

Evangeline Parish Police Jury
Regular Meeting
November 6, 2023

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

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

Motion was made by Kevin Veillon and seconded by Keith Saucier to approve the October 2, 2023 Committee, Public Hearings and Regular Meeting Minutes. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Eric Soileau and seconded by Keith Saucier approving letter of engagement from Kolder, Slaven & Company for the FY 2024 audit. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Lelia Thrasher and seconded by Sidney Fontenot to approve the new Region C Yard Lease starting October 1, 2023. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Ryan Ardoin and seconded by Lelia Thrasher approving the 2023 EMPG grant of 67,683.27 for the purpose of salaries for employees with the Office of Emergency Preparedness, with a requirement of a 20% match, which may include utility bills, office supplies, phone bills, etc. used for OEP. Grant portion for salaries will be \$52,146.62 with the following payroll changes for the months of:

November 2023 (Payroll period 11/24/23)
December 2023 (Payroll date 12/8/23 & 12/22/23)
January 2024 (Payroll date 01/05/24 & 01/19/24)
February 2024 (Payroll date 2/2/24 & 2/16/24)
March 2024 (Payroll date 3/1/24, 3/15/24, 3/29/24)

Liz Hill 28%
Sherry Buller 36%
Mona Nelson 36%

Motion carried.

Motion was made by Eric Soileau and seconded by Lelia Thrasher to approve the 2023 Budget Amendments and 2024 Budget Appropriations for Evangeline Parish 911 Communications. Motion carried.

Water Enrichment Grant was then discussed. Only certain items are qualified and the Jury will need to discuss where to utilize these funds. No action is taken at this time.

In accordance with Louisiana Revised Statute 39:1307, Local Government Budget Act, a motion was made by Sidney Fontenot and seconded by Keith Saucier to approve calling a public hearing at 5:50 p.m. on Monday, December 18, 2023 in the Police Jury Meeting Room of the Courthouse Building, 200 Court Street, Ste. 207, Ville Platte, La to hear public comments and/or questions on the proposed budget amendments for the fiscal year 2023 and the proposed budgets for the fiscal year 2024. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Sidney Fontenot and seconded by Eric Soileau approving to advertise and accept bids for Pest Control, Diesel, Asphalt, Limestone, Culverts, etc. Sealed bids will be received at the office of the Evangeline Parish Police Jury located at 1008 West LaSalle Street, Ville Platte, La 70586 until 3:00 p.m. on Friday, December 15, 2023 and awarded at a Special Meeting on Monday, December 18, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. in the Police Jury Meeting Room of the Courthouse Building, located at 200 Court Street, Ste. 207, Ville Platte, La. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Sidney Fontenot and seconded by Lelia Thrasher 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 2023 through the 30th of September 2024:

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.

These 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 6th day of November, 2023.

Motion was made by Eric Soileau and seconded by Ryan Ardoin to approve the Capital Outlay Plan for FY 2024-2026. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Sidney Fontenot and seconded by Kevin Veillon approving to appoint the following members to the Vandenburg Cemetery Board for a 4-year term:

Candy Griffith
Claire Joubert
Bennie Helmer
Wayne Holston
Carl Foreman
Ray Foreman

Motion carried.

Motion was made by Kevin Veillon and seconded by Lelia Thrasher approving to appoint the following members to the Ferguson Cemetery Board for a 4-year term:

Lance Cauvin
Cody Griffith
Robin Tatman
Bob Chauvin
Karen Griffith
Motion carried.

Mrs. Bridgette Homer with Capital Area Finance Authority (CAFA) addressed the jury regarding issuance of single-family mortgage revenue bonds to finance loans to first-time homebuyers within the parish. This is at no risk to the parish nor any financial obligations.

Motion was made by Lelia Thrasher and seconded by Sidney Fontenot to adopt a resolution approving and confirming the issuance of the Bonds to finance loans to first-time homebuyers within the jurisdictional parishes of the Authority and such other governmental units whose governing authority authorized and directed the execution of a cooperative endeavor agreement with the Authority under the provisions of the Act. Motion carried.

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

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

Public Works Director gave the following report:

- Ward 1 Drainage Crew is currently working on a project in District 1.
- Parish wide drainage equipment will be working in District 2.
- Request grass cutting crew salaries to be moved out of Parish Transportation Fund to Sales Tax Fund for use parish wide.

Motion was made by Kevin Veillon and seconded by Keith Saucier to approve moving grass cutting crew salaries out of Parish Transportation Fund to the Sales Tax Fund. Motion carried.

- Request for pay increase for Coby Bourque.

Motion was made by Sidney Fontenot and seconded by Keith Saucier to approve Coby Bourque off of his probationary period and approve pay at \$16/hour. Motion carried.

- Requesting the purchase of a truck for Region D.

Motion was made by Keith Saucier and seconded by Kevin Veillon to approve the purchase of a truck for Region D. Motion carried.

Parish Engineer gave the following report:

- Capital Outlay request for IT for chiller system.
- Water Sector Grant for Wyble Sewer System sale will be closed possibly next week.

Secretary-Treasurer gave the following report:

- Mr. Granter 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.
- Acadian Ambulance monthly report is in compliance with the ordinance.
- 2% Sales Use Tax collections for October 2023, \$387,648.83.
- Request to split sales tax funds.

Motion was made by Lelia Thrasher and seconded by Kevin Veillon to approve splitting sales tax funds in excess of \$1 million between the road districts. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Sidney Fontenot and seconded by Kevin Veillon approving to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.

/s/ Bryan Vidrine
Bryan Vidrine, President

/s/ Chester Granger
Chester Granger, Secretary-Treasurer

