

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

November 16, 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, November 16, 2009 at five o'clock (5:00) p.m.

The Invocation was given by Juror William Hymes, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Juror Tom Collier.

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

There was absent: None.

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 asked if there were any visitors who would like to be recognized. Since there was none he preceded with the agenda.

On motion by Mr. Collier, duly seconded by Mr. Jacobs, that the Natchitoches Parish Police Jury, in regular and legal session convened, does hereby adopt the minutes of the Work Session/Regular meeting held Monday, October 12, 2009 and the special meeting held Thursday, September 17, 2009.

Motion Carried

President Dollar then recognized Juror Chris Paige who stated that the this particular item has to do with the 63 cents that is taken out of your telephone bill each month. Mr. Paige stated that the Jury has a board in place but they do not meet regularly and have some individuals like the sheriff, chief of police, chief of fire that is really not the way the board need be designed compared to others areas such as Shreveport and any of the areas. He stated that he have had this discussion with the 911 Board and wanted to bring it to the Jury to come up with a formula with no particular number for next month meeting. Mr. Paige also stated that we needed a board that could work with the President and the other board that is in place could be an advisory board. He also stated that the 911 Commission was trying to bring all the law enforcement under one roof. Mr. Paige then stated that the Commission was looking at the property owned by the Coordinating and Development Corporation behind Natchitoches Ford Motor to build the center. Mr. Paige then told the Jury that the 911 Commission, Mayor McCullen and Max LeCompte were working on having the property donated to build the building in order to house the 911 Center. He then asked each Juror to bring ideas and information on how to structure the new 911 Board should be created. Mr. Paige then told the Jury that a company out of New Jersey was looking at the cell phone companies who have not paid their fees.

He then told the Jury that the reason for creating a new Board was that Shreveport had done the same thing and later went to the Legislature to increase the amount of fees they were collecting.

President Dollar then recognized Mr. Hymes who stated that he would like the President to assess the 911 Board and report back to the Jury. Mr. Hoffpauir then stated that the Jury may need to amend the ordinance.

President Dollar then asked the Parish Treasurer, Ms. Debbie Miley, to come forward to discuss the health, dental and life insurance. Ms. Miley stated that the exhibit showed the current rate, renewal rate and the different groups. She stated that the committee had met and based on what we have the current plan for regular employees was the only plan that would work. She stated that Blue Cross Blue Shield submitted but did not offer two plans so the Jury would not save as we have been saving. Ms. Miley also told the Jury that since we offer the dual plan, our current plan only went up 5% on the MCO plan and 13% on the standard plan with a \$750.00 deductible. She stated that the current dental plan went up and the other plans submitted did not compare to what the Jury had because some were at a maximum of a \$1,000.00 and some had a 12 month waiting period. Ms. Miley went on to say that she had asked for a plan for the retirees and that Mr. Jim Sandifer was present to discuss the plan. She also stated that some retirees were present to give their input on the plan. She also stated that with the advantage plan the retirees have to be 65 years of age, must de-enroll from Medicare and is a co-pay plan. She then told the Jury that this plan would save the retiree but not the Jury. Mr. Paige then asked would it be less money for the retirees. Ms. Miley then stated it is co-pay driven and would depend on what they do and if they chose the plan would only pay \$253.00 compare to the \$537.00 on the regular plan. Mr. Jim Sandifer then stated that the Medicare Advantage Plan Part C is a new thing from six or seven years ago. He stated that the Medicare Advantage Plan actually de-enroll a person from Medicare and is enroll in the advantage plan administered by the insurance carrier. The retiree would still have to pay their Medicare premium and open enrollment is every year between November 15th through December 15th. Mr. Sandifer then stated that the coverage is not exactly the same but was not bad. Ms. Miley then stated that the Jury does not save money but the retired person do save money and was present with questions. Ms. Miley went on to say that they were only trying to save the retirees because their part is going up 15% if they are on the standard plan. Mr. Paige then stated that in the committee meeting it was told that this plan was more for the retirees and would be less money they would have to pay each month. Ms. Miley then replied that the plan was co-pay driven so it depends on what the retiree did. President Dollar then summarized by stating that it sounds like the family is going to be paying about \$500 dollars verses the \$350 dollars. He also stated that those were things that the Jury was taking a look at tonight.

President Dollar then recognized Mr. Oscar Delrie who asked the question of how it was going to save them if they paid them and turn around and still paid the police Jury. It is the same thing we are doing now.

Ms. Miley then stated that proposals were received on the public officials, property and inland Marine, auto and worker compensation insurances. She told the Jury that the public officials insurance overall had a difference of not quite a hundred dollars from the Gallagher's Public official proposal but the company was not a rated company in Louisiana. The property and inland marine received only one proposal and received two bids for auto with one being \$75,050.00, and the other one \$74,674.00. Worker's compensation received two proposals with one coming in at \$55,947.00 and the other \$65,907.00. After a lengthy discussion, the following action was taken:

On motion by Mr. Hymes, duly seconded by Mr. Paige, that the Natchitoches Parish Police Jury, in regular and legal session convened, does hereby approve leaving the health, dental and life insurance as is and renew with MSI and MetLife.

Motion Carried

On motion by Mr. Collier, duly seconded by Mr. Paige, that the Natchitoches Parish Police Jury, in regular and legal session convened, does hereby approve the proposal received from Gallagher for workers compensation, auto, property, inland marine, crime coverage and public official liability insurance for the year 2010.

Motion Carried

President Dollar then recognized the Parish Administrator who told the Jury that she had received a letter from Buford Media Group, LLC concerning a cable franchise that used to be Gulf American. She stated they were requesting that the Jury adopt a resolution approving the transfer from Gulf American to Buford. Mrs. Hamilton stated that she had sent the information to the District Attorney who sent her a letter in writing that he did not see anything wrong and was up to the Jury if they want to accept it or not. Relative to this, the following action was taken:

On motion by Mr. Hymes, duly seconded by Mr. Stoker, that the Natchitoches Parish Police Jury, in regular and legal session convened, does hereby adopt a resolution approving the transfer of the cable franchise to Buford Media Group, LLC.

Motion Carried

Parish Administrator Catherine Hamilton then stated that the Vehicle for Hire was a new one and did not realize we had an ordinance in place for this service. She stated that she went back to see what the ordinance stated and mailed each Juror a copy. Mrs. Hamilton also stated that the ordinance has been in place since the 90's and was similar to other parishes. She then stated that some parishes had a little more details than what the Jury had in place. This is what we have in place, but the jury would have to approve this. We may have a problem with a felony he had one in 2000 and it hasn't met the 10 years. So that would disqualify you from this.

On motion by Mr. Paige, duly seconded by Mr. Jacobs, that the Natchitoches Parish Police Jury, in regular and legal session convened, does hereby deny the request of Mr. James Miller to operate a Taxicab service (Vehicle for Hire) in Natchitoches Parish.

Motion Carried

On motion by Mr. Garrett, duly seconded by Mr. Huggins, 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

President Dollar then asked Mrs. Harris to discuss the cost saving measures. Mrs. Harris then stated that on November 10th the Policy Council met and voted on Option # 4 but worker's compensation was included in the figures. She then stated that she received the figures today and gave a copy of the spreadsheet to Mrs. Catherine, Mrs. Debbie and Ms. Beverly. She also stated that whatever insurance plan the Jury selects, the grant will pay \$444.86 for the single coverage on the MCO Plan and with the family plan increasing to \$794.44, the employee will pay \$375.29 on the MCO Plan. She then stated that they would not issue any information out on insurance until the Jury voted on the insurance. Mrs. Harris then told the Jury that the other thing that was discuss was the salaries and that based on Option #4 what the Policy Council voted on was to reduce administrative staff by 8% and it remains 8%, however, for Mrs. Washington and myself it went to 3% the simple reason of the deduction. Parish Administrator Catherine told Mrs. Harris that at the meeting the Policy Council went back and changed it from 8% to 4%. Mrs. Harris then stated that they would make the adjustment to all the administrative staff. Mrs. Harris also stated that she had put the 4% for Mrs. Beverly and herself and looked at the 8% for the other administrative staff. She stated that the reason for the exception for Mrs. Beverly and herself was the reduction through the CACFP program in which the Executive Director would be taken about a \$900 dollar cut a month and the accountant would be taken a \$618 dollar cut per month. She also stated that in addition to the other program she and the accountant would also take a 4% cut as well. Mrs. Harris told the Jury she would get back with the Secretary of Policy Council. Option #4, would also reduce all the staff by one hour with the exception of administrative staff and the food tech. would reduce from 7 hour to 6 hour a day, the janitor will reduce from 4 to 3 hours a day and other 8-hour employees will reduce to 7 hours per day. She then stated that is what Mrs. Beverly, herself, Mrs. Debbie, and Mrs. Catherine along with Mrs. Judy have been working hard to get those figures for each person. Mr. Hymes then asked would that interfere with the instructional day for the kids. Mrs. Beverly replied "No, it will not interfere with the kids and that she had talked with Mrs. Judy and this was her recommendation because 6 hours was the number required. President Dollar then recognized Ms. Debra Rachel who told the Jury that she was a cook and she came in from 6:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and if they cut her hours when she came in at 7:00 a.m., she would not have the food ready in time. After a lengthy discussion about the saving and the numbers not being correct, OCS Head Start personnel was asked to get the right figure before asking the Jury to vote for the proposal. It was then agreed that a Special meeting would be called for Thursday to vote on the cost saving measures. Relative to this, the following action was taken:

On motion by Mrs. Stoker, duly seconded by Mr. Longlois, that the Natchitoches Parish Police Jury, in regular and legal session convened, does hereby table approving cost saving measures presented by the OCS/Head start Department.

Motion Carried

President Dollar then stated that the next item on the agenda was to approve the CACFP Application and Budget. He then recognized Mrs. Harris who told the Jury that the CACFP program was based on participation of our children and Head Start have a tracking system for their children at the different centers. She stated that it was hard for the centers to obtain an 85% participation even though it is required by Head Start to have an overall percentage by the end of the physical year. Mrs. Harris also stated that last year they did have over 85%, but on a monthly basis, some centers may have 90% while others have 72% which causes them not to have the 85% participation.

Ms. Beverly Washington then told the Jury that Head Start has eighteen aides and regular volunteers that they have to pay lunch for at a rate of \$2.75 and \$.75 for the snack for 171 days out of the year. Ms. Washington then stated that if you multiply 171 x \$5.00 it would equal \$45,313.00 and with childcare food having a negative \$22,000.00 that amount would help with the negative. She also stated that she had incorrectly posted 3 of childcare bills to head start. Relative to this, the following action was taken:

On motion by Mr. Hymes, duly seconded by Mr. Jacobs, that the Natchitoches Parish Police Jury, in regular and legal session convened, does hereby approve the CACFP application and budget.

Motion Carried

President Dollar then recognized Ms. Miley, Parish Treasurer, who presented the Jury with a report on the cash balances as of October 31, 2009. She told the Jury that the trial balance as of the end of Oct. 31st, general fund had a balance of \$184,839.91 and Fund 004 which is the payroll account at that time was in the negative of \$90,542.47, criminal court had a negative of \$81,499.74. Ms. Miley also told the Jury as we have each month been the other funds such as far as weatherization. She then told the Jury if you go down to all the OCS funds which a lot them have made head way, you still have a couple that did not and overall we are no worst off on any of those. She also stated that we are doing well as far as watching the head start program but the child food care program at the end of the grant period were in the hole. Overall \$435,320.64, taken into account of everything that general fund is supposed to pay, Ms. Miley stated. This was only on that day and right now the Jury is going back into a cash flow problem as we did last year. Next month, she was only looking at payroll only and was pretty sure that is where she would be due to the cash flow problem. She stated that when the audit comes in they will pick up receivables for 60 days. Therefore, we work with \$100,000 or \$200,000 in general fund on the books but now she was working with dollars. It no longer matter what is in the budget it is actual cash and the Jury did not have the actual cash. Ms. Miley also stated that the Jury's bank account still had money. She stated that the account was averaging around \$3.3 million in the bank account but as far what we are legally responsible for we are in the hole. Mr. Hoffpauir then asked how would the Jury get that money back? He stated that Mrs. Harris gave us a plan and he wanted to know where they were on that plan. Mr. Harris told Mr. Hoffpauir that they were working toward the plan, receiving money and were working toward their old balance to come out in the clear.

Mrs. Miley then discussed budget revisions. She stated that in the general fund budget she reduce more on severance tax because she felt she had received all the monies for this year so she reduce the line item by \$25,000.00. Ms. Miley also told the Jury that the alcohol beverage tax was less this year, however, we received more on licenses. The fire rebate we received was in and out. She stated that she went through line by line and tried to reduce in order to come up with extra cash because the criminal court fund needed money. She also stated that she had already given them \$37,000.00 to try and help continue to balance their budget but the Jury is still in a bind with the Criminal Court System.

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 approve revising the 2009 Budget.

Motion Carried

Ms. Miley then told the Jury that she had presented a color-code form for inmates. On October 8th, she stated, that the inmate count was 109 and Winn parish had one inmate that has been there since July, 2009. She stated that the Ware Youth Center had three (3) for September and Richland Detention Center had one female in there during September. Ms. Miley also told the Jury that the bill for this month was \$44,361.00 and have paid \$36,000 dollars on the years. She then pointed out that the Jury has paid \$85,502.00 year to date for the Coroner expenses which includes autopsies, patient transportation and other things and will not be able to pay him the rest of the year. Ms. Miley stated that she needed transfer money to Fund 112 in order to pay the Detention Center. As for as the other budgets, Ms. Miley stated that she brought them into line with the audit as far as cash is concern.

On motion by Mr. Collier, duly seconded by Mr. Longlois, that the Natchitoches Parish Police Jury, in regular and legal session convened, does hereby amend the Health, Life and Dental Insurance Policy, Section 2-24 of the Natchitoches Parish Code of Ordinances.

Motion Carried

On motion by Mrs. Stoker, duly seconded by Mr. Collier, that the Natchitoches Parish Police Jury, in regular and legal session convened, does hereby approve starting the process to remove a portion of P.R. #639, the Mathis Road, out of the Parish Road System.

Motion Carried

On motion by Mr. Collier, duly seconded by Mr. Longlois, that the Natchitoches Parish Police Jury, in regular and legal session convened, does hereby authorize the expropriation property to rebuild the Rock's Creek Bridge on the Off System Bridge Program.

Motion Carried

President Dollar then recognized Mr. Earl Townsend, Director of Public Works, who reported emergency expenditures for the period of October 13, 2009 through November 16, 2009 in the amount of **\$4,071.53.**

On motion by Mr. Longlois, duly seconded by Mr. Collier, that the Natchitoches Parish Police Jury, in regular and legal session convened, does hereby approve expenditures for the period of October 13, 2009 through November 16, 2009 in the amount of **\$907,930.09.**

Motion Carried

President Dollar then stated that the next item on the agenda was to conduct a public hearing to hear any and all comments on reducing the number of Jurors. He stated that the Jury have a public hearing on roads, animals, and all of that, and he could not take a step out of the courthouse or Lott Oil company without hearing about when are you going to cut the numbers. President Dollar also stated that the Jury needed taxes and representation, and he would vote for it tonight but understood that each Juror represents a very rural population. He also stated that he sitting here like everyone else and they had worked to death to get that tax passed and had it handed back to us with the lost of 200 votes. He then stated that a number of people have said that they would vote for a tax when the Jury reduce the number. Mr. Hoffpauir told the Jury that half of the population lives in the city limits of Natchitoches Parish and the other half on the outside of the city limits and the people who want to have less police jurors do not say they want to have less school board members. If it takes five councilmen to take care of half of the people, why couldn't it be reasonable for us to say we have ten or eleven to take care of all of them since we have double the people. Mr. Hoffpauir then stated that they are not cleaning up under their on door steps but they are looking to clean up under ours. President Dollar then stated that he had a lot of rural area people to tell him the same thing and it was not just the city.

Mr. Hoffpauir then stated that they are hearing it from the same people who have been after the Jury for years and he promised you are not going to get Joe Cunningham to vote for that, regardless of what you do. Mr. Paige then stated that they talk about less government and when people talk about less government we think that people are going to stop taxes and that is not going to happen. He stated that less government is bologna and asked where they were when Bush and Ragan was spending all kinds of money and hollowing less government? "I don't buy this talking about the downsizing, you are talking about giving Jurors 2000 more people." He then asked if this was going to be a full time job then. Mr. Paige then stated that 10 years ago during the census, he had a meeting throughout the communities and you had to know what it was all about and now you are talking about redrawing the lines. He then told the Jury that redrawing the lines has not been very favorable to the African Americans throughout any community. Mr. Paige also stated that when you talk about redrawing lines sometimes African Americans are left out. President Dollar then stated that if they go to 7 and keep 3 minorities that will up minority representation 4 to 3. Mr. Paige then stated that the last time he could go with it if African Americans wanted to be left out. A cost factor came in and we had to pay someone to draw the lines for \$80,000 dollars. If all eleven of us get off our butts and work and do the right thing. Mr. Hoffpauir then told the Jury that one of the things you have to look at as you down size is that everyone in here is a politician and politician looks for votes. He stated that when you have 2,000 people in your district that you represent you will pay pretty good attention to them than if you represent 3,000. Mrs. Stoker then stated that she thought they should come to voice their opinion and that we have to look at doing something different. She stated that the Jury is broke and cannot get a tax passed, so lets bring it up and see what is going to happen.

Relative to this, the following action was taken:

On motion by Mrs. Stoker, duly seconded by Mr. Huggins, that the Natchitoches Parish Police Jury, in regular and legal session convened, does hereby start the process to conduct a public hearing to hear any and all comments or objections relative to reducing the number of Police Jurors.

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

YES: Longlois, Huggins, Martin, Collier, Stoker and Dollar.

NO: Paige, Garrett, Hymes, Hoffpauir and Jacobs.

With the vote being **five (5) yes** and **five (5) no**, President Dollar **broke the tie with a "yes" vote** to start the process to reduce the number of Police Jurors.

Motion Carried



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

On motion by Mrs. Stoker, duly seconded by Mr. Paige, 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