

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

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

Motion was made by Sidney Fontenot and seconded by Kevin Veillon to approve the August 7, 2023 Committee's and Regular Meeting Minutes. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Keith Saucier and seconded by Lelia Thrasher to approve the August 16, 2023 Special Meeting Minutes. Motion carried.

Nuisance Ordinance was then discussed. A proposed amendment of the ordinance was presented to the Jury. Amendment to the ordinance will strike the fine of \$200 and propose a \$500 fine with intent to get more compliance; and also strike the sum of \$20/day for failure to comply continues and propose a sum of \$50/day. A nuisance checklist was also drafted showing steps in moving forward after a nuisance is identified. Motion was made by Kevin Veillon and seconded by Daniel Arvie approving to call a public hearing on Monday, October 2, 2023 at 4:15 p.m. 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 regarding an ordinance allowing for the amending of the Nuisance Ordinance to reflect increased penalties for failure to comply. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Kevin Veillon and seconded by Eric Soileau to approve merging voting precinct 01/1060 with precinct 01/1140, which falls under 300 active voters. Both precincts are located at the Evangeline Parish Library located at 916 W. Main Street, Ville Platte, La 70586 and also included in motion is approving to continue disbursing funds for precinct 01/1020 located at the Faubourg Fire Station, 2923 Faubourg Rd., Ville Platte, La 70586. Motion carried.

Senator Heather Cloud addressed the Jury to discuss approved federal funding in the amount of \$300,000. These funds are dedicated to Crooked Creek Recreational Park for facility improvements. Other funds approved are committed to the Parish for road improvements.

Motion was made by Kevin Veillon and seconded by Lelia Thrasher to approve Anna Frank and Demintria Anderson with Section 8, to attend the Fall Conference in Shreveport, La, September 17-22, 2023. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Keith Saucier and seconded by Kevin Veillon approving a liquor license to Victor Boudreaux for Renaissance Fair on Mount Carmel Rd, Ville Platte, La. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Lelia Thrasher and seconded by Kevin Veillon approving a liquor license to Izolde Myers opening "Ga Ga" General Store located on Beaver Rd. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Sidney Fontenot and seconded by Ryan Ardoin approving to adjourn as a Jury and convene as Board of Review. Motion carried.

As advertised, the Police Jury, as a whole, met as a Board of Review to hear and/or review complaints received on the 2023 assessed valuations set by the Evangeline Parish Assessor. One appeal has been made from Schlumberger/Cameron International Corporation regarding the assessments set by the Evangeline Parish Tax Assessors evaluation.

Motion was made by Eric Soileau and seconded by Keith Saucier to accept and approve the 2023 assessed values as prepared by the Evangeline Parish Tax Assessor and allow the protest to be submitted to the State Tax Commission.

Motion was made by Sidney Fontenot and seconded by Ryan Ardoin approving to adjourn the Board of Review and reconvene the regular scheduled meeting. Motion carried.

Natural Resources Conservation Service is requesting the Jury in assistance to complete an assessment of dam sites located in Evangeline Parish with no cost to the Jury. Motion was made by Keith Saucier and seconded by Kevin Veillon approving the assessment of the following dam sites located in Evangeline Parish:

UPPER BAYOU NEZIPIQUE WATERSHED

Dam Name

Dam #3 (Crooked Creek Reservoir)

Dam #6

Dam#7

Motion carried.

Motion was made by Ryan Ardoin and seconded by Lelia Thrasher approving the reappointment of Mrs. Gaynelle Coates as a member of the Library Board for a term of five years, beginning in July 2023 and extending through July 2028. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Kevin Veillon and seconded by Lelia Thrasher approving to adopt the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED that the Parish's current Citizen Participation Plan is in effect and is hereby amended to meet the Fiscal Year 2023 Community Development Block Grant requirements.

As per the requirements of this Plan, the Parish hereby will set its first public hearing.

The above and foregoing having been submitting to a vote, was unanimously adopted this 11th day of September 2023.

Motion was made by Kevin Veillon and seconded by Keith Saucier approving to enter into a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement with the Village of Chataignier to install speed bumps along First Street in Chataignier and assistance on ditch and canal digging and cleaning. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Kevin Veillon and seconded by Keith Saucier approving to enter into a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement with the Evangeline Parish School Board assisting in removing trees located at Chataignier Elementary School. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Keith Saucier and seconded by Lelia Thrasher approving to change payments for monthly phone and travel allowances from Accounts Payable to Payroll as per IRS Audit. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Daniel Arvie and seconded by Kevin Veillon to approve the hiring of Kiera Scott as full-time Permit Clerk at \$12.00 per hour with a \$.50 per hour increase after the 90-day probationary period. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Sidney Fontenot, seconded by Lelia Thrasher an unanimously approved to amend the agenda to add the following items:

1. Approve speed limit changes.
2. Bobby Guilbeau to address the Jury.

Motion was made by Kevin Veillon and seconded by Keith Saucier approving to reduce the speed limit on Lemans Road from 45 mph to 25 mph. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Kevin Veillon and seconded by Daniel Arvie approving to reduce the speed limit from 45 mph to 35 mph between 1909 and 1808 on Evangeline Road. Motion carried.

Bobby Guilbeau with Ward 5 Fire Protection District addressed the Jury in reporting that the Fire District is building a Fire Station, which will be the central station along with a training center. District offices will also be included. Motion carried.

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

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

Public Works Director gave the following report:

- Requesting the Jury to enter into a lease agreement for parish wide drainage equipment.

Motion was made by Eric Soileau and seconded by Kevin Veillon approving Public Works Director to move forward with a lease agreement for parish wide drainage equipment. Motion carried.

- Requesting position changes and pay increase for employees.

Motion was made by Keith Saucier and seconded by Sidney Fontenot to approve a change in position for Jules Lebas as Foreman with an \$1.00 per hour pay increase. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Lelia Thrasher and seconded by Eric Soileau to approve a change in position for Morlon Chaddrick as Foreman for Region C. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Keith Saucier and seconded by Lelia Thrasher approving Nickolas Fontenot as Sewer Foreman and moving to a salary employee at \$32,000/year. Motion carried.

Parish Engineer gave the following report:

- With approved funding for the project at Wyble Subdivision Sewer System, requesting the Jury adopting a resolution to move forward with assurances as required.

Motion was made by Keith Saucier and seconded by Daniel Arvie to approve adopting a resolution to move forward and participate in a rate study at the Wyble Subdivision Sewer System. Motion carried.

Secretary-Treasurer gave the following report:

- Mr. Granger 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.
- Sales Tax Collections for the month of August 2023 was 381,912.83.
- Partial Opioid Abatement funds have been received. These funds will need to be spent on what is allowed, which drug court is permitted. Funds will be expected for the next 18 years.

Motion was made by Ryan Ardoin and seconded by Kevin Veillon approving to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.

Bryan Vidrine, President

Chester Granger, Secretary-Treasurer