

State of Louisiana
Parish of Vernon



**MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING**

**VERNON PARISH POLICE JURY
PARISH GOVERNMENT COMPLEX BUILDING
300 S. 3RD STREET, 2ND FLOOR
LEESVILLE, LOUISIANA**

**MONDAY, MARCH 18, 2024
10:00 a.m.**

The Vernon Parish Police Jury met in Regular Session, Monday, March 18, 2024 at 10 a.m. in the Police Jury meeting room with the following members **PRESENT:** James B. “Jim” Tuck – President, Marvin Hilton, Alton “David” Fox, Douglas “Doug” Roshong, Cody Hostetler, Scottie Benjamin, Charnel Bailey, Malcolm “Dean” Mitchell, David Brister, Curtis Clay – Vice President, and Steven “Quintin” Thompson. The following members were **ABSENT:** Kenny Haymon.

The Vernon Parish Police Jury was convened as the governing authority of the Parish of Vernon, by Mr. James B. “Jim” Tuck, President, and was then ready for the business on the agenda.

The invocation was given by Mr. Curtis Clay and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mr. Cody Hostetler.

The President asked if there was any public comment on any agenda items; there was none.

The President gave the following **NOTICE:** The April 8, 2024 Committee meeting is cancelled. The jury will meet for its regular meeting on Monday, April 15, 2024 at 10 a.m.

The President asked for committee reports to be presented by the committee Chairman.

Mr. Cody Hostetler, Chairman, Economic Development & Planning Committee, reported that the committee met on Monday, March 11, 2024 at 5:00 p.m. in the police jury meeting room.

Plat received for Cedar Ridge Subdivision, Lots 1-11, located off of Hwy 28 in District 6 Ward 8. The committee has reviewed the plat and recommends the jury approve the plat only (roads may be accepted at a later date).

A motion was made by Mr. Hostetler, seconded by Mr. Bailey and carried, to adopt the Economic Development & Planning Committee report in its entirety.

Mr. Scottie Benjamin, Chairman, Equipment Committee, reported that the committee met on Monday, March 11, 2024 at 5:00 p.m. in the police jury meeting room.

The committee recommends the jury approve request from D2 to purchase a new 2024 Chevrolet Silverado 2500HD from Chevyland for \$54,446.25.

Chevyland	\$54,446.25
Service Chevrolet	\$57,160.25
Navarre Chevrolet	\$65,075.00

Received after the 3/11/2024 committee meeting:

The committee recommends the jury approve request for D 10, 11, 12 to purchase a new John Deere 75P Excavator (\$127,859.16) and 48” Tilting Ditching Bucket (\$8,500.00). Excavator to be financed through Doggett Equipment.

The committee recommends the jury approve request for D6 to purchase a new John Deere 75P Excavator; \$121,101.40 to be financed through Doggett Equipment.

A motion was made by Mr. Benjamin, seconded by Mr. Bailey and carried, to adopt the additions received after the 3/11/2024 committee meeting.

A motion was made by Mr. Benjamin, seconded by Mr. Clay and carried, to adopt the Equipment Committee report in its entirety.

Mr. Curtis Clay, Chairman, Finance Committee, reported that the committee met on Monday, March 11, 2024 at 5:00 p.m. in the police jury meeting room.

The committee recommends the jury approve invoice received from Meyer & Associates, Inc. for the Vernon/Fort Polk Thoroughfare Lift Station Generators – Phase 2 (MA Project No. H1-15063):

- Dennis Downs Electrical Pay Application No. 2 \$30,354.75

The committee recommends the jury approve request from VP Tourism for assistance with MayFest expenses recommends the jury approve \$7,000.00 for assistance.

Received after the 3/11/2024 committee meeting:

The committee recommends the jury approve request to approve an additional \$200,000.00 for the City of Leesville's Extension of Sewer on Jeane Chaple Road to assist with the local match if needed.

A motion was made by Mr. Clay, seconded by Mr. Thompson and carried, to adopt the additions received after the 3/11/2024 committee meeting.

A motion was made by Mr. Clay, seconded by Mr. Thompson and carried, to adopt the Finance Committee report in its entirety.

Mr. Marvin Hilton, Chairman, Personnel Committee, reported that the committee met on Monday, March 11, 2024 at 5:00 p.m. in the police jury meeting room.

The committee recommends the jury approve request to allow Jeffery Deason to received donated sick time from his co-workers, per the requirements of the Personnel Manual, due to an illness.

Received after the 3/11/2024 committee meeting:

The committee recommends the jury approve request from VP Tourism Commission to increase the salary of John Crook, Executive Director by \$2.61 per hour (to be paid by Tourism funds).

The committee recommends the jury approve request from Parish Road Manager to hire Mr. Michael Paddy, D 1, 4, 8, 9, Grader Operator, full-time, 6-month probation period.

A motion was made by Mr. Hilton, seconded by Mr. Fox and carried, to adopt the additions received after the 3/11/2024 committee meeting.

A motion was made by Mr. Hilton, seconded by Mr. Fox and carried, to adopt the Personnel Committee report in its entirety.

Mr. David Brister, Chairman, Road Maintenance & Construction Committee, reported that the committee met on Monday, March 11, 2024 at 5:00 p.m. in the police jury meeting room.

In order to prevent a public health hazard and nuisance, the committee recommends the jury approve the following request from the VP Health Unit:

- Fill in an abandoned well at 7357 Leach Road (#7063), D7 W7
- Fill in an abandoned well at 22092 Hwy 8, Leesville

The committee recommends the jury approve resolutions to perform routine maintenance inside the municipalities of:

- 1.) **Village of Simpson (March 2024)**: perform routine monthly maintenance on the streets inside the village limits, including ditching, road grading, and pothole repairs.
- 2.) **Town of Rosepine (March 2024)**: perform routine monthly maintenance on the streets in the town limits, such as boom mowing, pot hole repairs, and ditching.
- 3.) **Town of New Llano (March 2024)**: install reflectors on Stanton Street and assist with repairs to Section Line Road.

The committee recommends the jury approve hardship received from Ocie J. Mahoney at 305 Cryer Road, D1 W4, cost of work to be done is \$680.10.

A motion was made by Mr. Brister, seconded by Mr. Clay and carried, to adopt the Road Maintenance & Construction Committee report in its entirety.

Mr. Quintin Thompson, reporting for Mr. Kenny Haymon, Chairman, Ways & Means Committee, reported that the committee met on Monday, March 11, 2024 at 5:00 p.m. in the police jury meeting room.

The committee recommends the jury approve request from the Vernon Parish Tourism & Recreation Commission Board of Commissioners to re-appoint the following member to another 3-year term:

- Mrs. Bettye Davis

A motion was made by Mr. Thompson, seconded by Mr. Clay and carried, to adopt the Ways & Means Committee report in its entirety.

Having heard and adopted the committee reports, the President returned to the main agenda.

A motion was made by Mr. Bailey, seconded by Mr. Benjamin and carried, to enter into public hearing to hear public input on a proposed ordinance to change the name of Trailer Park Road (#7025), District 7 Ward 7, to Cornwell Road.

There was no public comment.

A motion was made by Mr. Hilton, seconded by Mr. Roshong and carried, to return to regular session.

A motion was made by Mr. Bailey, seconded by Mr. Benjamin, to adopt an ordinance to change the name of Trailer Park Road (#7025), District 7 Ward 7, to Cornwell Road. **The foregoing motion was subject to a roll call vote and recorded by follows:**

YEAS: Tuck, Hilton, Fox, Roshong, Hostetler, Benjamin, Bailey, Mitchell, Brister, Clay, and Thompson

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Haymon

The motion carried and the ordinance was adopted.

A motion was made by Mr. Roshong, seconded by Mr. Hostetler and carried, to adopt a resolution to approve and accept the Multi-Jurisdictional Agreement between the Calcasieu Parish Police Jury, the Jefferson Davis Parish Police Jury, the Cameron Parish Police Jury, the Vernon Parish Police Jury, the Beauregard Parish Police Jury, and the Allen Parish Police Jury for the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) and authorizing the President to execute the agreement on behalf of the Vernon Parish Police Jury.

A motion was made by Mr. Benjamin, seconded by Mr. Fox and carried, to accept Letter of Engagement from Thomas, Cunningham, Broadway, and Todtenbier, CPAs, for the Statewide Agreed-Upon Procedures audit for the year 2023 and authorize the Administrator/Treasurer to execute the engagement letter on behalf of the Vernon Parish Police Jury.

A motion was made by Mr. Fox, seconded by Mr. Hilton and carried, to accept Letter of Engagement from Thomas, Cunningham, Broadway, and Todtenbier, CPAs, for the Financial audit for the years 2023, 2024, & 2025 and authorize the Administrator/Treasurer to execute the engagement letter on behalf of the Vernon Parish Police Jury.

A motion was made by Mr. Thompson, seconded by Mr. Mitchell and carried, to adopt Louisiana Compliance Questionnaire and Related Party Questionnaire, as required by the Legislative Auditor, and authorize the President to execute certificate for the Legislative Auditor certifying that funds made available during the year January 1, 2023 to December 31, 2023 have been expended in accordance with LA Revised Statute 48:751-760.

A motion was made by Mr. Mitchell, seconded by Mr. Brister and carried, to adopt a resolution proclaiming April 2024 as National Parish & County Government Month in Vernon Parish.

A motion was made by Mr. Clay, seconded by Mr. Brister and carried, to adopt a resolution approving and accepting Cooperative Endeavor Agreement (CEA) between the Vernon Parish Police Jury and the Rapides Area Planning Commission (RAPC) for the purpose of implementing and administering the plan review and inspection process on behalf of the

parish and authorizing the President to execute the CEA on behalf of the Vernon Parish Police Jury.

A motion was made by Mr. Benjamin, seconded by Mr. Roshong and carried, to hold a public hearing on Monday, April 15, 2024 at 10:00 a.m., during the regular police jury meeting to hear public input on a proposed ordinance to amend section 13:31 of the Vernon Parish Code of Ordinances to reduce the speed limit on Snell Road (#2058), District 6 Ward 2, to 15 MPH in its entirety.

A motion was made by Mr. Hostetler, seconded by Mr. Benjamin and carried, to adopt a resolution authorizing the jury to finance one (1) 2023 International HV607 Dump Truck for District 5 from iTA Truck Sales & Service with Cadence Equipment Finance; \$134,400.16.

A motion was made by Mr. Hilton, seconded by Mr. Roshong and carried, to adopt a resolution authorizing the jury to finance one (1) 2022 John Deere 610E Cab Tractor with boom mower for District 2 from John Deere and Goldman Equipment (state contract) with Cadence Equipment Finance; \$145,527.13.

A motion was made by Mr. Benjamin, seconded by Mr. Hostetler, to add the following item to the agenda: Motion to hold a public hearing on Monday, April 15, 2024 at 10 a.m., during the regular police jury meeting, to hear public input on the following: a proposed ordinance to provide for health insurance benefits. **The foregoing motion was subject to a roll call vote and recorded by follows:**

YEAS: Tuck, Hilton, Fox, Roshong, Hostetler, Benjamin, Bailey, Mitchell, Brister, Clay, and Thompson

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Haymon

The motion carried and the item was added.

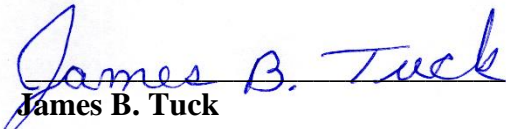
The President as if there was any public comment on adding the above item to the agenda; there was none.

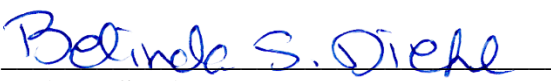
A motion was made by Mr. Benjamin, seconded by Mr. Hilton and carried, to hold a public hearing on Monday, April 15, 2024 at 10 a.m., during the regular police jury meeting, to hear public input on the following: a proposed ordinance to provide for health insurance benefits.

A motion was made by Mr. Bailey, seconded by Mr. Benjamin and carried, to adopt memorial resolutions for the following community members: Mr. Leslie Carl Peavy, Mr. Michael Brinski, Mrs. Maggie Lee Hickman, Mr. John D. Moore, Mr. Paul Koonce, Mr. Tommy Phillips, Mrs. Sandra Hillman Wallace, Mr. Glen Ray “Ted” Johnson, Mrs. Odelia Maria “Punky” Dausat, Mr. Jared Bartley Doyle, Mr. James “Jim” Elvin Wilson, Mr. Vernon Jackson, Mrs. Maria Anderson, Mrs. Ida Green, Mrs. Earlean Laura Boswell, Mr. Jack Causey, Mrs. Dorothy Thomas, Mr. Michael Lynn Townley, Mr. Michael J. Cryer.

A motion was made by Mr. Clay, seconded by Mr. Thompson and carried, to authorize payment of all invoices as authorized by the Finance Committee and authorize payment of all expenditures above the budgeted amount from Ward Maintenance and/or Construction accounts.

There being no further business to discuss, a motion was made by Mr. Bailey, seconded by Mr. Benjamin and carried, to adjourn.


James B. Tuck
President


Belinda S. Diehl
Parish Secretary


Rhonda M. Plummer
Parish Administrator/Treasurer