

The Police Jury met in Regular session assembled with the following members present: Bryan Vidrine, Kevin Veillon, Sidney Fontenot, Eric Soileau, Ryan Ardoin, Lelia Thrasher, and Keith Saucier. Absent and excused was Ryan Williams, and Daniel Arvie. A quorum was present.

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

Motion was made by Ryan Ardoin and seconded by Lelia Thrasher approving the December 5, 2022 public hearing and special meeting minutes. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Sidney Fontenot and seconded by Lelia Thrasher approving the December 13, 2022 regular meeting minutes. Motion carried.

The Tannerite ordinance was then discussed. This item has been brought before the Jury along with a public hearing held on banning the practice of shooting a combination of tannerite explosives with propane bottles. Legal will be contacted in order to finalize the Ordinance.

The floor was then opened for nominations for the office of President for the fiscal year 2023.

On motion of Ryan Ardoin, Bryan Vidrine was nominated for the office of President. Motion was made by Ryan Ardoin and seconded by Keith Saucier that nominations are hereby closed and Bryan Vidrine is hereby appointed as President for the fiscal year 2023. Motion carried.

The floor was then opened for nominations for the office of Vice President for the fiscal year 2023.

On motion of Eric Soileau, Kevin Veillon was nominated for the office of Vice President. Motion was made by Eric Soileau and seconded by Ryan Ardoin that nominations are hereby closed and Kevin Veillon is hereby appointed as Vice President for the fiscal year 2023. Motion carried.

The appointment of District 8 Juror was then discussed. Floor was opened for nominations and on motion of Kevin Veillon to nominate Mrs. Angelica Williams.

Being there were no further nominees, motion was made by Kevin Veillon and seconded by Eric Soileau to close nominations. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Kevin Veillon and seconded by Ryan Ardoin to approve the appointment of Mrs. Angelica Williams as District 8 Juror of Evangeline Parish to fill the vacant seat after her husband, Ryan Williams was elected as Mayor of the City of Ville Platte. Motion carried.

Appointment of Secretary-Treasurer was then discussed. Motion was made by Kevin Veillon and seconded by Ryan Ardoin approving the appointment of Chester Granger as Secretary-Treasurer to replace Donald Bergeron after his resignation and accepting a position with the City of Ville Platte. Motion carried.

Agent with the LSU AgCenter addressed the Jury requesting the Jury to contribute in the local support of the hiring an additional full time 4-H Agent, Mrs. Madison Latour, which is in accord with the Cooperative Endeavor Agreement between the LSU AgCenter and the Police Jury. The requested amount is \$7,675.04 annually, which is a savings over what was paid to the agency last year. Motion was made by Sidney Fontenot and seconded by Eric Soileau approving to contribute to the local support of the LSU AgCenter of the newly hired full-time 4-H Agent in the amount of \$7,675.04 annually. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Eric Soileau and seconded by Keith Saucier approving travel incidentals for Bryan Vidrine's travel to Washington DC, room and flights will be paid by Acadiana Planning Commission. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Sidney Fontenot and seconded by Kevin Veillon approving the appointment of Robert Lejeune to the Acadia/Evangeline Fire Protection District's Board of Commissioners for the remainder of Neil Lejeune's term of two years due to expire in December 2023. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Ryan Ardoin and seconded by Sidney Fontenot approving the final payment to Geographical Planning and Demographic Services in the amount of \$16,800.00 for the redistricting of parish maps. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Ryan Ardoin and seconded by Kevin Veillon 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, September 4, 2023 (Labor Day Holiday) moved to Monday, September 11, 2023.

Motion carried.

Motion was made by Sidney Fontenot and seconded by Keith Saucier 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 holiday will be moved as follows:

Monday, September 4, 2023 (Labor Day Holiday) moved to Monday, September 11, 2023.

Motion carried.

Motion was made by Sidney Fontenot and seconded by Eric Soileau approving to reappoint the following fiscal agents for the FY 2023:

Investar Bank
Evangeline Bank
Jeff Davis Bank
Basile State Bank

Motion carried.

Motion was made by Kevin Veillon and seconded by Ryan Ardoin approving the IRS standard mileage rates for 2023 at 65.5 cents per mile driven for business use. Motion carried.

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

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

Discussion was then held on the rehiring of Gary Celestine. Juror Eric Soileau questioned if there was an open position available for this hire. It was stated that currently there are no available spots open at this time.

Motion was made by Keith Saucier, seconded by Lelia Thrasher and unanimously approved to amend the agenda to add the following items:

1. Approve attendance to ROV Seminar.
2. Discuss naming of Private Rd.

Motion was made by Kevin Veillon and seconded by Sidney Fontenot to approve attendance to the Registrar of Voters Seminar on January 23-25, 2023 in Hammond, La to Lucas Buller. Motion carried.

The naming of a private road was then discussed. A constituent located on Old Park Road is proposing to build a driveway to sell lots and is requesting not to be public. It was stated that if the properties were ever sold that the parish would not maintain the road. Property owner will be notified, no action is needed to be taken by the Jury.

Public Works Director, Andrew Tate, gave the following report:

- Approve hiring of Litter Abatement Employee.

Motion was made by Kevin Veillon and seconded by Keith Saucier to approve the hiring of Jules Lebas for Litter Abatement for District #7 at \$14/hr. Motion carried.

- Parish wide drainage equipment is currently working in Region B and Ward One equipment is working in District 1.
- Purchase of equipment for road side mowing.
- Approve hiring of road employees.

Motion was made by Ryan Ardoin and seconded by Kevin Veillon to approve the hiring of Darryl Andrus at \$14.50/hour, then after 90 day probationary period pay increase to \$15.00/hr. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Kevin Veillon and seconded by Lelia Thrasher approving a telephone allowance to be issued to Jimmy Mathern and Jody Snoddy at \$80/month. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Eric Soileau and seconded by Kevin Veillon to approve the hiring of Zack Smith part-time at \$14/hr. for Region B. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Kevin Veillon and seconded by Keith Saucier to approve Jimmy Mathern as Region-A Supervisor with a pay increase to \$19.50/hour. Motion carried.

No Parish Engineer report was given at this time.

Secretary-Treasurer, Chester Granger, gave the following report:

- Cooperative Endeavor requests from the City of Ville Platte for drainage assistance and operations and control of the Animal Shelter. Police Jury Legal Counsel will look over agreements and brought back before the Jury for approval.
- 2% Sales Use Tax Collections for the month of November, \$321,366.01.
- Cameras will be put out in different locations to assist with road theft signs.

Motion was made by Ryan Ardoin and seconded by Kevin Veillon approving in meeting with the Evangeline Parish School Board in educating the students to understand the serious consequences of taking road signs. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Kevin Veillon and seconded by Keith Saucier approving to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.

Bryan Vidrine, President

Chester Granger, Secretary-Treasurer