

PROCEEDINGS OF THE POLICE JURY OF THE PARISH OF NATCHITOCHES,
STATE OF LOUISIANA, TAKEN A REGULAR MEETING HELD, MONDAY,

October 12, 2009

5:00 P. M.

The Police Jury of the Parish of Natchitoches, State of Louisiana, met in regular and legal session in the Police Jury Board Room of the Natchitoches Parish Courthouse, on Monday, October 12, 2009 at five o'clock (5:00) p.m.

The Invocation was given by Juror Mimi Stoker, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Juror Charles Huggins.

There were present: The Honorable David Dollar, President, Police Jurors: Gerald Longlois, Chris Paige, J. D. Garrett, William Hymes, Charles Huggins, Johnny Martin, Jessie Hoffpauir, Mimi Stoker and Fred Jacobs.

There was absent: Tom Collier.

The Police Jury of the Parish of Natchitoches was then convened as the governing authority of said parish by the President who stated that the Police Jury was ready for the transaction of business.

President Dollar then recognized and told Rev. Wayne Hicks that the matter he wanted to speak about would be discuss later on the agenda. Rev. Hicks then stated that he would wait until that time.

President Dollar then recognized Mr. George Minturn, Parish Architect, who told the Jury that the Health Unit had a leak and needed repairing. Mr. Minturn stated that he had received a quote from Terry Roofing & Sheet Metal of Shreveport. The only problem that he was concerned with is the rotten deck. He stated that Terry Roofing excluded the price because they could not tell how much damage would be there. Mr. Minturn also stated that they had given them a price of \$5.00 a square foot to replace the deck but if the joists were rotten he would have to find a carpenter to replace them. Relative to this, the following action was taken:

On motion by Mr. Paige, duly seconded by Mr. Collier, that the Natchitoches Parish Police Jury, in regular and legal session convened, does hereby approve repairs to the Natchitoches Parish Health Unit.

Motion Carried

On motion by Mr. Jacobs, duly seconded by Mr. Hymes, in regular and legal session convened, does hereby adopt the minutes of the Work Session/Regular meeting held Monday, September 14, 2009.

Motion Carried

On motion by Mr. Collier, duly seconded by Mr. Hymes, that the Natchitoches Parish Police Jury, in regular and legal session convened, does hereby conduct a public hearing to hear any and all comments or objections relative to the removal of P. R. #407-B, the S. T. Sibley Road out of the Parish Road System.

Motion Carried

President Dollar then declared the Public Hearing open and asked if anyone had any comments or objections. Since there were none, the following action was taken:

On motion by Mr. Hymes, duly seconded by Mr. Collier, that the Natchitoches Parish Police Jury, in regular and legal session convened, does hereby close the public hearing.

Motion Carried

Relative to this, the following action was taken:

On motion by Mr. Collier, duly seconded by Mr. Hymes, that the Natchitoches Parish Police Jury, in regular and legal session convened, does hereby remove P. R. #407-B, the S. T. Sibley Road, out of the Parish Road System.

Motion Carried

On motion by Mr. Longlois, duly seconded by Mr. Jacobs, that the Natchitoches Parish Police Jury, in regular and legal session convened, does hereby conduct a public hearing to hear any and all comments or objections relative to adopting an animal ordinance for the Parish of Natchitoches.

President Dollar then declared the Public Hearing open and asked if anyone had any comments or objections. He then recognized Ms. Juanita Murphy who thanked the Jury for their help with the animal ordinance. Ms. Murphy went on to say that the people of Natchitoches Parish need the Jury's help in this matter. She stated that there were several groups present that have pledged their time to raise money for this problem. She also stated that Maurice's Store on Keyser Avenue has submitted a letter of support along with Robinson's Rescue out of Shreveport, Louisiana who has also submitted a letter of support. Others present were members of the Humane Society, Dee McGree, a member of the Hope for Paws Organization and Shannon Brunson with the Natchitoches Parish Detention Center. Ms. Murphy stated that these groups were willing to help with securing grants, spade and neutering and finding foster homes. President Dollar then stated that he and others have met with the District Attorney and was asked to table this for one more month to make sure we get the proper corrections and changes.

He then recognized Mr. Van Kyzar, District Attorney. District Attorney Kyzar then stated that this issue was dear to his heart because his mom was one of the founding members of the Humane Society many years ago. He stated that a week ago a short committee had met to discuss the future of this and what needed to be done. Mr. Kyzar then stated that it was his recommendation to the Jury that we get this right by presenting an ordinance that make sense for the Parish. He then stated that the City of Natchitoches has an ordinance that has worked well over the years and the Parish should mirror this ordinance so that there is uniformity in the city and parish. Mr. Kyzar stated that the major part of the ordinance is the registration. He went on to say that we needed to address the long term need for the Parish to have an animal shelter. Mr. Kyzar then asked to table adopting this ordinance until another month. Since there were no other comments or objections, the following action was taken:

On motion by Mr. Jacobs, duly seconded by Mr. Collier, that the Natchitoches Parish Police Jury, in regular and legal session convened, does hereby close the public hearing.

Motion Carried

Relative to this, the following action was taken:

On motion by Mr. Hymes, duly seconded by Mr. Collier, that the Natchitoches Parish Police Jury, in regular and legal session convened, does hereby table adopting an animal ordinance for the Parish of Natchitoches.

Motion Carried

On motion by Mr. Paige, duly seconded by Mr. Garrett, that the Natchitoches Parish Police Jury, in regular and legal session convened, does hereby adopt a resolution approving the issuance and delivery of not exceeding \$175,000.00 of Certificates of Indebtedness, Series 2009, of Fire Protection District #4 of the Parish of Natchitoches.

Motion Carried

President Dollar then stated that the next item on the agenda was to adopt a resolution appointing a selection committee and setting the criteria for an administrative consultant. He stated that this was one of those things that the Jury has done before on behalf of Martco Partnership. Relative to this, the following action was taken:

On motion by Mr. Longlois, duly seconded by Mr. Hymes, that the Natchitoches Parish Police Jury, in regular and legal session convened, does hereby adopt a resolution appointing a Selection Committee of Mr. Paige, Mr. Martin and Mr. Jacobs and set the selection criteria for an administrative consultant for the LCDBG 2010-2011 Economic Development Program.

Motion Carried

President Dollar then recognized Ms. Sharon Harris, Executive Director of the NPPJOCS/Head Start Department, who told the Jury she was going to start with the Community Service Block Grant. Ms. Harris stated that the program was going along and helping folks with emergency needs. She stated that the Program ended September 30, 2009 and they were trying to get started with the grant in the amount of \$137,407.00 that will be submitted this month and would get the paperwork to Mr. Dollar to sign. Ms. Harris then stated that they have a new voucher program for food items that is determined based on the number of people in the household. She also stated that they would go to People Food Warehouse and purchase the items and sign the tickets. Mrs. Harris then talked briefly about the seniors food program and the assistance program to help people with their mortgage, rent, and utilities. She then stated that the Emergency Clothing Bank helped two families that came in for assistance. During the month of September, they seen a total of 150 households and took phones calls for the energy assistance program and expect more money in 2010. Mrs. Harris also stated that Head Start have full enrollment and needed a policy council member from the Jury. As far as the Christmas Festival parking, Mrs. Harris told the Jury that her office gave out 11 tickets and received \$1,400.00 that will be put in the RSVP fund.

On motion by Mrs. Stoker, duly seconded by Mr. Longlois, that the Natchitoches Parish Police Jury, in regular and legal session convened, does hereby accept the report of the Office of Community Services/Head Start Program.

Motion Carried

Mrs. Harris then discussed the cost saving measures that was presented. She stated that she had looked over their programs and was asking the Jury to approve the proposal. Mrs. Harris stated that she had looked at the health insurance and was asking all staff to pay \$150.00 plus the \$68.44. The \$68.44 is what some are already paying which brings the total to \$218.44 for the single coverage and family coverage would pay the \$150.00 plus the \$513.13 totaling \$663.13. She also stated that this would be a saving of \$931.31 on a monthly basis and if you multiply that by 12, it would be a start in saving. Ms. Harris then stated that she have not told her staff but her staff was aware of this proposal and understood there would be a change and some responsibility they will have to take. Ms. Harris also stated that she told her staff about the 40% but did not tell them about the \$218.44. She also told them about the 5% salary cut. Mr. Paige then asked if the \$150.00 was in addition to the insurance already being paid? Ms. Harris then stated that she was talking about the OCS employees and has not hit on the Head Start Program yet. Mrs. Stoker then asked if some of these employees were present? Mr. Paige also asked who was going to pay the extra \$150.00? Ms. Harris then stated that what they were looking at from the OCS and Head Start if the employee pay the \$68.44 a month they would have to pay the extra \$150.00. Mr. Paige then stated that he did not see anyone paying this and saw a lot of people dropping the insurance. He then asked how many employees are we taking about? Ms. Harris stated 63 Head Start employees. Mrs. Hamilton then stated that the Jury's policy states that an employee could not drop the insurance unless they showed proof of other insurance. Mrs. Barnum then stated that the Policy Council voted that each employee would pay \$150.00 across the board. She stated that there are Policy Council members present that voted the \$150.00. President Dollar then stated that folks were coming in thought it was about a \$80.00 difference going from \$68.44 to \$150.00 and now it is \$150.00 on top of the \$68.44. Mrs. Barnum started with the \$150.00 not knowing it would be \$218.44. Mr. Paige then asked if the Jury had a policy that stated they could not drop the insurance unless they show proof of other insurance? Mr. Hymes stated that he could not see how employees on their salary could obtain insurance at that price. He went on to say that to get out of the insurance policy they would have to have other insurance and if there is a problem with someone having a pre-existing condition they are not going to get any insurance. That person will be stuck at almost \$300.00 coming out of their paycheck. Mr. Hymes then stated that he was going to make a recommendation that Mrs. Hamilton contact insurance vendors to see if some type of hardship could be created in order to provide some relief to the people. He also stated that there has to be some hardship loophole within the insurance policy. Ms. Miley then stated that we had submitted one proposal that was based on percentage on salaries but the Policy Council chose to do the \$150.00 across the Board. She then stated that it was not fair to those who pay the \$68.44 already and just pay \$150.00 and the others pay \$150.00 someone is getting cheated, so it either needs to be back down to \$68.44 from the \$150.00. But that is not what they voted on.

The other conflict, Ms. Miley stated, is that we have to balance the budget. It has to be reduced or we may lose the program and the Jury could not afford the cost. She then stated that the Jury's insurance is at a 167% ratio this year due to some really large claims and this year is really bad in claims. Mr. Hymes then stated that he understood but there must be some type of loophole to allow the people who can not afford the insurance with their children and all the stuff in their houses. They should be able to get out of the insurance no matter if they have insurance or not. Mr. Paige then stated "Lets get real, you are talking about taking \$150.00 out of some of these people's paychecks and when we talk about paying utilities these people can not pay their utility bills. These same people will be in the line and when taking a \$150.00 of their paychecks, I wonder if they will be making minimum wage, Mr. Paige stated. Mrs. Hamilton then stated that they had suggested doing a percentage basis on the insurance and if some type of cut is not done, the Parish will be looking at another deficit. We also suggested they look at eligible retirees who would not have to be replaced. Mrs. Hamilton also stated by doing this the retirees would have an income. Mrs. Stoker stated that it is not fair that you make everyone pay \$150.00 and some people make \$1,000.00 a month to several thousand dollars a month. Mr. Hymes then stated that he had served on the Policy Council for a little while and thought the Jury should table this recommendation and let the council bring it back. He also stated that if we don't approve the recommendation they would have to put it back on their agenda to make an another recommendation. President Dollar then asked looking back at this proposed deal if we save \$66,742.89 between now and the end of February would that balanced the budget? Ms. Miley then stated it would balance the budget and give about \$40,000.00 for the deficit.

President Dollar then recognized Ms. Erica Dupree who told the Jury that she was employed with the Head Start Program and have been listening to Mrs. Hamilton and the Jury for the last couple of months, Mrs. Judy and Ms. Harris and who ever are in charge and we are not getting any answers. She stated that they were first told that in order to keep your insurance employees needed to pay \$68.00 with no explanation. She also stated that they had to sign a statement even disclaiming or if you are opting to accept this. We need an explanation telling us if our insurance is \$490.56 and this was a part of our package deal why it is being changed. Ms. Dupree stated that they could not afford to pay the \$218.44 and maintain their responsibilities at home. She also stated that if they get the \$218.00 taken out of their paychecks they might as well go and get food stamps and unemployment because that amount would hurt them. Ms. Dupree also stated that the insurance has not been addressed because all they have been hearing is fringe is eating us up. She then asked who is in charge of fringe? She then told the Jury they needed to work with them as well as their bosses to work this out. President Dollar then asked if you would rather lay-off employees than have an across the board cut? Ms. Dupree replied, if that is what we need to do, lay people off rather than hurt all of them.

President Dollar then recognized Ms. Nikki Reliford who told the Jury if she was not mistaken the Jury have an ordinance where employees can not opt out of the insurance unless they show proof of other health insurance. She also stated that Mr. Hymes asked who created the ordinance. Ms. Reliford told the Jury that if she was not mistaken the Police Jury created the ordinance. She then asked if there were any way the Jury could take back the ordinance? She also stated that she was not trying to be funny but LSU Hospital was still on Kings Highway. Ms. Reliford went on to say that she was a single parent who could not afford the \$68.00 for the extra insurance and now they are telling them they have to pay \$218.00. She stated that if she could not afford to pay the \$68.00 she could not afford the \$218.00. She also stated the \$218.00 was her light bill and if she had to pay that amount her kids would go without food and clothing. Ms. Reliford then stated that the Jury is saying that the agency is suffering but if that amount is taken out they will be the ones suffering. She also stated that if she was making \$3,000.00 a month, the \$218.00 would not hit her as hard as the \$800.00 a month she is currently making. She stated that this is hard on a person to work a whole 30 days in order to bring home \$500.00 a month. Relative to this, the following action was taken:

On motion by Mr. Hymes, duly seconded by Mr. Longlois, that the Natchitoches Parish Police Jury, in regular and legal session convened, does hereby approve the cost saving measures presented by the OCS/Headstart Department.

On a roll call vote, the vote thereon was as follows:

YES: None.

NO: Longlois, Garrett, Hymes, Martin, Collier, Stoker, Jacobs and Dollar.

ABSENT: Huggins, Hoffpauir. Paige was absent for vote.

ABSTAIN: None.

With the vote being eight (8) no and zero (0) yes, the motion to approve cost saving measures failed.

Motion Failed

President Dollar then stated that this matter would be sent back to the Policy Council for revising.

On motion by Mr. Collier, duly seconded by Mr. Martin, that the Natchitoches Parish Police Jury, in regular and legal session convened, does hereby authorize the Purchasing Agent to advertise for materials and supplies for the Parish Highway Department.

Motion Carried

Mr. Townsend then stated that in the past we have advertise for maintenance gravel and needed to clarify that and advertise for 5/8" , 1/2" gravel and 1 1/2" gravel.

Next, President Dollar recognized Ms. Debbie Miley, Parish Treasurer, who told the Jury what they have in front of them was a report on the funds for the end of September 30, 2009. She stated that last month we had a cash balance of \$241,000 and this month is \$236,891 a \$5,000.00 decrease. Ms. Miley then told the Jury that the biggest change was the Headstart decreased about \$242,000.00. Ms. Miley also stated that they had cleared out everything on the current grant and Beverly had requested funds three times last month. Last, Ms. Miley told the Jury that three grants ended in September, 2009 and there was \$205,789.05 in the hole that we could not cover. Relative to this, the following action was taken:

On motion by Mr. Longlois, duly seconded by Mrs. Stoker, that the Natchitoches Parish Police Jury, in regular and legal session convened, does hereby accept the report of the Treasurer.

Motion Carried

Ms. Miley then talked to the Jury about the Budget. She stated that in the general fund budget she reduced more on severance tax by \$25,000.00. She also stated that she went line by line to reduce in order to come up with extra cash. Ms. Miley then stated that the Criminal Court Fund needed more money so she gave them \$37,000 to try to help balance their budget. She then told the Jurors that the Jury is still in a big bind with the Criminal Court System and we also have outstanding bills for the Coroner over \$40,000.00. Ms. Miley then told the Jury that autopsies has not been paid and she did not know when they are going to stop taking them. Mr. Paige then stated that the community needed to know what is going on and who is footing the bills. He also stated that the Coroner's office need to know when to stop. President Dollar then stated that in talking with the District Attorney and Judges, he was told that what we are getting is real and with every case they could have something to come up on the cause of death and an need autopsy. President Dollar told the Jury about a case we had two or three years ago that created a problem because the Coroner did not request an autopsy. Ms. Miley then stated that she needed money in Fund 112 to pay the detention center. Relative to this, the following action was taken:

On motion by Mr. Collier, duly seconded by Mr. Longlois, that the Natchitoches Parish Police Jury, in regular and legal session convened, does hereby approve amending the 2009 Budget.

Motion Carried

Mrs. Miley then stated that the Headcount of prisoners was

On motion by Mr. Longlois, duly seconded by Mr. Hymes, that the Natchitoches Parish Police Jury, in regular and legal session convened, does hereby adopt a resolution requesting the Federal Government to continue providing the Federal Aid Off-System Bridge Program.

Motion Carried

President Dollar then read the next item on the agenda concerning the transportation of fuel for the generators at the expense of the OEP office. He recognized Mr. Earl Townsend who told the Jury that in an OEP meeting with the Sheriff and other members it came to their attention that generators would be placed around the Parish and they began talking about buying a trailer to pull around to refuel the generators. He stated in order to get a generator for the parish we would transport the fuel. Mr. Townsend went on to say that he wanted a generator to stay on premises at the Highway Department and OEP is working with the Parish. Relative to this, the following action was taken:

On motion by Mr. Longlois, duly seconded by Mr. Collier, that the Natchitoches Parish Police Jury, in regular and legal session convened, does hereby authorize the President to sign a Memorandum of Understanding to assist the OEP office with transportation of fuel for generators at the OEP expense.

Motion Carried

On motion by Mr. Hymes, duly seconded by Mrs. Stoker, that the Natchitoches Parish Police Jury, in regular and legal session convened, does hereby table amending the Health Insurance Policy, Section 2-24 of the Natchitoches Parish Code of Ordinances.

Motion Carried

On motion by Mr. Paige, duly seconded by Mr. Garrett, that the Natchitoches Parish Police Jury, in regular and legal session convened, does hereby adopt a resolution authorizing the Louisiana State Mineral and Energy Board and the Office of Mineral Resources to accept nominations and advertise for oil, gas and mineral leases on behalf of the Natchitoches Parish Police Jury.

Motion Carried

President Dollar then recognized Mr. Earl Townsend, Director of Public Works, who reported emergency expenditures for the period of September 15, 2009 through October 12, 2009 in the amount of **\$850.89**.

On motion by Mr. Paige, duly seconded by Mr. Jacobs, that the Natchitoches Parish Police Jury, in regular and legal session convened, does hereby approve expenditures for the period of September 15, 2009 through October 12, 2009 in the amount of **\$982,512.30**.

Motion Carried

On motion by Mr. Jacobs, duly seconded by Mr. Garrett, that the Natchitoches Parish Police Jury, in regular and legal session convened, does hereby appoint Mrs. Mimi Stoker to serve on the NPPJOCS/Head Start Policy Council for the 2009-2012 term.

Motion Carried

President Dollar stated that they would go around the table before going into Executive Session. He then stated that we have worked hard and a number of people have attended a number of meetings trying to get the shooting range, the sheriff department and the Police Jury contract where we need it and so far we have gotten close. He stated that we have asked the District Attorney to proceed with filing the suit and that will probably happen tomorrow. President Dollar also stated that he thought a positive outcome is out there for the citizens of Natchitoches Parish but we could not work it out informally so we are proceeding with the suit.

President Dollar then recognized Mr. Longlois who told the Jury that he had met twice with the Committee concerning the hauling ordinance permit and will be meeting one more time. Mr. Longlois also stated that he felt they had come to an agreement but will know for sure when they meet again. Mr. Longlois then stated that the next meeting will be November 4th at 9:00 a.m. and he needed a Juror to be there.

President Dollar then recognized Mrs. Stoker who told her that Catherine has informed me that we do have an ordinance on the book that charges each prisoner. They are charge five to ten dollars a visit to the doctor or hospital. She stated that possibly we needed to look into that because she was told that it could decrease if they are not billing us but it is something to look into. Mr. Paige then stated that the last time we talked about this it was a legal matter so we dropped it. If you have a prisoner that do not have any money and can not go to the doctor what do you do just let him die? Mrs. Stoker then stated that she was told that there have been prisoners that are employed in jail for a month they run up a big bill and when they get out they go back to their job. She then asked why couldn't we bill the insurance company, Sheriff or Hospital? Mr. Paige then asked if she was talking about the Work Release Program? Mrs. Stoker replied she did not know.

President Dollar then asked Mr. Townsend about the Hart Road Bridge closing for the bridge construction. He also asked if the people had another way around and if the road was on the Work Schedule for some of the FEMA hot mix. Mr. Townsend then stated that they were shooting for that but have not gotten anything in writing yet. He stated that he received a phone call and email but did not have a formal letter telling us to start. Mr. Townsend also stated that he had the contractor line up to do the work and if the weather permits whenever he receives the letter from Joe or who ever saying we can began we will start. He also stated that the deadline to finish this work was August next year. President Dollar then gave a quick update on the Eight-Mile Loop Bridge. He stated that Mr. Creamer has been held up and has been unable to get started because of the weather.

President Dollar then recognized Mr. Martin who asked why couldn't we get the School Board to take the Head Start? Mr. Martin then stated the School Board should have it because that is where it needs to be? Mr. Hymes then stated that the public school system is probably about 60% locally funded which means its funded through your tax dollars and all that stuff. He also stated that it was funded through the State of Louisiana and that they do have federal help, which are the Titles 1, 2, 3, and 4 programs. Mr. Hymes then stated that the Head Start Program receives no local dollars because it is totally federal funded. So asking why we can't elect the local school board to handle Head Start is because they are a federal program and they can not do anything without calling the Dallas Office. They would frown pretty hard because the School Board is not authorized to govern the Head Start.

President Dollar then stated that we needed to add adopting a resolution to submit an application to the Governor's Office of Homeland Security & Emergency Preparedness Planning Pilot Grant Program for the Parish Courthouse, Old Courthouse, Live Oak Annex and for storm water management projects. Relative to this, the following action was taken:

On motion by Mr. Paige, duly seconded by Mr. Longlois, that the Natchitoches Parish Police Jury, in regular and legal session convened, does hereby add to the agenda adopting a resolution authorizing the submittal of an application to the Louisiana Planning Pilot Grant Program through the Governor's Office of Homeland Security & Emergency Preparedness (GOHSEP) for the Parish Courthouse, Old Courthouse, Live Oak Annex and for storm water management projects.

Motion Carried

On motion by Mr. Paige, duly seconded by Mr. Longlois, that the Natchitoches Parish Police Jury, in regular and legal session convened, does hereby adopt a resolution authorizing the submittal of an application to the Louisiana Planning Pilot Grant Program through the Governor's Office of Homeland Security & Emergency Preparedness (GOHSEP) for the Parish Courthouse, Old Courthouse, Live Oak Annex and for storm water management projects.

Motion Carried

President Dollar then stated that the next item on the agenda was to go into Executive Session to discuss personnel matters. He then asked Ms. Mary Prudhomme if she would like to go into Executive Session? Ms. Prudhomme stated no. President Dollar then recognized Ms. Sharon Harris who told the Jury that she had been contacted by Ms. Sandra Bates with the Childcare Licensing Office in Baton Rouge in reference to a letter of recommendation for a Krystal Holden. Ms. Harris stated that her words were, is this letter true and when saw Mrs. Earnestine Armstrong's signature on the letter, she informed her that Mrs. Armstrong no longer works for Head Start. She also told the lady that Mrs. Armstrong had retired and she would have to check on this matter and contact someone in finance to find out her start and end date. Ms. Harris stated that she then contacted Mrs. Earnestine Armstrong on September 24th about the matter and Mrs. Armstrong told her she was not aware of the letter. She also stated that she then notified Mrs. Catherine and Mrs. Judy about the letter and told her Ms. Bates had called to Head Start but was referred to her since Mrs. Barnum was out. Ms. Harris then told the Jury that Mrs. Catherine had stated that this should be a suspension so she called Mrs. Judy and asked her to call in her management staff to talk with them about the situation and make them aware of the importance of not using letterhead. She then stated that Mrs. Barnum called her back and said that Ms. Mary Prudhomme and Mrs. Georgia Jackson wanted to come and talk with her concerning the matter. At my office, they told me that they are the ones who actually done the letter. Mrs. Jackson stated that she typed the letter and Ms. Prudhomme traced Mrs. Armstrong's signature. Ms. Harris told them that this was very serious and asked then asked if Mrs. Armstrong knew about the letter? Ms. Jackson stated that she thought Earnestine knew about letter. She also stated that she typed the letter on regular paper. They both were asked to write a statement as to what happen, Ms. Georgia wrote one but did not sign it and Ms. Prudhomme never wrote the statement. Ms. Prudhomme then asked to speak with Mrs. Hamilton and after calling her, she told us to come over. Mrs. Catherine then told Ms. Prudhomme that this was a very serious matter. Mrs. Stoker then asked if the letter was sent in the mail? Ms. Harris stated no, it was faxed. Ms. Harris also stated that the next day Ms. Prudhomme came over and she told her that she was recommending termination and gave her a copy of the Policy and Procedures manual. She then stated that the Policy Council heard it on the 28th and decided it was not enough caused to terminate or suspend the employees and they overturned her decision. Mrs. Stoker then asked if there was anything in the handbook about a finding on using letterhead. President Dollar then recognized Mrs. Earnestine Armstrong who told the Jury that she called Mrs. Harris as soon as she heard this on the street and asked her what made you use me as reason for termination on a letter of recommendation that we both had wrote sometime ago for the same young lady who went for a job interview? She stated that it was not for money or defaming the program. Mrs. Armstrong stated that she knew about the letter because she typed it before she left and all they done was retyped the letter and updated it and she could not see termination. She also stated that it was not like she did not know about the letter because she was the one who wrote it two or three years ago.

President Dollar then recognized Rev. Wayne Hicks, Policy Council Member, who stated that the members were called and told there was a special meeting in which they addressed the specifics. They were then told that Mrs. Harris made the recommendations. He stated that he saw the form that was filled out and had a discussion about it in the meeting. Rev. Hicks then stated that it sounded like someone was on a witch-hunt because about a year ago we had another recommendation to the council to terminate a lady in Mansfield and I felt like it was something similar to what is happening to Ms. Prudhomme. He also stated that the lady in Mansfield had no supervisor available and something had to be done so she made a decision to spend \$38.00 without authority and now we have a lady that has been with the program 38 years who made a bad judgement call. Rev. Hicks stated that the Policy Council did not think that one mistake in 38 years was bad to kick her out and he felt it was a mute thing to bring this matter to the Jury because the Policy Council had already made the decision. No action was taken on this matter.

Since there was no other business, the following action was taken:

On motion by Mr. Hymes, duly seconded by Mrs. Stoker, that the Natchitoches Parish Police Jury, in regular and legal session convened, does hereby adjourn until the next regular or called meeting of the Natchitoches Parish Police Jury.

Motion Carried

Attest:

David Dollar, President

Catherine Hamilton,
Parish Administrator