

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

December 21, 2005

9:00 A. M.

The Police Jury of the Parish of Natchitoches, State of Louisiana, met in regular and legal session in their regular meeting place, the Police Jury Board Room of the Natchitoches Parish Courthouse, on Wednesday, December 21, 2005 at nine o'clock (9:00) a.m.

The invocation was given by Christopher Paige, Jr., followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Matthew Satchel Paige.

There were present: Honorable Chris Paige, President, Police Jurors: Joey Cox, J. D. Garrett, Alice Barrios, William Hymes, Charles Huggins, Charles Cloud, Tom Collier, Jessie Hoffpauir and Doug Masters and Gale Potts-Roque.

There were absent: None.

The Police Jury of the Parish of Natchitoches was then duly 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 Paige then recognized District Attorney Van Kyzar who told the Jury that he was at the meeting to present his annual check in the amount of \$35,000.00 from funds generated by his office. He also stated it was a pleasure working with the staff and that they worked really hard for the Jury. District Attorney Kyzar then presented the check to President Paige and Vice-President Tom Collier.

On motion by Mr. Collier, duly seconded by Mrs. Barrios, that the Natchitoches Parish Police Jury, in regular and legal session convened, does hereby adopt the minutes of the regular meeting held Wednesday, November 16, 2005.

Motion Carried

On motion by Mr. Collier, duly seconded by Mrs. Roque, that the Natchitoches Parish Police Jury, in regular and legal session convened, does hereby ratify the advertisement of bids for materials and supplies for the Parish Highway and Solid Waste Departments and awarding the bids received Monday, December 19, 2005.

Motion Carried

On motion by Mrs. Roque, 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 approving the proposed 2006 Consolidated Budget.

Motion Carried

President Paige then declared the Public Hearing open. He asked if anyone had a comment or objection pertaining to the Budget. He then recognized Mr. Jessie Hoffpauir who stated that he felt like the Budget should be gone over and that each Agency's budget should be reviewed before it is adopted. Since there were no other comments or objections, 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 close the Public Hearing.

Motion Carried

After closing the public hearing, the following action was taken:

On motion by Mr. Hymes, duly seconded by Mr. Garrett, that the Natchitoches Parish Police Jury, in regular and legal session convened, does hereby approve the 2006 Consolidated Budget.

Motion Carried
With
Mr. Hoffpauir
"opposing"
and
Mr. Cox
"abstaining"

On motion by Mr. Masters, duly seconded by Mr. Hymes, that the Natchitoches Parish Police Jury, in regular and legal session convened, does hereby appoint **Mr. Keith Scoggins** to the Fire Protection District #4 Board, due to the resignation of Mr. W. E. Dowden, Jr.

Motion Carried

President Paige then stated that the next item was to appoint members to the Fire Protection District #7 Board. He stated that a roll call vote will be taken:

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

Mr. Kenneth Megason: Cox, Garrett, Barrios, Hymes, Huggins, Cloud, Collier, Hoffpauir, Masters, Roque and Paige.

Mr. Wayne Ocon: Cox, Barrios, Huggins, Cloud, Collier, Hoffpauir, Roque and Paige.

Mr. Wallace Weldon: Garrett, Hymes, Hoffpauir, Masters, Roque and Paige.

Mr. Johnnie H. Sims, Jr.: Cox, Garrett, Barrios, Hymes, Huggins, Cloud, Collier, Masters and Paige.

Mr. Joe Hays: Cox, Garrett, Barrios, Hymes, Huggins, Cloud, Collier, Hoffpauir, Masters and Roque.

With the vote being **eleven (11) for Kenneth Megason, eight (8) for Wayne O'Con, six (6) for Wallace Weldon, nine (9) for Johnnie Sims, Jr.** and **ten (10) for Joe Hays**, the following action was taken:

On motion by Mrs. Roque, duly seconded by Mr. Hymes, that the Natchitoches Parish Police Jury, in regular and legal session convened, does hereby appoint **Mr. Kenneth Megason, Mr. Wayne O'Con, Mr. Johnnie Sims, Jr.** and **Mr. Joe Hays** to the Fire Protection District #7 Board of Directors.

Motion Carried

On motion by Mr. Collier, duly seconded by Mr. Huggins, that the Natchitoches Parish Police Jury, in regular and legal session convened, does hereby approve the North Louisiana Criminalistics Laboratory Commission 2006 Annual Budget and the Amended 2005 Budget.

Motion Carried

On motion by Mrs. Roque, duly seconded by Mr. Masters, that the Natchitoches Parish Police Jury, in regular and legal session convened, does hereby approve a letter of engagement from Johnson, Thomas and Cunningham for audit services for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2005.

Motion Carried

President Paige then stated that the next item on the agenda was to consider reassessing the life insurance for 2006. A brief discussion ensued. He then recognized Mrs. Barrios who asked if we had received a letter confirming what Mr. Foster had presented. Since no one had received such a confirmation, the following action was taken:

On by Mrs. Barrios, duly seconded by Mrs. Roque, that the Natchitoches Parish Police Jury, in regular and legal session convened, does hereby table reassessing life insurance for 2006.

Motion Carried

President Paige then read the next item on the agenda. He then asked the Parish Administrator to report on the information that the Jury had requested. Parish Administrator Catherine Hamilton told the Jury she had contacted Mr. Bill Tilmon and asked if he would take the position for less than he requested. She stated that Mr. Tilmon told her that he would not take the job for less than \$50,000.00 and he would have to give a two weeks notice. She also stated that Mr. Tilmon told her he could be interviewed on a Monday or Friday. Parish Administrator Hamilton also told the Jury that she had tried to contact the Auditor in DeSoto Parish but she was out of the office. After a brief discussion, the following action was taken:

On motion by Mrs. Roque, duly seconded by Mr. Hymes, that the Natchitoches Parish Police Jury, in regular and legal session convened, does hereby authorize the Parish Administrator to re-advertise for the position of Parish Treasurer for thirty (30) days.

Motion Carried

The next item on the agenda was to approve the job description for the Director of Public Works position. There ensued a brief discussion and the following action was taken:

On motion by Mrs. Roque, duly seconded by Mrs. Barrios, that the Natchitoches Parish Police Jury, in regular and legal session convened, does hereby approve the Job description for the Director of Public Works as recommended by the Criteria Committee and with the changes requested by the Jury.

Motion Carried

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On motion by Mr. Huggins, duly seconded by Mrs. Barrios, that the Natchitoches Parish Police Jury, in regular and legal session convened, does hereby approve the report of the Office of Community Services for the month of November, 2005.

Motion Carried

On motion by Mrs. Roque, duly seconded by Mr. Collier, that the Natchitoches Parish Police Jury, in regular and legal session convened, does hereby start the process to remove 2.227 miles of P. R. #805A, the Marco Levee Road, from the Parish Road System.

Motion Carried

President Paige stated Agenda Item #18 was to consider rescinding the appointment of Mr. John Luster to the Hospital Board of Directors due to the conflict of interest and to appoint someone to fill the vacancy. Mr. Huggins asked if Mr. Luster was aware of this being on the agenda and Mrs. Hamilton stated she placed a call to him but he has not returned her phone call. Mrs. Hamilton also stated that she had spoken with the District Attorney on this matter and was told it was his opinion that the Jury could rescind the appointment due to a conflict of interest. President Paige then recognized Mr. Hymes who stated that Mr. Luster was out of town and he felt that it was not courteous to let him go this way, he felt like he needed to be here to speak on his own behalf. President Paige then stated there was a lengthy discussion at the last meeting and there was no need to discuss it in length again. Mr. Hymes stated he felt that it did not matter how much something was discussed before, as long as there was one person who disagreed with the matter there should be more discussion. President Paige stated to Mr. Hymes that he was not at the Monday night meeting and that was the purpose of the Monday night meetings. Mr. Hymes then stated for the record that John Luster was not his friend and he has had no conversations with Mr. Luster but he felt like Mr. Luster should be here to make the decision for himself. Mr. Cloud stated he would like the jury to amend this motion, that we contact Mr. Luster and advise him of what is taking place. If the jury would not amend this Mr. Cloud would like to withdraw his second. Mr. Cloud will agree to remove him from this position but not until he gets to hear Mr. Luster's side of the story. Mr. Collier suggested the vote be tabled. Mr. Garrett seconded it. President Paige stated he did not have anything personal against anyone on the Hospital Board, but he didn't feel that it was fair that people working at the hospital did not have health insurance. Mr. Collier tabled the vote until the special meeting Mr. Hymes seconded it and everyone was in favor.

On motion by Mr. Collier, duly seconded by Mr. Cloud, that the Natchitoches Parish Police Jury, in regular and legal session convened, does hereby table rescinding the appointment of John W. Luster to the Natchitoches Parish Hospital Board of Directors due to a conflict of interest and start the process to appoint someone else to the Board to fill the vacancy.

Motion Carried

On motion by Mrs. Barrios, duly seconded by Mr. Garrett, that the Natchitoches Parish Police Jury, in regular and legal session convened, does hereby approve the report of the Assistant Director of Public Works for emergency expenditures for the period of November 17, 2005 through December 21, 2005, in the amount of \$80.30.

Motion Carried

On motion by Mr. Collier, duly seconded by Mr. Masters, that the Natchitoches Parish Police Jury, in regular and legal session convened, does hereby approve expenditures for the period of November 17, 2005 through December 21, 2005 in the amount of \$896,740.41.

Motion Carried

President Paige then asked Mr. Cloud to say the benediction to close the meeting.

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

Motion Carried

Chris Paige, President

Catherine Hamilton,
Parish Administrator