognized Mr. Will Brady of 5320 Hwy 546. Mr. Brady stated that he had started the petition to rename the library and asked that each juror sign the petition. The jury agreed.

The president recognized Paul West of NOVA Workforce Institute. Mr. West along with a member of his staff, a board member, a participant and two members from the interfaith community spoke at length about the benefits and the impact that NOVA has had on the parish. Mr. West asked that the jury consider supporting its endeavors in the parish. No other action was taken on this matter.

The president recognized Cheryl Slavant of Ouachita Riverkeepers. Ms. Slavant spoke about the impact of the effluent from Georgia Pacific Corporation on the Ouachita River. Ms. Slavant stated that the permit for the company was up for renewal and asked that the jury consider offering a letter of support or resolution to the Arkansas DEQ to clean up the river in Arkansas. The president stated that this matter was on his agenda, and he would address it at this time if there were no objections. There were none. Discussion ensued. Motion offered by Mr. Smiley, seconded by Mr. Jackson to give a letter of support to the Ms. Slavant to present to the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality. Motion passes without opposition.

The president recognized Gary Fontana of GNF Management. The president stated that the two matters were on Ms. Moore agenda and if no one objected they would be addressed at this time. No one objected. Mr. Cammack stated that there was an additional item, a resolution regarding the funding proposal for the Gustav/Ike Disaster Recovery Program. Mr. Cammack stated that the jury would have to amend the agenda to take up the third matter which was necessary to meet the state deadline. Motion offered by Mr. Caldwell, seconded by Ms. Moore to amend the agenda for consideration of adopting the resolution regarding LRA funding for the Gustav/Ike Disaster Recovery Program. Motion passed without opposition.

Mr. Fontana stated that the resolution was authorizing the president to sign the application for the funding. Discussion ensued.

Mr. Caldwell, seconded by Mr. Jackson offered the following resolution for adoption:

**RESOLUTION NO. 10-08**

**A RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE OUACHITA PARISH HURRICANES GUSTA/IKE RECOVERY PROPOSAL AND AUTHORIZING THE PARISH PRESIDENT TO SUBMIT THE PROPOSAL TO THE LOUISIANA RECOVERY AUTHORITY FOR FINAL APPROVAL AND AUTHORIZATION TO PROCEED IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE OUACHITA PARISH HURRICANES GUSTA/IKE DISASTER RECOVERY PROGRAM.**

**WHEREAS**, the Consolidated Security, Disaster Assistance, and Continuing Appropriations Act, 2009 (Pub. Law 110-329), enacted on September 30, 2008, appropriated \$6.1 billion through the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program for “necessary expenses related to disaster relief, long-term recovery, and restoration of infrastructure, housing, and economic revitalization in areas affected by hurricanes, floods, and other natural disasters occurring during 2008 for which the president declared a major disaster ...,” and

**WHEREAS**, of the total monies awarded to the State of Louisiana, Ouachita Parish Police Jury has been allocated a total of \$3,709, 564.00 in Hurricanes Gustav/Ike CDBG-Disaster Recovery funding; and

**WHEREAS**, utilization of the funding requires the Ouachita Parish Police Jury to adopt a “Recovery Proposal” that has been developed in collaboration with the citizenry of the Parish and details the project(s) needed to assist the Parish in recovering from the devastating effects of the storms of 2008; and

**WHEREAS**, after public hearings conducted on August 20, 2009, and on March 3, 2010, along with numerous meetings with parish agencies which function to provide public services to persons of low/moderate income, the Parish developed its “Ouachita Parish Police Jury Hurricanes Gustav/Ike Disaster Recovery Proposal” for formal submission to the Louisiana

Recovery Authority.

**NOW, THEREFORE,**

**BE IT RESOLVED** by the Ouachita Parish Police Jury, on behalf of the Ouachita Parish Police Jury, that the “Ouachita Parish Police Jury Hurricanes Gustav/Ike Disaster Recovery Proposal,” attached hereto as Exhibit A, be hereby adopted; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Parish President, Mr. Shane Smiley, is hereby authorized to sign the proposal to the Louisiana Recovery Authority for final approval and authorization to begin the implementation of the Ouachita Parish Police Jury Hurricanes Gustav/Ike Disaster Recovery Program.

This resolution is hereby submitted and declared adopted by the votes recorded as follows on this 15<sup>th</sup> day of March 2010.

\* \* \*

Mr. Fontana spoke regarding the Louisiana Recovery Authority \$10 Million Comprehensive Resiliency Program in Parishes affected by Hurricanes Gustav and Ike. Mr. Fontana stated that the application for possible funding in the amount of \$130,000 was due on March 17<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Fontana indicated that the application did not guarantee funding, but was an instrument to prepare a plan to identify drainage problems, prioritize them, and implement ways to alleviate problems. Discussion ensued. Motion offered by Ms. Moore, seconded by Mr. Caldwell to authorized Mr. Fontana to submit the application on behalf of the Ouachita Parish Police Jury for the LRA \$10 Million Comprehensive Resiliency Program. Motion passed without opposition.

Mr. Fontana asked that the jury authorize the president to sign a letter in support of the application in lieu of a resolution. Discussion ensued again. Motion offered by Mr. Caldwell, seconded by Mr. Calhoun to authorize the president to sign a letter in support of the grant and the submission thereof. Motion passed without opposition.

Ms. Moore spoke regarding the consulting fees associated with the grant application. Mr. Fontana expressed to the jury that there were no professional fees included in the grant. Discussion ensued. Motion offered by Mr. Jackson, seconded by Mr. Caldwell to authorize an amount not to exceed \$1000 to be paid for through the drainage fund for professional services performed by GNF Management. Motion passed without opposition.

Ms. Moore asked Mr. Cammack to address the jury on the matter of the protocol for the Physical Accessibility Application. Mr. Cammack indicated that GNF Management had been hired to prepare the application but not submit it. Discussion ensued. Ms. Moore stated that the application had been submitted. Mr. Mitchell indicated that if the jury has not ratified the application then the jury has no obligation to accept the award. Discussion ensued again. Mr. Mitchell stated that if the jury is awarded the grant, the jury is not obligated to accept the grant.

Mr. Mitchell also stated that the jury could take action to withdraw the application submitted by Mr. Fontana by acting on the matter tonight. Mr. Jackson spoke extensively about the administrative fees associated with the grant. Discussion ensued again. No action was taken on this matter.

The president recognized Martha Hudson 114 Roosevelt Circle located in Fair Oaks Subdivision. The president indicated that the matter was on Dr. Reddix's agenda and asked the jury to address the matter at this time. No one objected to taking up the matter at this time. Ms. Hudson spoke regarding the inability to use the restroom facilities in her home when it rains. Ms. Hudson stated that the problem was throughout the subdivision and asked the jury for assistance in addressing the matter. Discussion ensued. The jury asked that Mr. Mitchell look into the matter and get back with Ms. Hudson.

The president asked for a motion to recess the regular meeting in favor of the Finance Committee. Motion offered by Mr. Caldwell, seconded by Mr. Calhoun to recess the regular meeting and reconvene as the Finance Committee. Motion passed without opposition.

## **FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING**

The chairman, Mr. Jackson called the Finance Committee meeting to order at 6:54 p.m.

Mr. Jackson recognized Mr. Cammack. Mr. Cammack spoke regarding the claims statement for the period of February 16, 2010 through March 11, 2010, recommended approval. Motion offered by Mr. Caldwell, seconded by Dr. Reddix to approve the claims as recommended. Motion passed without opposition.

Mr. Cammack stated that he did not have anything new to present on the operations of the jail, but had discussed with Mr. Mitchell the election dates for the millage renewal. Mr. Cammack added that the jury needed to consider when they would like to put the matter on the ballot. Discussion ensued. No action was taken on this matter.

Mr. Cammack stated that a fund balance update was sent out in the packets and noted that the library was the only fund that had a balance from the previous year. No action was taken on this matter.

Mr. Cammack spoke regarding the recent change in the law that requires self-insured companies to have an impress fund. Mr. Cammack stated that a deposit of \$124,000 would be set aside for the purpose of paying claims through our provider Crawford & Company. Discussion ensued. Motion offered by Mr. Caldwell, seconded by Mr. Smiley to set up an impress fund for Workmen's Comp and General Liability in the amount of \$124,000 subject to the approval of the Treasurer and the Legal Department. Motion passed without opposition.

The chairman recognized Mr. Beckham, Office of Homeland Security. Mr. Beckham spoke regarding the bid for generators and transfer switches. The bids were opened on March 2, 2010.

Mr. Cammack stated that the bids were opened and that questions came up during the process concerning the specifications for these items and their installation. In view of these issues, Mr. Cammack suggested that the jury consider rejecting all bids and hire an electrical engineer or contractor to put the bid specs together, determine and recommend the lowest conforming bid, oversee the installation process and approve the invoices for payment. Discussion ensued. Mr. Cammack recommended that the jury reject all bids. Motion offered by Mr. Caldwell, seconded by Dr. Reddix to reject all bids. Motion passed without opposition. Discussion ensued again. No other action was taken on the matter.

The chairman noted correspondence from the Firefighter's Retirement System and the District Attorney's Retirement System. No action was taken on the matter.

A motion to adjourn was offered by Mr. Jackson, seconded by Mr. Caldwell. The Finance Committee meeting was adjourned at 7:28 p.m.

A motion to reconvene the regular meeting was offered by Ms. Moore, seconded by Dr. Reddix. Motion passed without opposition.

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

The president recognized Mr. Jackson, District A.

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

Mr. Jackson asked Mr. Cammack to speak regarding the Energy Efficiency Grant. Mr. Cammack stated that he would be competitively advertising this week for a mechanical engineer for the project. A brief discussion ensued. No other action was taken on this matter.

Mr. Jackson asked that the matter regarding the Green Springs Flood Project be placed on the April 5<sup>th</sup> agenda as well as Cheyenne Drive.

Mr. Jackson introduced the following ordinance.

### **ORDINANCE NO. 8926 (INTRODUCTION)**

**AN ORDINANCE REQUIRING THE PAYMENT OF PUBLIC, EDUCATIONAL, GOVERNMENTAL ACCESS PROGRAMMING SUPPORT TO THE PARISH OF OUACHITA BY CABLE OR VIDEO SERVICES PROVIDERS OPERATING WITHIN THE PARISH'S UNINCORPORATED LIMITS UNDER A STATE-ISSUED CERTIFICATE OF FRANCHISE AUTHORITY AND OTHERWISE PROVIDING WITH RESPECT THERETO:**

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to the provisions of the Consumer Choice for Television Act of 2008, codified at LSA-RS.45:1361 et seq, any person or entity desiring to provide cable or video services within the Parish of Ouachita may do so by obtaining a state-issued certificate of franchise authority;

**WHEREAS**, the Parish of Ouachita has requested those entities providing cable or video services within the unincorporated limits of the Parish of Ouachita to provide public, educational, and governmental access programming, streams, or channels (“PEG”) and desires to collect PEG access support from these cable or video service providers pursuant to the provisions of LSA-R.S.45:1370

**BE IT THEREFORE** ordained by the Police Jury of the Parish of Ouachita, State of Louisiana, that pursuant to the provisions of LSA-R.S.45:1361 *et seq*, providers of cable or video services holding a state issued certificate of franchise authority as provided in LSA-R.S.45:1361 et seq, and operating within the Parish’s municipal limits shall pay to the Parish of Ouachita an amount equal to one half percent of the gross revenues, as that term is defined by the “Consumer Choice for Television Act of 2008,” derived from operations within the Parish’s unincorporated limits.

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Mr. Jackson asked Mr. Mitchell to speak regarding the West Ouachita Sewer District #16 DRA Grant Application. Mr. Mitchell stated that the grant had been awarded for the year 2009 and that the jury needed to accept the grant and authorize the president to sign the necessary documents. Motion offered by Mr. Jackson, seconded by Mr. Calhoun to accept the grant and authorize the president to sign all grant documents. Motion passed without opposition.

The president recognized Mr. Calhoun, District B.

**MR. MACK CALHOUN, DISTRICT B:**

Mr. Calhoun asked Mr. Holtzclaw to update the jury on the road list for the entire parish. Mr. Holtzclaw stated that he was working with Public Works to update the road list for the entire parish. Mr. Holtzclaw indicated that he would present the updated list sometime in April.

Mr. Calhoun spoke briefly regarding the redistricting of the parish and encouraged each juror to visit North Delta to provide input for the new map. No action was taken on this matter

Mr. Calhoun asked Mr. Holtzclaw to update the jury on the Cheniere Lake Bathroom Project. Mr. Holtzclaw stated that he had been in contact with the contractor and that the problems with the fire marshal had been worked out. Mr. Holtzclaw indicated that the project was back on track and progressing. Mr. Calhoun added that an additional 100,000 fingerlings would be added to the lake this year. No other action was taken on this matter.

Mr. Calhoun spoke briefly regarding the Sparta Aquifer. Mr. Calhoun indicated that the commission had applied for non-profit status to apply for grant funds and had established an office at Louisiana Tech. No action was taken on this matter.

The president recognized Mr. Caldwell, District C.

**MR. WALT CALDWELL, DISTRICT C:**

Mr. Caldwell asked that the matter regarding Skate Lane be deferred to the next meeting of the jury.

Mr. Caldwell asked Mr. Holtzclaw to update the jury on the Bayou Desiard Restoration Project. Mr. Holtzclaw stated that he had spoken with officials from the City of Monroe and the Corps of Engineer. Mr. Holtzclaw indicated that he was still waiting on a letter from the city addressing the proposed drawdown of the bayou. No other action was taken on this matter.

Mr. Caldwell stated that he would address the matter concerning drainage issues within the Treasure Island Subdivision with the public works director and the engineer later.

Mr. Caldwell asked that the matters regarding debris cleanup and the ULM/Comcast Government Access Channel be deferred to the next meeting. Mr. Caldwell asked that Lonewa Road be added to the next agenda.

The president recognized Dr. Reddix, District D.

**DR. OLLIBETH REDDIX, DISTRICT D:**

Dr. Reddix thanked the jury for their support in applying for and submitting the Care Grant Application. Dr. Reddix asked Mr. Holtzclaw to speak regarding the J. S. Clark Cemetery. Mr. Holtzclaw presented the proposed scope of work for engineering services to develop the cemetery improvement project. Discussion ensued. Motion offered by Dr. Reddix, seconded by Mr. Caldwell to accept the proposal as presented with funds coming from the Cemetery Fund. Motion passed without opposition.

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

The president spoke regarding the extension of the quiet zone along the KCS Railway. Motion offered by Mr. Smiley, seconded by Ms. Moore to enter into a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement with the City of Monroe to extend the quiet zone along KCS Railways as far as Delta Community College. Motion passed without opposition.

The president recognized Ms. Moore, District F.

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

Ms. Moore spoke briefly regarding the position of a Grant Writer for Ouachita Parish. Ms. Moore asked that the department heads provide input regarding the position. Mr. Cammack, Ms. Bennett and Mr. Murray provided useful information to the jury. Discussion ensued. Ms. Moore asked that the matter be placed on the April 5<sup>th</sup> meeting on the jury.

Ms. Moore spoke regarding the Hi-Speed Broadband for Communities. Mr. Cammack stated that he had gone to the website for additional information and recommended that the jury consider the proposal. Discussion ensued. Motion offered by Ms. Moore, seconded by Mr. Caldwell to authorize the Treasurer to request the information to show the jury's interest in the Hi-Speed Broadband for Communities. Motion passed without opposition.

Ms. Moore spoke regarding the Smart Growth Implementation Assistance-2010 Request for Letters of Interest. Discussion ensued. Motion offered by Ms. Moore, seconded by Mr. Calhoun to submit a 2010 Request for Letters of Interest for a Neighborhood Master Plan for the Unincorporated Areas of District D and F. Discussion ensued again. Ms. Moore withdrew her motion. A motion was offered by Dr. Reddix, seconded by Ms. Moore to pass a resolution to submit a 2010 Request for Letters of Interest for the unincorporated areas east of the river including the municipal limits. Motion passed without opposition.

Ms. Moore, seconded by Mr. Jackson asked the jury to amend the agenda to take up the matter of approving Ouachita Parish Police Jury participation in the Out for Life Task Force Forum. Ms. Moore stated that the reason for the waiver was due to time. The flyer needed to be mailed out this week. Motion passed without opposition. Motion offered by Ms. Moore, seconded by Mr. Jackson to use the name of the police jury as a host on the flyer in support of the Out for Life Task Force Forum to be held on April 22, 2010. Motion passed without opposition.

**ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS:**

The president recognized Mr. Cammack, Treasurer.

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

Mr. Cammack stated that he had no additional items.

The president recognized Chief Hemphill, Fire Department.

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

Chief Hemphill noted that his department would be hiring 10 additional firefighters.

The president recognized Mr. Mitchell, Assistant District Attorney.

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

Mr. Mitchell asked that the jury amend the agenda to take up a matter regarding the right of way for the Bennett Bayou Canal. Mr. Mitchell stated that he had failed to put these items on the agenda through oversight, but they needed to be acted on before the next meeting so as not to delay construction.

Motion offered by Mr. Jackson, seconded by Mr. Calhoun to amend the agenda to take up the matter of Bennett Bayou Canal so that construction can continue forward. Motion passed without opposition. Mr. Mitchell spoke regarding the right of way for Bennett Bayou Canal. Discussion ensued. Motion offered by Mr. Caldwell, seconded by Mr. Jackson to authorize the president to sign the documents accepting the alignment of the new canal upon approval of the parish engineer. Motion passed without opposition.

Mr. Mitchell spoke briefly regarding the ordinance necessary to revoke the old right of way. Dr. Reddix introduced the following ordinance.

**ORDINANCE NO. 8952**

**AN ORDINANCE REVOKING A PORTION OF THE DRAINAGE SERVITUDE FOR THE BENNETT BAYOU CANAL LOCATED BETWEEN LOUISIANA HIGHWAY 594 AND US. INTERSTATE 20; AND FURTHER PROVIDING WITH RESPECT THERETO.**

The president recognized Mr. Murray, Public Works Director.

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

Mr. Murray asked that the follow list of equipment be declared surplus and placed in the public auction on April 9, 2010. Motion offered by Mr. Caldwell, seconded by Dr. Reddix to approve the request and declare the equipment as surplus. Motion passed without opposition.

26" Yazoo Mower/Asset #9389/Serial #9B986180  
26" Yazoo Mower/Asset #9390/Serial #9L985802  
Alamo A84B Offset Mower/Asset #12071/Serial #01685  
Alamo A84B Offset Mower/Asset #12072/Serial #01682  
Alamo A84B Offset Mower/Asset #12073/Serial #01683  
Alamo A84B Offset Mower/Asset #12074/Serial #01681  
60" Toro Lawn Mower/Asset #13405/Serial #L963617899  
Caterpillar V140 Forklift/Asset #11148/Srial #12V372

Cheniere Lake

72" Sidewinder Mowing Deck/Asset #6161/Serial #852542

Mr. Murray spoke regarding the herbicide contract with Weed Pro, LLC and recommended that the contract be extended for the year 2010 in the amount of \$37,600. Motion offered by Mr. Calhoun, seconded by Mr. Jackson to approve the recommended of the Public Works Director to extend the contract as stated. Motion passed without opposition.

The president recognized Mr. Holtzclaw, Parish Engineer.

**ROADS & DRAINAGE: Mr. Tom Holtzclaw, Engineer**

Mr. Holtzclaw stated that the bid opening for Good Hope Road and Hadley Street will take place on March 17<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Holtzclaw also noted that the bid opening for Vancil Road is March 31, 2010. Mr. Holtzclaw indicated that the results of those bid openings will be revealed at the next meeting of the jury. No other action was taken on these matters

**BEER AND WHISKEY APPLICATIONS:**

There were none.

There being no other business to come before the jury, a motion to adjourn was offered by Mr. Caldwell, seconded by Mr. Smiley. The meeting was adjourned at 8:42 p.m.

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