

Police Jury Room
May 12, 2008
Abbeville, Louisiana

Minutes of a special meeting of the Vermilion Parish Police Jury held on May 12, 2008, with President Gerald Butaud presiding.

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Butaud, who asked Mr. Pervis Gaspard to lead the group in the Pledge of Allegiance. Following the pledge, the President asked for a moment of silent prayer or reflection. The President then reminded all present to turn all cell phones, pagers, etc. off or set to silent mode for the duration of the Police Jury meeting.

The following members were present:

Mr. Dane Hebert	Mr. Gerald Butaud
Mr. Chris Beraud	Mr. Ronald Menard
Mr. Nathan Granger	Mr. Pervis Gaspard
Mr. Ronald Darby	Mr. T. J. Prejean, Jr.
Mr. Wayne Touchet	Mr. Leon Broussard
Mr. Errol J. Domingues	

Absent: Mr. Mark Poche`	Mr. Cloris J. Boudreaux
Mr. Keith Meaux	

President Butaud recognized Ms. Dianne Broussard, Vermilion Parish Clerk of Court, to present any business she had to the Jury.

Ms. Broussard thanked the Jury for allowing her time to speak with them this evening. Ms. Broussard stated that the Clerk's Office is out of space. Ms. Broussard stated that she is presently renting 3 storage units in Maurice for files from the Civil Library. Ms. Broussard stated that she is able to place the Clerk's Office on-line, but that cannot happen until all Social Security numbers have been redacted from all records. In order to do this, Ms. Broussard will need to hire an employee, but there is no room in the Clerk's Office to house another employee.

Ms. Broussard stated that she is planning to do some remodeling to the Clerk of Court's Office in July of 2008, but that still will not provide ample space for all of the records and employees on the Civil side of the Clerk's Office. Ms. Broussard stated that the Criminal side of the Clerk of Court's Office is completely out of room and there is nowhere to expand.

Ms. Broussard stated that the Clerk's Office processes approximately 2,200 traffic tickets per month. She further stated that all Juvenile Files, while under lock and key, are still not secure enough. Ms. Broussard stated that, should information regarding a Juvenile Case be exposed to the public, the Clerk of Court's Office would be held liable in court.

Ms. Broussard informed the Jury that Civil files are scanned and archived in Baton Rouge, but there is no room to put the scanned files until they can be transported to Baton Rouge. Ms. Broussard stated that everything that can be possibly stored offsite is offsite.

Mr. Ronald Darby stated that once the new Multi-purpose Community Health Center is completed, the Health Unit Office will be empty. He suggested having Ms. Broussard store some records at the Health Unit Office.

Mr. Dane Hebert stated that there is currently room on the third floor of the old Hibernia Bank building.

Ms. Broussard stated that while both the Health Unit and the old Hibernia Bank were easily accessible, it would still necessitate having the files offsite, which would make retrieval of those files difficult. Ms. Broussard further stated that it was impossible to know when any file would be needed, which is why she would prefer to keep all information at the Courthouse, if at all possible.

Mr. Gerald Butaud stated that he felt it was time to appoint an Ad-Hoc Courthouse Committee to discuss with all entities currently residing in the Vermilion Parish Courthouse the space requirements each office has. Mr. Butaud further stated that he felt this committee should be comprised of the current Courthouse/Building Committee members, and representatives from the Clerk of Court's Office, the Registrar of Voter's Office, the Tax Assessor's Office, the District Attorney's Office and the Judges.

Mr. Ronald Darby stated that the second and third floor of the Abbeville City Hall building is empty and available but would need reconstruction.

Mr. Wayne Touchet stated that there is a Committee in place right now that is discussing plans for the second and third floors of the Abbeville City Hall building.

Mr. Errol J. Domingues asked how long it would take before the second and third floors of the Abbeville City Hall building could be ready for occupancy.

Mr. Touchet stated that it could take up to one year.

Upon motion by Mr. Wayne Touchet, duly seconded by Mr. Pervis Gaspard, and unanimously carried, the Police Jury authorized forming an Ad-Hoc Courthouse Committee comprised of the current Courthouse/Building Committee members and representatives from the Clerk of Court's Office, the Registrar of Voter's Office, the Tax Assessor's Office, the District Attorney's Office and the Judges to discuss space requirements in the Vermilion Parish Courthouse and other options available.

President Butaud recognized Mr. Sherrill Sagrera with the Coastal Advisory Committee to present any business he had to the Jury.

Mr. Sagrera stated that after Hurricane Rita, the Police Jury asked the Coastal Advisory Committee to look into hurricane protection along with hurricane restoration. Mr. Sagrera stated that after numerous meetings with the State and Federal Government, they put together the following Parish Draft Plan for Hurricane Protection. The Parish Draft Plan includes the following:

- Delcambre Canal – structure in Canal south of Bayou Tigre
- Marsh Upland Interface – add to the existing levees
- Oaks Canal – structure in Canal south of Intracoastal
- Boston Canal – structure in Canal south of Intracoastal
- 4-Mile Canal – structure in Canal south of Intracoastal
- East Side of Freshwater Bayou – rock levee

- Oilfield Canal – dredge canal and elevate levees to Freshwater Bayou
- Humble Canal – capture footprints and tie into Rockefeller west of Freshwater Bayou to Broussard’s landing
- Louisiana Highway 82 – barrier structure on the south side of Schooner Bayou
- Leman-Bowman Locks – structure on the south side of the Intracoastal Canal to the Cameron Parish line
- Introduction of fresh water into the Mermentau Basin from the Red River through existing canals to improve water quality and to afford more surface water for irrigation.
- Louisiana Highway 82 – Armor west and north side

Mr. Sagrera stated that the wishes of the Coastal Advisory Committee is to have the Jury review the Vermilion Parish Draft Plan for Hurricane Protection and accept it so a regional plan could be created with Calcasieu, Cameron and Iberia Parish. This would aid the Coastal Advisory Committee when meeting with the State and Federal Government regarding Hurricane Protection.

Mr. Sagrera stated that if anyone has any comments or changes that need to be included in the Parish Draft Plan, the next Coastal Restoration Committee will be meeting on Wednesday, May 21, 2008 at 5:15 p.m. in the Police Jury meeting room and invited all Jurors to attend.

President Butaud recognized Mr. Tim Creswell, Parish Spokesman for Hurricane Protection, to present any business he had to the Jury.

Mr. Creswell informed the Jury that he wished to present the Louisiana Coastal Protection Recovery’s (LACPR) Draft Plan for Hurricane Protection. Mr. Creswell stated that the LACPR would be disbanding as of December 31, 2008 and all information will be rolled into the Boustany Study. The LACPR plan includes Area 3-B and 4 and basically states that Corps of Engineers wishes to build on the Acadiana Gulf of Mexico Access Channel (AGMAC), once it is in place. Once that is complete, the Boustany Study will decide whether a 100, 500 or 1,000 year storm protection levee is needed.

Mr. Creswell also stated that the LACPR Draft Plan includes armoring Louisiana Highway 82 on the west side from Little Prairie to Pecan Island.

Upon motion by Mr. Leon Broussard, duly seconded by Mr. Ronald Darby, and unanimously carried, the Police Jury went into executive session at 7:22 p.m. to discuss parliamentary procedure.

Upon motion by Mr. Errol J. Domingues, duly seconded by Mr. Dane Hebert, and unanimously carried, the Police Jury returned to regular session at 7:25 p.m.

President Butaud informed the Jury that after the last Committee meeting, when Mr. Lonnie Bewley addressed the Committee, he felt that the overall tone of the Jurors while Mr. Bewley addressed them was not very professional. President Butaud stated that there was too much moving around and private conversations going on, which was disruptive. President Butaud also stated that the Jury owed more respect to those addressing the Jury.

President Butaud also stated that during Committee meetings, the chairman of the Committee needs to keep order during those meetings and move them along as needed. President Butaud stated that input from anyone who is not on the Committee should be kept to a minimum.

Upon motion of Mr. Errol J. Domingues, duly seconded by Mr. Leon Broussard, and unanimously carried, that there being no further business to be presented, the meeting was duly adjourned.

Administrator/Secretary-Treasurer

President