

March 21, 2018

On Wednesday, March 21, 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, February 21, 2018
8. Louie Bernard- Candidate for District 31 Senate Seat
9. Planning Commission
10. Discuss Ordinance for Roads, Bridges, Culverts, and Ditches
11. Consider Capping the Accumulation of the Fund Balance of the General Fund
12. Approve Transfer of \$500,000 from the General Fund to Various Road Funds
13. Authorize the Secretary Treasurer to Contact Alan Offner with the Firm Foley & Judell, L.L.P. to Assist the Police Jury in the Preparation and Presentation of a Tax Proposition to Levy a Supplemental Road Tax for Wards 2 and 3
14. Consider Renewal of Hauling Contract with Waste Connections of Louisiana.
15. Consider Adoption of Gumbo Road in Ward 3, Road District 9, into the Parish Road System
- 15a. Consider Adoption of Center Road in Ward 5, Road District 15, into the Parish Road System
- 15b. Authorize a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement with the Sabine Parish Fire District No. 1, Wards 3 & 4 to Place Glauconite Rock by Their Dry Hydrant
16. Consider Adoption of Petit Chene Drive in Ward 3, Road District 9, into the Parish Road System
17. Consider Adoption of Beau Bois Drive in Ward 3, Road District 9, into the Parish Road System
18. Consider Adoption of Carolyn Drive in Ward 4, Road District 17, into the Parish Road System
19. Authorize Payment of Approved Bills
20. Appropriate Sales Tax for March 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. Charlie Brown.

5. Amend the Agenda

Resolution No. 8036

Motion by Ebarb and seconded by McCormic to amend the agenda to include the following items:

Item 15a - Consider Adoption of Center Road in Ward 5, Road District 15, into the Parish Road System

Item 15b – Authorize a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement with the Sabine Parish Fire District No. 1, Wards 3 & 4, to Place Glaucinite Rock by Their Dry Hydrant

Prior to a vote on the motion to take up a matter not on the agenda by this public body the Police Jury President allowed an opportunity for public comment on the motion. There being no public comments the vote 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. There were no public comments at this time.

6. Adopt the Agenda

Resolution No. 8037

Motion by Ruffin and seconded by Brown 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, February 21, 2018

All Police Jurors have previously been provided a written copy of the minutes of the regular meeting held February 21, 2018.

Resolution No. 8038

Motion by Sepulvado and seconded by Ruffin to accept the minutes of the February 21, 2018 Police Jury meeting.

The voting was as follows:

Yeas: 9      Nays: 0      Absent: 0

8. Louie Bernard- Candidate for District 31 Senate Seat

Mr. Louie Bernard, candidate for the District 31 Senate seat, representing all or parts of Sabine, Natchitoches, Red River, Grant, Winn, and Rapides Parishes, was in attendance.

Mr. Bernard briefly presented his general background. Mr. Bernard has served the public for 24 years as the former Natchitoches Parish Clerk of Court. Prior to being elected Clerk of Court, Mr. Bernard worked as the purchasing agent for the Natchitoches Parish Police Jury and later as the administrator for the Natchitoches Parish Police Jury.

9. Planning Commission

Mr. Peter Nugent with the Sabine Parish Planning Commission was present. There was no business to be conducted.

10. Discuss Ordinance for Roads, Bridges, Culverts, and Ditches

All members of the Sabine Parish Police Jury were provided copies of Chapter 78, *Roads, Bridges, Culverts and Ditches*, of DeSoto Parish's Code. The Road and Shop Committee met and discussed the provisions of this chapter on March 14, 2018.

President Bison noted that the Police Jury is having serious problems in the northern part of the parish with heavy trucks damaging roads, He stated that the DeSoto Parish Police Jury had put considerable effort into developing their ordinance and it appears to be a

good, comprehensive document. Mr. Bison stressed that the Police Jury must do something to put “teeth” into the Parish’s laws concerning damage to roads.

Mr. McCormic informed the Jury that the Road and Shop Committee believes that the DeSoto Parish ordinance needs only minor changes to fit the needs of the Sabine Parish Police Jury.

Resolution No. 8039

Motion by Ebarb and seconded by Brown to table consideration of adoption of an ordinance for roads, bridges, culverts, and ditches until the April 2018 meeting.

The voting was as follows:

Yeas: 9      Nays: 0      Absent: 0

11. Consider Capping the Accumulation of the Fund Balance of the General Fund

The General Fund of the Sabine Parish Police Jury has accumulated a fund balance of more than seven million dollars (\$7,000,000). The Finance Committee has reviewed the annual revenues and expenditures of this fund and determined that a fund balance of six million dollars (\$6,000,000) is adequate to safeguard the solvency of the fund. The Committee noted that the excess of fund balance over this amount could better serve the public if used for other purposes.

Mr. McCormic pointed out that the annual expenses of the General Fund were approximately two million dollars (\$2,000,000) per year. The Finance Committee feels that a fund balance equal to approximately three (3) years of expenditures is a conservative balance to maintain. The Finance Committee will review the accumulated fund balance of the General Fund each year and make a recommendation to the full Police Jury of the amount, if any, to be transferred to other funds.

Resolution No. 8040

Motion by Ebarb and seconded by Funderburk:

WHEREAS, the General Fund of the Sabine Parish Police Jury has accumulated a fund balance in excess of seven million dollars (\$7,000,000); and

WHEREAS, the Finance Committee of the Sabine Parish Police Jury has reviewed the overall financial position of the General Fund and determined that a fund balance of six million dollars (\$6,000,000) is adequate to ensure its financial stability; and

WHEREAS, excess funds can be used more effectively in other areas of Parish operations,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the fund balance of the General Fund will be reviewed each year by the Finance Committee to determine if it should be reduced; however, no transfer of funds shall reduce the fund balance below the amount of six million dollars (\$6,000,000), and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Finance Committee will make annual recommendations to the full Police Jury regarding the amount of funds to be transferred, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that transferred funds are eligible to be used for parish projects that are approved by the full Jury.

The voting was as follows:

Yeas: 9      Nays: 0      Absent: 0

12. Approve Transfer of \$500,000 from the General Fund to Various Road Funds

The Finance Committee has reviewed the fund balance of the General Fund as of December 31, 2017 and determined that it is more than seven million dollars (\$7,000,000). The Finance Committee is authorized to make annual recommendations to the full Police Jury regarding the amount of funds to be transferred from the General Fund. The Committee recommends that five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000) be transferred from the General Fund to various road funds to be spent on the road(s) that are prioritized on the 2018 priority list.

These monies will be used to allow work to begin immediately on roads included in the priority list required by the Parish Transportation Act.

Mr. Ruffin suggested not only transferring \$500,000 to the various road funds to be spent on the road(s) that are prioritized on the 2018 priority list but also transferring \$350,000 to be divided equally between the road districts for repair and maintenance of roads not included on the priority list.

Mr. Ebarb suggested transferring \$350,000 to the various road funds to be spent on the road(s) that are prioritized on the 2018 priority list and transferring \$150,000 to be divided equally between the road districts for repair and maintenance of roads not included on the priority list.

Resolution No. 8041

Motion by McCormic and seconded by Funderburk:

WHEREAS, the Finance Committee has reviewed the fund balance of the General Fund as of December 31, 2017 and determined that it is in excess of seven million dollars (\$7,000,000); and

WHEREAS, the Finance Committee is authorized to make annual recommendations to the full Police Jury regarding the amount of funds to be transferred from the General Fund,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000) be transferred from the General Fund to the appropriate road districts to be spent on the road(s) that are prioritized on the 2018 priority list.

The voting was as follows:

Yeas: 7      Nays: 2 – Ruffin, Garcie      Absent: 0

Resolution No. 8042

Motion by Ruffin and seconded by Garcie to transfer \$350,000 from the General Fund to be divided equally between the road districts for repair and maintenance of roads.

The voting was as follows:

Yeas: 7      Nays: 2 – Bison, McCormic      Absent: 0

13. Authorize the Secretary Treasurer to Contact Alan Offner with the Firm Foley & Judell, L.L.P. to Assist the Police Jury in the Preparation and Presentation of a Tax Proposition to Levy a Supplemental Road Tax for Wards 2 and 3

The current ad valorem tax assessments for Ward 2 (Road District 16) and Ward 3 (Road District 09) are insufficient to properly maintain, repair, and reconstruct the roads within the districts. The funds necessary to make the needed road repairs within Ward 2 (Road District 16) and Ward 3 (Road District 09) can only be obtained through the assessment of a supplemental road tax,

Resolution No. 8043

Motion by McCormic and seconded by Ebarb:

WHEREAS, the current ad valorem tax assessments for Ward 2 (Road District 16) and Ward 3 (Road District 09) do not provide sufficient funds to properly maintain, repair, and reconstruct the roads within the districts; and

WHEREAS, the roads within Ward 2 (Road District 16) and Ward 3 (Road District 09) need substantial repairs; and

WHEREAS, the funds necessary to make the needed road repairs within Ward 2 (Road District 16) and Ward 3 (Road District 09) can only be obtained through the assessment of a supplemental road tax,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Secretary Treasurer be hereby authorized to contact and engage Alan Offner of Foley & Judell, L.L.P. to assist the Sabine Parish Police Jury in the preparation and presentation of a tax proposition to provide a levy of property taxes within Ward 2 (Road District 16) and Ward 3 (Road District 09) for supplemental road revenue, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the supplemental revenue { 15 mills proposed for Ward 2 (Road District 16) and 10 mills proposed for Ward 3 (Road District 09)} be used solely to supplement the property taxes now received by the districts and the funds will be used only for road maintenance, repair and reconstruction and will not be used for salaries and employee fringe benefits, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the supplemental road taxes will expire ten (10) years from their beginning date.

The voting was as follows:

Yeas: 9      Nays: 0      Absent: 0

14. Consider Renewal of Hauling Contract with Waste Connections of Louisiana.

The Solid Waste Committee met on March 6, 2018 and on March 8, 2018 to discuss the possible renewal of the hauling contract with Waste Connections of Louisiana. President Bison noted that there has not been an increase in hauling fees since 2008. The current hauling fee is \$168.36 per container.

The Solid Waste Committee recommended offering Waste Connections of Louisiana a ten-year contract with a ten percent (10%) increase in hauling fees for a period of five (5) years followed by five years with annual adjustments equal to the increase in the Consumer Price Index not to exceed two percent (2%) per year.

Mr. McCormic expressed his opinion that this was a good contract for both the Sabine Parish Police Jury and Waste Connections of Louisiana. Mr. Ebarb expressed his concerns about possible future inflation and noted that this proposed contract will protect the Parish. Mr. Ruffin noted that the contract could possibly result in a twenty percent (20%) increase in hauling costs over a ten-year period.

Resolution No. 8044

Motion by Ruffin and seconded by Garcie to accept the recommendation of the Solid Waste Committee and authorize President Bison to execute a ten-year hauling contract with Waste Connections of Louisiana providing for a ten percent (10%) increase in hauling fees for a period of five (5) years followed by five years with annual adjustments equal to the increase in the Consumer Price Index not to exceed two percent (2%) per year.

The voting was as follows:

Yeas: 9      Nays: 0      Absent: 0

15. Consider Adoption of Gumbo Road in Ward 3, Road District 9, into the Parish Road System

The Parish Road Superintendent has reviewed Gumbo Road located in Ward 3, Road District 9, and has determined that it meets the criteria to be adopted into the Parish Wide Road System. He recommended that the road be adopted into the Parish Wide Road System.

Resolution No. 8045

Motion by Ruffin and seconded by Ebarb to adopt Gumbo Road in Ward 3, Road District 9, into the Parish Wide Road System.

The voting was as follows:

Yeas: 9      Nays: 0      Absent: 0

15a. Consider Adoption of Center Road in Ward 5, Road District 15, into the Parish Road System

The Parish Road Superintendent has reviewed Center Road located in Ward 5, Road District 15, and has determined that it meets the criteria to be adopted into the Parish Wide Road System. He recommended that the road be adopted into the Parish Wide Road System.

Resolution No. 8046

Motion by Garcie and seconded by Ebarb to adopt Center Road in Ward 5, Road District 15, into the Parish Wide Road System.

The voting was as follows:

Yeas: 9      Nays: 0      Absent: 0

15b. Authorize a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement with the Sabine Parish Fire District No. 1, Wards 3 & 4 to Place Glaucanite Rock by Their Dry Hydrant

President Bison informed the Jury that the Sabine Parish Fire District No. 1, Wards 3 & 4, has requested the Sabine Parish Police Jury to assist it by providing glaucanite rock at the location of a dry hydrant off Pilchard Road. During a training exercise, the fire truck got stuck at this location. This situation obviously places citizen's lives and property at risk.

Resolution No. 8047

Motion by Bison and seconded by Funderburk to authorize President Bison to execute a cooperative endeavor agreement between the Sabine Parish Police Jury and the Sabine Parish Fire District No. 1, Wards 3 & 4, to provide glaucanite rock at the location of a dry hydrant off Pilcher Road.

The voting was as follows:

Yeas: 9      Nays: 0      Absent: 0

16. Consider Adoption of Petit Chene Drive in Ward 3, Road District 9, into the Parish Road System

The Parish Road Superintendent has reviewed Petit Chene Drive located in Ward 3, Road District 9, and has determined that it meets the criteria to be adopted into the Parish Wide Road System. He recommended that the road be adopted into the Parish Wide Road System.

Resolution No. 8048

Motion by Ruffin and seconded by Ebarb to adopt Petit Chene Drive in Ward 3, Road District 9, into the Parish Wide Road System.

The voting was as follows:

Yeas: 9      Nays: 0      Absent: 0

17. Consider Adoption of Beau Bois Drive in Ward 3, Road District 9, into the Parish Road System

The Parish Road Superintendent has reviewed Beau Bois Drive located in Ward 3, Road District 9, and has determined that it meets the criteria to be adopted into the Parish Wide Road System. He recommended that the road be adopted into the Parish Wide Road System.

Resolution No. 8049

Motion by Ruffin and seconded by Garcie to adopt Beau Bois Drive in Ward 3, Road District 9, into the Parish Wide Road System.

The voting was as follows:

Yeas: 9      Nays: 0      Absent: 0

18. Consider Adoption of Carolyn Drive in Ward 4, Road District 17, into the Parish Road System

The Parish Road Superintendent has reviewed Carolyn Drive located in Ward 4, Road District 17, and has determined that it meets the criteria to be adopted into the Parish Wide Road System. He recommended that the road be adopted into the Parish Wide Road System.

Resolution No. 8050

Motion by Sepulvado and seconded by Ruffin to adopt Carolyn Drive in Ward 4, Road District 17, into the Parish Wide Road System.

The voting was as follows:

Yeas: 9      Nays: 0      Absent: 0

19. Authorize Payment of Approved Bills

Resolution No. 8051

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

The voting was as follows:

Yeas: 9      Nays: 0      Absent: 0

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

Resolution No. 8052

Motion by Ruffin and seconded by Sepulvado to appropriate and transfer \$215,000.00 from the Sales Tax Fund to the Parishwide Transportation Fund for March 2018 operations.

The voting was as follows:

Yeas: 9      Nays: 0      Absent: 0

21. Committee Reports

There were no committee reports.

## 22. Operations

Road Superintendent Olivier reported that he plans to start this year's asphalt projects in April.

He also informed the Jury that he expects chemical spraying for weeds and brush to be completed by the end of April.

Mr. Olivier noted that the Road Department needs to hire temporary employees to work as bush hog operators.

Resolution No. 8053

Motion by Brown and seconded by Ebarb to authorize Road Superintendent Olivier to hire temporary employees, whose primary task would be operation of a bush hog, for those road districts that he determines would benefit from such an additional temporary employee. These temporary employees will be hired at the rate of ten (\$10.00) dollars per hour. The temporary employees will not be subject to any normal Payroll Step Plan increases. All temporary employees will be required to pass a physical examination and drug test.

The voting was as follows:

Yeas: 9      Nays: 0      Absent: 0

## 23. Adjournment

Resolution No. 8054

Motion by Funderburk and seconded by Ruffin 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