

January 24, 2018

On Wednesday, January 24, 2018 at 9:00 a.m., the Police Jury of Sabine Parish, State of Louisiana met in open and regular session.

The Agenda was as follows:

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Prayer
4. Pledge of Allegiance
5. Amend the Agenda
6. Adopt the Agenda
7. Accept the Minutes of the Previous Meeting, December 20, 2017
8. Planning Commission
- 8(a). Mr. James Kennedy – Motels and Industrial Park
9. Approve 2018 Committees as Recommended by Police Jury President Bison
10. Authorize Signers for Sabine Parish Police Jury Bank Accounts
11. Authorize Transfer of Money to Deposit with Sabine State Bank
12. Approve Entering Cooperative Endeavor Agreement with Pine Belt Multi-Purpose Community Action Agency, Inc.
13. Appoint Mr. Tim Collins as a Commissioner for the South Toledo Bend Water District
14. North Sabine Fire Protection District – Reappoint Police Jurors Kenneth M. Ebarb and Ricky “K-Wall” Sepulvado to Board of Commissioners for Two Years
15. Appoint Mr. Kenny Carter to Replace Mr. Ronny Bison as a Commissioner on the Fire Protection District No. 1, Wards 3 & 4
16. Adopt 2017 Louisiana Compliance Questionnaire
17. Parish Transportation Act Certificate
18. Consider a Policy to Require Medicare to be the Primary Health Insurance for Eligible Employees
19. Authorize Payment of Approved Bills
20. Appropriate Sales Tax for January Operations (\$215,000)
21. Committee Reports
22. Operations
23. Adjournment

1. Call to Order

President Ronald L. Bison called the meeting to order.

2. Roll Call

The roll was called by the Secretary Treasurer. The following jurors were present: Willes Funderburk, Mike McCormic, “Charlie” Brown, William E. Ruffin, “Ronny” Bison, Eric Garcie, Ricky ”K-Wall” Sepulvado, Kenneth M. Ebarb, and “Randy” Byrd.

3. Prayer

Prayer was led by Mr. William E. Ruffin.

4. Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mr. Mike McCormic.

5. Amend the Agenda

Resolution No. 8008

Motion by Ruffin and seconded by Ebarb to amend the agenda to include the following item:

8(a). Mr. James Kennedy – Motels and Industrial Park

Public comments on the motion to amend the agenda were allowed prior to any vote to add an item to the agenda. There were no public comments.

The voting was as follows:

Yeas: 9      Nays: 0      Absent: 0

Police Jury President, Ronald L. Bison, allowed a period of public comment on any item on the agenda. Mr. Bison advised everyone that they would be allowed to comment later during the meeting on particular agenda items, if they desire.

Mr. George Waltner commented on the condition of Hickory Woods Road. He informed the Police Jury that the road was being intentionally damaged by someone driving a four-wheel drive vehicle. He expressed his belief that the damage caused to the road makes it difficult for emergency vehicles to access his home.

Mr. Olivier, the Parish Road Superintendent, confirmed that Hickory Woods Road was in the parish road system. Mr. McCormic noted that the Police Jury needs to get the Sabine Parish Sheriff involved in apprehending the parties responsible for the damage to the public road. President Bison thanked Mr. Waltner for bringing this matter to the attention of the Police Jury and assured him that the Sheriff would be contacted, and that Mr. Olivier would review the condition of the road.

#### 6. Adopt the Agenda

Resolution No. 8009

Motion by Ebarb and seconded by Funderburk to adopt the agenda as amended.

The voting was as follows:

Yeas: 9      Nays: 0      Absent: 0

#### 7. Accept the Minutes of the Previous Meeting, December 20, 2017

All Police Jurors have previously been provided a written copy of the minutes of the regular meeting held December 20, 2017.

Resolution No. 8010

Motion by Sepulvado and seconded by Brown to accept the minutes of the December 20, 2017 Police Jury meeting.

The voting was as follows:

Yeas: 9      Nays: 0      Absent: 0

#### 8. Planning Commission

No member of the Sabine Parish Planning Commission was in attendance.

##### 8(a). Mr. James Kennedy – Motels and Industrial Park

Mr. James Kennedy, City Councilman for District A of the Town of Many, addressed the Police Jury. Mr. Kennedy reminded the Jury that the young people of Sabine Parish often must leave the parish to obtain employment. He stated that it is time to bring more industry into Sabine Parish so that more jobs are available. Mr. Kennedy stressed the need for Highway 6 to be a four-lane highway and the need for additional motels in the parish. He requested the Police Jury to assist him in attracting more industry to the parish.

Mr. McCormic expressed his support for any effort to attract more industry to the parish. He stated that Toledo Bend Lake is the engine available to achieve economic growth in the community. He suggested that local government agencies should participate in the development of a long-range plan to foster economic growth.

President Bison asked Mr. Kennedy to contact interested agencies, local governmental entities, and individuals to schedule a meeting to begin developing a long-range

economic plan for the parish. He assured Mr. Kennedy that members of the Police Jury would attend any meeting to encourage economic growth.

9. Approve 2018 Committees as Recommended by Police Jury President Bison

President Bison began his term of office on January 1, 2018. Each Juror has received a copy of the membership of the Police Jury Committees recommended by President Bison.

Resolution No. 8011

Motion by Ruffin and seconded by Ebarb to adopt the following committees with membership as recommended by President Bison:

**Finance Committee:**

Ruffin – Chairman  
McCormic  
Bison  
Ebarb

**Personnel Committee:**

Ebarb – Chairman  
Sepulvado  
Brown  
Funderburk

**Solid Waste Committee:**

Jury President Bison (Chairman & Contract Adm.)  
Ebarb  
McCormic  
Sepulvado

**Courthouse & Jail:**

Sepulvado - Chairman  
Byrd  
McCormic  
Funderburk

**Road and Shop Committee:**

Byrd – Chairman  
McCormic  
Sepulvado  
Brown

**Pinebelt Liason**

(No Chairman)  
Ruffin  
Garcie

**Fenders Cemetery:**

(No Chairman)  
Ruffin  
Brown

The voting was as follows:

Yeas: 9      Nays: 0      Absent: 0

10. Authorize Signers for Sabine Parish Police Jury Bank Accounts

New officers, committee members, and officials need to be authorized to sign checks and conduct other banking business for all Sabine Parish Police Jury bank accounts.

Resolution No. 8012

Motion by Garcie and seconded by Ruffin to authorize the following officers, committee members, and officials to sign checks and conduct other banking business for all Sabine Parish Police Jury bank accounts. All disbursement checks must be signed by any two of the following individuals:

Ronald L. Bison - President  
Mike McCormic – Vice-President  
William E. Ruffin – Chairman- Finance Committee  
William E. Weatherford – Secretary Treasurer

The voting was as follows:

Yeas: 9      Nays: 0      Absent: 0

11. Authorize Transfer of Money to Deposit with Sabine State Bank

The Sabine Parish Police Jury has excess funds that it routinely deposits into interest bearing accounts with financial institutions. Secretary Treasurer Weatherford has shopped the interest rates offered by local financial institutions and has discussed the various rates with the Finance Committee. The Finance Committee has recommended transferring six million five hundred thousand dollars (\$6,500,000) on deposit in a money market account with MidSouth Bank to a money market account with Sabine State Bank.

Resolution No. 8013

Motion by Ruffin and seconded by Garcie to authorize the President and Secretary Treasurer to transfer six million five hundred thousand dollars (\$6,500,000) from the money market account with MidSouth Bank into a money market account with Sabine State Bank.

The voting was as follows:

Yeas: 9      Nays: 0      Absent: 0

12. Approve Entering Cooperative Endeavor Agreement with Pine Belt Multi-Purpose Community Action Agency, Inc.

The Sabine Parish Police Jury has received a letter, dated January 3, 2018, from the Pine Belt Multi-Purpose Community Action Agency, Inc. formally requesting funding in the amount of \$5,000. The funds will be utilized to assist in the operation of the agency programs administered within Sabine Parish. This funding is budgeted in the 2018 General Fund Budget.

Resolution No. 8014

Motion by Sepulvado and seconded by McCormic to authorize President Bison to execute a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement with the Pine Belt Multi-Purpose Community Action Agency, Inc. to provide 2018 funding to the Agency in the amount of \$5,000.

The voting was as follows:

Yeas: 8      Nays: 0      Absent: 0      Abstain: 1 Ruffin

13. Appoint Mr. Tim Collins as a Commissioner for the South Toledo Bend Water District

On January 9, 2018, the Jury was notified by the South Toledo Bend Water District that Ms. Megan Quinn had resigned as a commissioner for the District. A copy of her resignation, dated December 10, 2017, was been provided to each Juror. Mr. Tim Collins has been recommended by the District as a commissioner to replace Ms. Quinn and he has indicated that he is willing to accept the appointment.

Resolution No. 8015

Motion by McCormic and seconded by Brown to appoint Mr. Tim Collins as a commissioner of the South Toledo Bend Water District replacing Ms. Megan Quinn. Mr. Collins is appointed to a five-year term ending January 17, 2023.

The voting was as follows:

Yeas: 9      Nays: 0      Absent: 0

14. North Sabine Fire Protection District – Reappoint Police Jurors Kenneth M. Ebarb and Ricky “K-Wall” Sepulvado to Board of Commissioners for Two Years

Kenneth M. Ebarb and Ricky “K-Wall” Sepulvado were last appointed to the Board of Commissioners of the North Sabine Fire Protection District two years ago (See Resolution No.7593) and need to be reappointed.

Resolution No. 8016

Motion by Ruffin and seconded by McCormic to reappoint jurors Kenneth M. Ebarb and Ricky “K-Wall” Sepulvado to the Board of Commissioners of the North Sabine Fire Protection District for two years beginning, retroactive, January 9, 2018 through January 9, 2020.

The voting was as follows:

Yeas: 7      Nays: 0      Absent: 0      Abstain: 2 (Ebarb, Sepulvado)

15. Appoint Mr. Kenny Carter to Replace Mr. Ronny Bison as a Commissioner on the Fire Protection District No. 1, Wards 3 & 4

Mr. Ronny Bison has resigned as a commissioner for the Fire Protection District No. 1, Wards 3 & 4 effective January 24, 2018. Mr. Kenny Carter has indicated that he will accept appointment as a commissioner for the Fire Protection District No. 1, Wards 3 & 4.

Resolution No. 8017

Motion by Ebarb and seconded by Sepulvado to accept the resignation of Mr. Ronny Bison as a commissioner for the Fire Protection District No. 1, Wards 3 & 4, effective January 24, 2018, and to appoint Mr. Kenny Carter as a commissioner to fill the vacancy.

The voting was as follows:

Yeas: 7      Nays: 0      Absent: 0      Abstain: 2 (Brown, Bison)

16. Adopt 2017 Louisiana Compliance Questionnaire

The Louisiana Compliance Questionnaire is a required part of a financial audit of Louisiana state and local government agencies. The questionnaire must be completed by the President and Secretary Treasurer and it must be presented to and adopted by the Police Jury by means of a formal resolution in an open meeting. The completed questionnaire and a copy of the adoption resolution must be given to the auditor at the beginning of the audit.

A copy of the completed Louisiana Compliance Questionnaire for 2017 was provided to each juror.

Resolution No. 8018

Motion by Ruffin and seconded by McCormic:

WHEREAS the Louisiana Compliance Questionnaire is a required part of the financial audit of the Sabine Parish Police Jury and it is required to be presented to and adopted by the Police Jury in an open meeting,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Louisiana Compliance Questionnaire for the 2017 financial audit as prepared by the President and Secretary Treasurer is hereby adopted.

The voting was as follows:

Yeas: 9      Nays: 0      Absent: 0

17. Parish Transportation Act Certificate

Louisiana Revised Statute 48:758(C) requires the parish governing authority to certify annually to the legislative auditor, or, where applicable, the certified public accountant, that the funds made available under the Parish Transportation Fund Act have been expended in accordance with the standards established by law.

Resolution No. 8019

Motion by McCormic and seconded by Brown:

WHEREAS the Sabine Parish Police Jury has received funds through the Parish Transportation Fund Act during the fiscal year ended December 31, 2017, and

WHEREAS Louisiana Revised Statute 48:758(C) requires the parish governing authority to certify annually to the legislative auditor, or, where applicable, the certified public accountant, that the funds made available under the Parish Transportation Fund Act have been expended in accordance with the standards established by law.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Police Jury President is authorized to sign a certificate of the Sabine Parish Police Jury to the Legislative Auditor that funds made available during the year January 1, 2017 to December 31, 2017, pursuant to Louisiana Revised Statutes 48:751-760, have been expended in accordance with provisions contained in those statutes and other standards established by law.

The voting was as follows:

Yeas: 9      Nays: 0      Absent: 0

18. Consider a Policy to Require Medicare to be the Primary Health Insurance for Eligible Employees

Pat Hazlip, with the Hazlip Companies, has recommended that the Sabine Parish Police Jury adopt a policy requiring eligible employees to elect Medicare to provide their primary health insurance coverage. Secretary Treasurer Weatherford has reviewed the Medicare website and discussed this issue further with Stan Hazlip and he recommends that the Police Jury take no action on this matter.

The Police Jury took no action pertaining to this matter.

19. Authorize Payment of Approved Bills

Resolution No. 8020

Motion by Ruffin and seconded by Garcie to pay the approved bills.

The voting was as follows:

Yeas: 9      Nays: 0      Absent: 0

20. Appropriate Sales Tax for January Operations (\$215,000)

Resolution No.8021

Motion by Ruffin and seconded by Sepulvado to appropriate and transfer \$215,000 from the Sales Tax Fund to the Parishwide Transportation Fund for January 2018 operations.

The voting was as follows:

Yeas: 9      Nays: 0      Absent: 0

21. Committee Reports

Finance Committee:

Mrs. Sharon Sepulvado was requested to provide information concerning problems that have been encountered in the administration of the pharmaceutical plan portion of the new group health care program. The new plan requires the employee to pay a copayment of \$10/\$35/\$60 for covered prescription drugs. This copayment is higher than the copayment required by the former plan and is causing a financial hardship on Jury employees.

There is an option available that would reduce the required copayment under the new plan to \$7/\$25/\$45, based on the tier of the prescribed medicine, which would reduce the prescription drug costs to employees. The option with a lower copayment will cost more for both the police jury and the participating employees; however, a poll of employees indicates that most participating employees favor switching.

If the Jury elects to change to the lower copayment plan, United Healthcare has agreed to make participation retroactive to January 1, 2018.

Mr. Ebarb stressed that the Police Jury intended to match the benefits provided by the former plan as nearly as possible when it accepted the new plan. He expressed his support in changing to the option with lower copayments which more nearly matches benefits provided by the former plan.

Resolution No.8022

Motion by Garcie and seconded by Ebarb to amend the Police Jury's employee health plan to change the prescription drug plan coverage to the alternative option that provides for an employee copayment of \$7/\$25/\$45 based on the tier of the drug.

The voting was as follows:

Yeas: 9      Nays: 0      Absent: 0

## 22. Operations

Superintendent Olivier reported that he is completing measurements of roads for the road overlay program expected to be performed during the summer.

## 23. Adjournment

Resolution No. 8023

Motion by Ruffin and seconded by Ebarb to adjourn.

The voting was as follows:

Yeas: 9      Nays: 0      Absent: 0

s/William E. Weatherford  
William E. Weatherford  
Secretary Treasurer

s/Ronald L. Bison  
Ronald L. Bison  
President