

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

No comments were made from the public regarding the agenda items.

The floor was then opened for nominations for the office of President and Vice President for the fiscal year 2022.

On motion of Sidney Fontenot, Bryan Vidrine was nominated for the office of President. Motion was made by Sidney Fontenot and seconded by Ryan Ardoin that nominations are hereby closed and Bryan Vidrine is hereby appointed as President for the fiscal year 2022. Motion carried.

On motion of Daniel Arvie, Ryan Williams was nominated for the office of Vice-President. Motion was made by Daniel Arvie and seconded by Eric Soileau that nominations are hereby closed and Ryan Williams is hereby appointed as Vice-President for the fiscal year 2022. Motion carried.

Committee appointments will be discussed further at next month's meeting.

13th Judicial District Judge Gary Ortego announced his candidacy for La 3rd Circuit Court of Appeals Judge.

Motion was made by Ryan Williams and seconded by Eric Soileau approving the appointment of Ms. Rella Joseph to fill the remainder of the late Ms. Sandra Jacobs term (expires September 2022) as recommended by the Library Board. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Sidney Fontenot and seconded by Kevin Veillon approving the new COVID-19 guidelines which permits an employee who tested positive can return to work after five days as long as they have no symptoms. Employees are not required to get a negative testing before returning to work. Sick leave is covered under the COVID Policy. Motion carried.

The wording of the Tax rededication election was discussed. Once the Ballot Order is reviewed by the Jury it will need to be submitted back to the Secretary of State with approval and any corrections. If approved by the voters, .62 mills of the 5.21 mills from the Library Tax is for the purpose of constructing, acquiring, improving, operating and maintaining law enforcement facilities and criminal justice operations in the Parish. This purpose would give the Police Jury the ability to continue housing and maintaining parish inmates, not for the construction of a new parish jail. The Health Unit tax rededication is for the same purpose and if approved by the voters will authorize to rededicate the proceeds of \$1,250,000.

It was mentioned there may be a possibility of remodeling and utilizing the old nursing home building for a jail. Motion was made by Sidney Fontenot and seconded by Ryan Ardoin approving the wording of the tax rededication and also to approve submitting a letter to Mayor Jennifer Vidrine requesting to meet to discuss the possibility of converting the old Heritage Manor Nursing Home into a parish jail. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Eric Soileau and seconded by Daniel Arvie approving to transfer \$337,634.00 from American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) fund to the general fund to cover inmate housing expenses from March 2021 thru September 2021. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Ryan Williams and seconded by Ryan Ardoin approving letter of support and matching funds of \$53,800.00 for LUS's Granting Underserved Municipalities Broadband Opportunities (GUMBO) application to provide fiber to the home. Motion carried.

A discussion was then held on the Police Jury's 2022 travel policy, if hotel rooms to conference will be included this year. Motion was made by Daniel Arvie and seconded by Ryan Ardoin to approve including overnight accommodations for jurors in the budget. The motion was called to a vote and went as follows:

YAYS: 4

NAYS: 4

Vote was a tie and the deciding vote was made by President. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Eric Soileau and seconded by Kevin Veillon approving attendance to the Police Jury Annual Conference. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Daniel Arvie and seconded by Keith Saucier approving travel incidentals for Washington DC Broadband meetings for Secretary-Treasurer and Juror Ryan Williams, Room and flights to be paid by Acadiana Planning Commission. Motion carried.

Jen Shaw with EPAR addressed the Jury requesting financial contributions for the building of their animal shelter. Motion was made by Sidney Fontenot and seconded by Ryan Ardoin approving the monthly contribution of \$655.00 towards the note of the building and \$345.00 towards veterinary services also the renewal of the Cooperative Endeavor Agreement to be reviewed by legal before approving. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Sidney Fontenot and seconded by Eric Soileau that the Police Jury Meeting Room of the Courthouse Building, 200 Court Street, Ste. 207, Ville Platte, La is hereby designated as the meeting place for the regular meeting of the Police Jury and the date and time are hereby designated on the first Monday of each month to be held at 6:00 p.m. An exception will occur for holidays falling on said Monday, therefore the following holidays will be moved as follows:

Monday, July 4, 2022 (Fourth of July Holiday) moved to Monday July 11, 2022.

Monday, September 5, 2022 (Labor Day Holiday) moved to Monday September 12, 2022.

Motion carried.

Motion was made by Kevin Veillon and seconded by Lelia Thrasher that the Police Jury Committee Meeting date and time are hereby designated on the first Monday of each month to be held at 5:00 p.m. in the Police Jury Meeting Room of the Courthouse Building, 200 Court Street, Ste. 207, Ville Platte, La. An exception will occur for holidays falling on said Monday, therefore the following holidays will be moved as follows:

Monday, July 4, 2022 (Fourth of July Holiday) moved to Monday July 11, 2022.

Monday, September 5, 2022 (Labor Day Holiday) moved to Monday September 12, 2022.

Motion carried.

Motion was made by Lelia Thrasher and seconded by Sidney Fontenot approving to reappoint the following fiscal agents for the FY2022:

Evangeline Bank
Jeff Davis Bank

Investar Bank
Basile State Bank

Motion carried.

Motion was made by Sidney Fontenot and seconded by Eric Soileau to approve the December 13, 2021 Public Hearing and Special Meeting Minutes. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Sidney Fontenot and seconded by Ryan Williams to approve the December 14, 2021 Regular Meeting Minutes. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Kevin Veillon and seconded by Daniel Arvie approving the IRS standard mileage rates for 2022 at 58.5 cents per mile driven for business use. This rate is up 2.5 cents from the rate for 2021. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Ryan Williams and seconded by Lelia Thrasher approving to amend the agenda to add the following items:

1. Action on name change of Sandy Beach Drive.
2. Appointments to Ville Platte Dire District #2.

Motion was made by Ryan Williams and seconded by Lelia Thrasher approving the name change of Sandy Beach Drive to Lamar-Hill Drive with the waiving of the \$1,500 fee for the renaming. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Eric Soileau and seconded by Sidney Fontenot approving the reappointment of Steve Thibodeaux as member on the Ville Platte Fire District #2 Board for a 3 year term.. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Daniel Arvie and seconded by Kevin Veillon approving the appointment of Hunter Soileau as member on the Ville Platte Fire District #2 board for a 5 year term, to replace Shaun Devillier. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Sidney Fontenot and seconded by Ryan Ardoin approving the jail supply list as submitted. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Sidney Fontenot and seconded by Ryan Williams authorizing the payment of bills on file in the office. Motion carried.

Public Works Director gave the following report:

- Award vegetation management to second bidder.

Due to Brush Control Services backing out of the bid motion was made by Ryan Ardoin and seconded by Keith Saucier to approve awarding the bid to Nature Chem for the fiscal year 2022. Motion carried.

- Hiring of Region A employee.

Motion was made by Kevin Veillon and seconded by Ryan Williams to approve the hiring of Greg Manuel at \$13 per hour for District #5 and District #7, contingent upon drug screen and physical. Motion carried.

- Reclassification of expenses for District 6.

Motion was made by Eric Soileau and seconded by Ryan Ardoin to approve expense for District 6 to be changed from Fund 117 (Road District Three Fund) to Fund 118 (Road District Four Fund). Motion carried.

Parish Engineer gave the following report:

- Crooked Creek Electrical upgrade project is close to substantially complete.

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

- Acadian Ambulance monthly report is in compliance with the ordinance.
- Sales tax collections received in December 2021, \$370,459.77.
- Mr. Bergeron stated that each juror has been emailed the parish budget to actual comparison reports for each fund and asked the Jury if there were any questions regarding those reports. No comments were reported.

Motion was made by Sidney Fontenot and seconded by Lelia Thrasher approving to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.

Bryan Vidrine, President

Donald Bergeron, Secretary-Treasurer