

The Executive Committee met with the following members present: Ryan Williams, Keith Saucier, Ryan Ardoin, Bryan Vidrine, Eric Soileau, Sidney Fontenot and Lelia Thrasher. A quorum was present.

A discussion was held on a plan for a new jail. Chairman Ryan Williams stated that in making decisions the Jury has agreed in utilizing all possible options associated with addressing the jail issue. Multiple meetings have been held with Criminal Court Department heads, the Sheriff, 911 Personnel, Jury Legal Advisor, and Bonding Attorney. A proposal has been submitted from the Sheriff associated with funding a parish jail. There are questions which need clarification and items which need to be discussed further. Mr. Williams thanked the Sheriff for his proposal, and stated that it is a good start.

Juror Bryan Vidrine stated the Jury has a decision to make on how to move forward with the Jail situation. Funds are not readily available but to continue operating the Jury can leave everything as is and wait for the general fund to lose all available funds which will allow the Legislative Auditor to say how the problem will be fixed. Or the Jury can cut all non-mandated funding programs and services. This would include but limited to Veteran Funds, LSU Ag Center Funds, Chamber of Commerce Funds, Employee and Juror health benefits, Library Branch closures, Mamou Health Unit closure, rededications of unused dedicated funds, and a new 5 mill property tax can also be called to fund a jail. Or the Jury can go with the Sheriff's proposal to consolidate dispatch centers and to save tax payers money. Mr. Vidrine stated that these are the options out at this time and none of the plans come without heart ache and tough decisions. Mr. Vidrine would like to calling for a public hearing to discuss whether or not to move forward with the Sheriff's proposal. This plan would include abolishing the 911 Communications Board of Directors and put it under the Police Jury.

Juror Eric Soileau stated that Mr. Vidrine is correct with issues we have with the Parish jail. This is a big concern to all. More information and questions need to be answered for the Jury. The Jury needs to move forward but need to be very cautious about what decision is made.

Juror Sidney Fontenot stated that he has a request for the public and all other entities involved that we all need to work together. This is a very big proposal and a big step in our parish which is needed. Everyone needs to know what the problem is and how the Jury will move forward and what it will do for all of us.

Mr. Vidrine mentioned one other comment about the Sheriffs proposal that comments were made about 911 employees losing retirement benefits. Mr. Vidrine clarified that he would never be in agreement for employees losing something they worked hard for.

Motion was made by Eric Soileau and seconded by Keith Saucier to approve calling a public hearing on Tuesday, November 9, 2021 at 5:30 p.m. to hear public comments and/or questions to discuss funding option for a new Parish Jail. Motion carried.

A presentation was given from Mr. Mark Fontenot on 2022 Health Insurance renewal. There is a 3.9% rate increase above the April 2019 premium. Life, Dental and Vision insurance are all under rate guarantee. Motion was made by Ryan Ardoin and seconded by Keith Saucier to accept the Health Insurance Renewal Proposal with the Jury to absorb the increase. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Eric Soileau and seconded by Sidney Fontenot approving to adjourn the executive committee meeting. Motion carried.

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Ryan Williams, Chairman

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Donald Bergeron, Secretary-Treasurer

The Crooked Creek Committee met with the following members present: Lelia Thrasher, Ryan Williams, Eric Soileau, Ryan Ardoin, and Bryan Vidrine. Absent and excused was Daniel Arvie. A quorum was present.

An update was given on electrical upgrades. Parish Engineer Ronnie Landreneau stated the electrical upgrades are moving along.

Motion was made by Ryan Williams and seconded by Eric Soileau approving to adjourn the Crooked Creek Committee. Motion carried.

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Lelia Thrasher, Chairman

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Donald Bergeron, Secretary-Treasurer