

The Police Jury met in regular session assembled with the following members present: Ryan Ardoin, Sidney Fontenot, Kevin Veillon, Lamar Johnson, Eric Soileau, Bryan Vidrine, Rocky Rider, Daniel Arvie, and Ryan Williams. All members were present.

There were no comments from the public regarding the agenda items.

Motion was made by Sidney Fontenot and seconded by Lamar Johnson approving the September 9, 2017 Committee and Regular Meeting Minutes. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Lamar Johnson and seconded by Bryan Vidrine approving the reappointment of Bryan Bieber to the Prairie Mamou Drainage Board. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Daniel Arvie and seconded by Lamar Johnson approving the reappointment of Lynn Gooden to the Emergency 911 Board. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Daniel Arvie and seconded by Rocky Rider approving the reappointment of Nat Thomas to the Emergency 911 Board. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Daniel Arvie and seconded by Sidney Fontenot approving the appointment of Hilda Edwards to the Evangeline Council on Aging Board. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Sidney Fontenot, seconded by Lamar Johnson and unanimously approved to amend the agenda to add the following items:

1. Approve attendance to the Legislative Conference in Washington D.C.
2. Report on Mosquito Spraying.
3. Discuss tree cutting on Henry Cole Ln.
4. Update on Crooked Creek operations.
5. Discuss leasing option at Crooked Creek Recreational Park.
6. Discuss Police Jury policy of billing municipalities.

A report from MCCI for mosquito spraying was received. All inhabited areas were covered with a total of 38 spray hours. Half the budget allocated by the Police Jury has been spent so far. Motion was made by Lamar Johnson and seconded by Kevin Veillon approving to halt the mosquito spraying at this time and will proceed if needed again. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Bryan Vidrine and seconded by Ryan Williams approving the cutting of a tree on Henry Cole Lane located in District 4. Motion carried.

Kim Ortego, Crooked Creek Park Manager, addressed the jury with an update on park operations. The swing set and playground equipment project has been complete. Juror, Bryan Vidrine thanked Mr. Ellis Dupre is preparing the cook-offs at the park, which raised over \$1,000 in funds.

Researching is still ongoing on the building of the pavilion and boat docks, which were done with grant funds, and the purchase of the property of Crooked Creek Recreational Park is also being researched for land restrictions. This research will need to be done before leasing Crooked Creek can even be considered. Once completed and reviewed with the Jury's legal counsel it will be brought back before the Jury for discussion.

Motion was made by Lamar Johnson and seconded by Ryan Williams approving Bryan Vidrine and Eric Soileau to attend the NACO Legislative Conference in Washington, D.C., March 3-7, 2018. Motion carried.

Billing municipalities for Police Jury work done within the city limits was then discussed. Secretary-Treasurer, Donald Bergeron, stated that research was done to find out whether or not it was legal for the Police Jury to perform work inside the municipalities, which was found legal. The problem is where the funds come from to pay for that work. The Police Jury does not have road district taxes which come from the residents of the municipalities. The tax call is very specific of tax funds being used where it is collected. Road District funds and 2% Sales Tax fund cannot be used due to the tax money not being collected by the municipalities. The only tax which the residents of a municipality pay to the Police Jury is the general alimony tax. This is a 1.83 mills tax, which residents of the town pay to the police jury and generates about \$71,929.00 according to last year's report. These funds are deposited into the parish general fund for maintenance of the courthouse and criminal court fund. The only available fund to be used towards work inside a municipality is the Parish Transportation fund. These funds are received from the state and have very strict guidelines to follow.

Legal Counsel expressed that the Police Jury can perform work within the city as requested by the municipality however the Jury has to charge a cost and enter into a cooperative endeavor agreement to provide the services.

Ville Platte Mayor Jennifer Vidrine addressed the Jury stating that she has had problems with the Jury performing work within the City of Ville Platte. Mayor Vidrine is asking why the jury cannot assist the city to get work done inside the city limits, specifically cleaning the canals and digging ditches. Juror Eric Soileau stated that there are no problems in assisting with drainage work but taxes passed specifically in certain areas have to be spent in those areas. It's not that the Jury does not want to assist; it's just that tax funds cannot be used.

Juror, Bryan Vidrine stated that the 2% Sales Use Tax funds collected is for drainage and roads. The Jury can only assist inside the city for drainage work which passes through the city. Mayor Vidrine stated that in the past her office had received a bill from the Police Jury for \$20,000 for the cleaning of canals. Juror Vidrine asked the Mayor if she paid the bill or any bills received. Mayor Vidrine stated no because she does not think it's fair for the City to pay and feels that the parish and the city should come together to get the work done.

Juror Vidrine then stated that if there's a plan for the Police Jury to assist with work within the city using parish equipment and man power, then there's an agreement to reimburse whatever the cost may be. The Jury does not mind helping. If the work is for drainage which flows through the City and leads to the unincorporated areas of the parish, then no funds will need to be reimbursed. Mayor Vidrine said she does have a plan but is not agreeing to reimburse the Jury for assisting.

Public Works Director, Chester Granger, specified that currently there is a waiting list for drainage work to be done for outside of the city limits of Evangeline Parish. He went on to state that there's a board in his office showing every request for drainage work from all jurors and constituents. None of these requests has been received from the City of Ville Platte. It was also mentioned that if the city would request for drainage work to be performed it would be no less than a year to get to this work.

Donald Bergeron stated that the protocol would be to get the City of Ville Platte on the drainage list and when the Juror has the equipment, then the work can be done, according to juror's priority list.

Mayor Vidrine also questioned about the Police Jury's adjudicated properties within the City Limits. There are many abandoned properties which need to be demolished and would like assistance. Secretary-Treasurer stated that a list of properties were submitted to the Police Jury Office and will take one property at a time based on priority.

In regards to the billing of municipalities for work done, the policy will remain unchanged.

Mrs. Camille Fontenot with the Ville Platte Chamber of Commerce and Tourism addressed the Jury. Mrs. Camille started her discussion by stating that Evangeline Parish is dying due to lack of industry and jobs. She explained how new jobs are vital for growth and to retain a workforce which supports our young people with families, who we desperately need to keep in Evangeline Parish. She went on to describe that many older citizens of the parish have lost their children to jobs located outside of the parish and the state. In order to have our children stay and have families here, something needs to be done. The Industrial Park located in Ward 1 has existed for 40 years. Mrs. Fontenot stated that in visiting the park, where she expects Industry to locate, was surprised at the appearance. Mrs. Fontenot then submitted pictures to the Jury and indicated the grass on the undeveloped areas of the park which had not been cut and by no means a place to bring a perspective business. She went on to state that while working with this idea of industrial expansion in our Parish; she had spoken with President of the Jury, Ryan Ardoin, to discuss some of these ideas. Mr. Ardoin agreed that losing young people because of better jobs elsewhere is very distressing to him and encouraged Mrs. Fontenot to find all she could about bringing new industry into our Parish.

Mrs. Fontenot then identified that she is working with a prospect that is willing to consider bringing industry to Evangeline Parish. As Mrs. Camille has been studying more on attracting industry she has found out that all but two one acre sites are filled. Those businesses located in the Industrial Park are mostly local businesses and she realized that in the last 40 years only Cameron, which is now Schlumberger, remains as the only out of town plant that settled there. Also in her study, Mrs. Fontenot stated she discovered that in 2010, 100 new acres of land was purchased in adjacent to what was already there and also learned that no master plan of the existing park was done. Besides the capability of connecting to water, gas and electricity there are no master plans for the new acreage. Mrs. Camille then stated the most alarming and amazing fact learned is there's no existing waste water disposal plant to treat hazardous waste at the Industrial Park. Mrs. Fontenot feels this is needed with any Industry that produces products associated with foods, pet products, oils, and chemicals. It was highly suggested to the Jury that a waste water system for hazardous waste be implemented as soon as possible, which today nothing has been done. She then stated to the Jury that it is imperative we take action.

Mrs. Fontenot is proposing to the Jury in hiring an Engineering Architect Firm from Baton Rouge, La who specializes in Industrial Park lands. This needs to be done before any industry comes to the Park to inspect a location of a new plant. She also mentioned that she would not take any industry to view our park as it is today. Mrs. Fontenot then explained she was informed of Cleco allocating funds to the state for economic development and also of the parish receiving funds from Pine Prairie Energy. Many grants are available to help fund economic development projects, as said by Mrs. Fontenot and suggested to the Jury in hiring a grant writer for this purpose. Fontenot indicated that she wants the Police Jury to work at getting a waste water treatment plant built for the new park and again is requesting the Jury in hiring an architect firm who has been working alongside with her in drawing a master plan for the Phase 2 Park. It was specified by Mrs. Fontenot that the parish is not ready for any Industry to locate here and that each juror must know that it is time to have Industry come to our Parish.

Parish Engineer, Ronnie Landreneau, questioned Mrs. Fontenot if she is present on behalf of the Ville Platte Chamber of Commerce. Mrs. Fontenot stated yes, and that she has been working very hard and all know about this discussion.

Juror Eric Soileau said that he appreciated Mrs. Camille's interest and feedback, which helps make our parish better. Mr. Soileau then added that some of the items spoken about were done through the Jury and we are constantly working to bring businesses and industry into our parish.

Juror Bryan Vidrine commented on Mrs. Fontenot's statement regarding funds received from Pine Prairie Energy for industry. Mr. Vidrine stated he is not aware of the parish receiving any funding from this industry nor aware of any grant funds available from Cleco. Mrs. Fontenot mentioned that Cleco funds have not been tapped into at this time but has been available since May of 2017 for infrastructure and economic development purposes. Vidrine specified that grants for Industrial Park have been looking into but the problem is most grants are available for assisting sub divisions with an area of constituents with low to moderate income. He also expressed that the parish currently does have a local engineering firm, J. Ronald Landreneau & Associates, which writes grants for the parish. If grants are available, Mr. Landreneau's firm has the engineering and administrative personnel to apply for those grants. Mr. Vidrine also acknowledged that the waste water plant has never been needed for industry located at Ward 1 Industrial Park. If necessary in the future, Vidrine said he would have no problem with acquiring funds to suit the need. At this time there are no funds to build a waste water plant. Mrs. Fontenot replied by saying she understands that funding is not easy to obtain but she thinks that spending it on something that would attract industry is needed. Vidrine responded by saying that the Parish does need economic growth and it's easy to say we need something done. Unless we have feedback from industry who does not want to locate in our Parish, then the Jury has no idea why they didn't want to come.

Mr. Brent Coreil addressed the jury stating we do have a situation and thinks what Mrs. Fontenot is trying to do is to rejuvenate this parish. Try to bring the topic up to where everyone hears about it. Mr. Coreil also mentioned last week he drove through the Industrial Park and commented to his wife about what a disgrace on the appearance of the National Guard Armory. The grass is not cut or trimmed and looks terrible. Mr. Coreil stated he is not blaming the Jury but a resident who is not doing their fair share. He also mentioned other areas of the park which are not presentable and need to be maintained. Mr. Coreil is requesting from the Jury to contact whoever is in charge of the armory to help maintain this property to look decent and fitting for public viewing. Also mentioned by Mr. Coreil is that we may not be able to afford certain things but we can request and place into the contracts of those people who have right-of-ways in keeping their property clean. Mr. Vidrine stated that it was said the Parish has not done anything in our park; we spend almost \$300,000 in the last year or so for a water tower to be redone. No one was charged any extra money and this was done through Cooperative Endeavor Agreements with industry located in the Park, which benefits of having a good water system.

Motion was made by Sidney Fontenot and seconded by Daniel Arvie approving to submit a letter to Economic Development at the State level in researching the allocation of funds set up by CLECO to find out what the requirement involve and if the Parish is eligible to receive funding for the Ward 1 Industrial Park. Motion carried.

Representative Bernard Lebas addressed the jury stating he had already spoken with other representative on the issue of funding. The funds of \$7 million given by CLECO for development have to be used within the District where CLECO serves. These funds were turned over to the State Economic Development, who is overseeing it and no funds have been allocated at this time. Representative Lebas suggests the Jury to submit a letter requesting Economic Development to give us the waste water treatment plant to continue keeping what industry we have and develop more companies to come look at our park.

Mr. Vidrine asked Mrs. Rebecca Shirley with Economic Development, who was also in attendance, if the reason industry does not choose our site, is because of no waste water treatment available. Mrs. Shirley replied that she has not been told that. Mr. Vidrine replied that he is asking this because the Jury wants to spend money on what helps the Industrial Park, not spend money because someone thinks it's a good idea. The parish needs to find out the real reason why industry is not coming in.

Dr. William "Tojo" Ward, with the Industrial Development Board, also addressed the jury stating that the park is important and since the park has been certified it has been marketed on National, International,

State and local platform. It's a very competitive process. The waste water treatment plant may have been the reason for industry not coming to Evangeline Parish or it may have been access to a four lane highway. Dr. Ward when on the say, when talking about Economic Development it is so much more than the park, it's Schlumberger, Ville Platte Iron Works, Cabot, Union Tank, and a Natural Gas Storage Facility. Everyone who works in Economic Development wants to bring something to the parish and also maintain the businesses we have locally in helping them grow. An interested industry not only looks at a site but also looks at the entire parish.

Motion was made by Sidney Fontenot and seconded by Rocky Rider approving attendance to the Police Jury Association Legislative Conference in New Orleans, La January 17-19, 2018. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Sidney Fontenot and seconded by Kevin Veillon approving the advertisement of a full-time clerk position at the Ville Platte Health Unit. Motion carried.

The Planning Commission met and has approved the final stage of Whitetail Acres Subdivision and is recommending the jury to accept the development into the parish road system. Motion was made by Kevin Veillon and seconded by Bryan Vidrine approving to accept the development of Whitetail Acres Subdivision into the parish road system. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Sidney Fontenot and seconded by Rocky Rider approving to adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Code of Federal regulations as enacted by the United States Congress mandates that all structures defined as bridges located on all public roads shall be inspected, related for safe load capacity and posted in accordance with the National Bridge Inspection Standards and that an inventory be maintained by each State; and

WHEREAS, the responsibility to inspect, rate and load post those bridges under the authority of Evangeline Parish in accordance with those standards is delegated by the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development to Evangeline Parish;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the governing authority of Evangeline Parish (herein referred to as the Parish) that the Parish in regular session assembled does hereby certify to the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development (herein referred to as the DOTD) that for the period of the 1st of October 2017 through the 30<sup>th</sup> of September 2018:

The Parish has performed all interim inspections on all Parish owned and maintained bridges in accordance with the National Bridge Inspection Standards.

All bridges owned or maintained by the Parish have been structurally analyzed and rated by the Parish as to the safe load capacity in accordance with ASSHTO Manual for Maintenance Inspection of Bridges. The load posting information that has been determined by the LA DOTD for all bridges where the maximum legal load under Louisiana State Law exceeds the load permitted under the operating rating as determined above has been critically reviewed by the Parish. Load posting information has been updated by the Parish to reflect all structural ratings.

All Parish owned or maintained bridges which require load posting or closing are load posted or closed in accordance with the table in the DOTD Engineering Directives and Standards Manual Directive NO. 1.1.1.8. All DOTD supplied load posting information concerning a bridge has been critically reviewed by the Parish Engineer prior to load posting.

All bridges owned or maintained by the Parish are shown on the attached list in the format specified by the DOTD. Corrections to data supplied to the Parish by the LA DOTD are noted.

Theses stipulations are prerequisites to participation by the Parish in the Off-system Bridge Replacement Program.

The above and foregoing, having been submitted to a vote was unanimously adopted on this 2<sup>nd</sup> day of October, 2017.

The jury then opened a discussion for the adoption of an ordinance requiring Police Jury approval before a municipality can annex property. Mayor Jennifer Vidrine addressed the jury stating she contacted the five mayors throughout the Parish and no one was notified of this item being on the agenda and is requesting the Jury to table this until hearing from the mayors. Police Jury's Legal Counsel stated that he has researched this issue and in his opinion does not believe an ordinance can be passed. Mayor Vidrine asked the Jury why this issue is being discussed. Juror Eric Soileau mentioned that the Jury might develop something next to a city line and this development may be annexed into this municipality without the Police Jury's knowledge. This was more of a research in finding out more information about the issue and has discovered that this is a state law which addresses this matter.

The Evangeline Parish Police Jury does hereby announce the adoption of the millage rates levied on the 2017 tax roll and will be held at the November 6, 2017 regular scheduled meeting at 6:00 p.m. in the Police Jury Meeting Room, 200 Court Street, Suite 207, Ville Platte, La.

Motion was made by Sidney Fontenot and seconded by Rocky Rider approving the attendance to the LIAA conference in Marksville, La on October 25-27, 2017. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Sidney Fontenot and seconded by Lamar Johnson authorizing the payment of bills on file in the Office. Motion carried.

Public Works Director, Chester Granger, gave the following report:

- 2% Drainage needs a new track hoe and has been renting one at \$5,000/month. To purchase new equipment it will cost approximately \$275,000. If taken for five years the monthly rental will be \$4,033.55. This monthly rental would cover mechanical issues.

Motion was made by Bryan Vidrine and seconded by Lamar Johnson approving the lease of a track hoe for the 2% Drainage and approving to advertise for bids for the purchase of two mini excavators. Motion carried.

- 2% Drainage dozer equipment is currently located in District 6 and the Excavator is located on Alamo Road. Once completed, will move onto Mandy Lane. Ward 1 Drainage Equipment is working on Theophile Road and will move to a project located off Chicot Park Road after.

Parish Engineer, Ronnie Landreneau, gave the following report:

- Regarding Whitetail Acres Subdivision – three names will need to be submitted to the 911 Office for approval.

Motion was made by Kevin Veillon and seconded by Lamar Johnson approving to obtain name options from the developers and will submit to Liz Hill for approval. Motion carried.

Secretary-Treasurer, Donald Bergeron, gave the following report:

- The firm hired to represent the Police Jury in the lawsuit brought forth by individuals concerning investigative holds by the Sheriff's Department and Ville Platte City Police has been settled and the jury has been removed from the lawsuit.

Motion was made by Bryan Vidrine and seconded by Daniel Arvie approving the payment of legal fees regarding the lawsuit for the amount of \$2,423.75. Motion carried.

- The jury took up an issue at a previous meeting concerning the ongoing litigation over the opioid epidemic. This was referred to the Jury's legal counsel and reviewed a resolution for the jury's adoption.

Motion was made by Kevin Veillon and seconded by Bryan Vidrine approving to adopt a resolution supporting the on-going litigation over the opioid epidemic across our Nation which included Evangeline Parish as an affected area. Motion carried.

- Acadian Ambulance monthly report is in compliance with the ordinance.
- Mr. Bergeron stated that each juror has been e-mailed copies of the Parish budget to actual comparison report for each fund and asked the Jury if they had any questions regarding those reports. No comments were reported.
- 2% Sales Tax collected in September 2017, \$235,557.99.

Motion was made by Sidney Fontenot and seconded by Bryan Vidrine approving to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.

---

Ryan Ardoin, President

---

Donald Bergeron, Secretary-Treasurer