

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, APRIL 15, 2024
10:00 a.m.**

The Vernon Parish Police Jury met in Regular Session, Monday, April 15, 2024 at 10 a.m. in the Police Jury meeting room with the following members **PRESENT**: James B. “Jim” Tuck – President, Douglas “Doug” Roshong, Cody Hostetler, Scottie Benjamin, Charnel Bailey, Malcolm “Dean” Mitchell, David Brister, Curtis Clay – Vice President, Steven “Quintin” Thompson, and Kenny Haymon. The following members were **ABSENT**: Marvin Hilton and Alton “David” Fox.

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. Kenny Haymon and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mr. Doug Roshong.

Mrs. Beth Wilcox was present at the meeting to execute the proclamation, along with Mr. Tuck and Mrs. Plummer, declaring April Child Abuse Prevention Month in Vernon Parish.

Mr. Joseph Gardner, Keeping It Country & Sons of AMVETS Veterans Tribute, was present at the meeting to discuss a festival they will be holding in March 2025 at the Vernon Parish Fairgrounds

Fire Chief Mike Laughlin, Anacoco, was present at the meeting to ask the jury to consider amending the current Fire District tax to allow for the funding of a dive team.

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

A motion was made by Mr. Brister, seconded by Mr. Mitchell and carried, to accept the minutes of the February 12, 2024 committee meeting, the February 20, 2024 regular meeting, the March 11, 2024 committee meeting, and the March 18, 2024 regular meeting and dispense with the reading of the minutes.

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

Mr. Doug Roshong, reporting for Mr. David Fox, Chairman, submitted the Capital Properties Committee report.

The committee reviewed application received from Mr. David Kirby to purchase the below described parish adjudicated property. This property is surplus and are not needed for a public purpose. The committee recommends the jury declare this property surplus and authorize the jury to proceed with the process of selling the adjudicated property

LEGAL DESCRIPTIONS:

PARCEL NO. 9118930100
LOT 11, BLK 3 C.N. GIBBS ADD.
B596-P553 ('83 PAR TAXES); B788-P326 (COR-D);
MAP # G-15

The jury reviewed quotes received for a lean-to shed for D 10,11,12, pending budget review:

- Langhorn Electrical & Contracting \$12,932.50
- Thompson Metal Supply \$15,001.37
- GMT Services \$29,060.00
- A&C Construction \$68,000.00

The committee recommends the jury approve the low quote from Langhorn Electrical & Contracting; \$12,932.50.

A motion was made by Mr. Doug Roshong, seconded by Mr. Hostetler and carried, to adopt the Capital Properties Committee report in its entirety.

Mr. Scottie Benjamin, Chairman, submitted the Equipment Committee report.

The committee reviewed request from Parish Road Manager, and recommends the jury, declare the following equipment surplus and authorize the sale at Pederson & Pederson Auction on May 4, 2024:

- 4530 Mahindra Tractor H-44 Dist 7
- Trailer Mounter Pressure Washer M-4 Dist 3
- 1984 Nabors Trailer J-13 PWM

- 1989 New Holland Tractor with Loader H-19 Landfill
- Miscellaneous items from the VP Armory

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

Mr. Curtis Clay, Chairman, submitted the Finance Committee report.

The committee recommends the jury approve invoice received from Dennis Downs Electrical for the Vernon/Fort Polk Thoroughfare Lift Station Generators – Phase 2 project (MA Project No. H1-15063); \$5,760.00 (pay application no. 3).

The committee recommends the jury approve invoices received from Apeck Construction, LLC for the Fal Road Rehabilitation Project (MA Project No. B6-21109)

- \$28,953.95 Pay Application No. 3
- \$42,024.47 Pay Application No. 4

The committee recommends the jury approve quote received from TKE Elevator for repairs the big elevator at the Judicial Building (new courthouse); \$30,582.27.

The committee reviewed quotes received for asbestos abatement on the catwalk between the Historic Courthouse and the Courthouse Annex (old jail):

- | | |
|---------------------------------|-------------|
| • Gill Industries, Ltd. | \$5,500.00 |
| • Zimmer- Eschette Svcs II, LLC | \$8,600.00 |
| • Insulation Technologies, Inc. | \$10,800.00 |
| • 1Priority Environmental Svcs | \$11,400.00 |
| • Ratcliff recovery Services | \$11,700.00 |
| • Gulf Svcs Contracting, Inc. | \$12,480.00 |

The committee recommends the jury approve the low quote from Gill Industries, Ltd.

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

Mr. Kenny Haymon, reporting for Mr. Marvin Hilton, Chairman, Personnel Committee, submitted the Personnel Committee report.

The committee recommends the jury approve requests from Parish Road Manager to hire the following employees with 6-month probation periods:

- Freddie Perkins, D5, full-time, Truck Driver
- Lester Edwards, D6, full-time, Equipment Operator
- Branon Powell, D6, full-time, Truck Driver

The committee recommends the jury approve request to allow Joyce Green (HU) to received donated sick time, per the requirements of the Personnel Manual, from her co-workers due to an illness.

The committee reviewed the following terminations:

- Michael Eaves, D6 Voluntary Termination, 3/7/2024
- Gary Wilson, D6 Voluntary Termination, 3/28/2024

The committee reviewed the following personnel changes:

- Shawn McLaughlin, D7 Out on FMLA
- Jeffery Deason, D 10,11,12 Out on FMLA

Due to the increased cost of health insurance coverage, premiums will increase by 10% on May 1, 2024 (see the attached memo for additional information). The increased amount to employees is as follows:

<u>Employee Only Coverage:</u>	<u>\$21.00 monthly or \$10.50 Bi-weekly</u>
<u>Employee and Children Coverage:</u>	<u>\$45.00 monthly or \$22.50 Bi-weekly</u>
<u>Employee and Spouse Coverage:</u>	<u>\$48.00 monthly or \$24.00 Bi-weekly</u>
<u>Employee and Family coverage:</u>	<u>\$50.00 monthly or \$25.00 Bi-weekly</u>

The committee recommends the jury deny request from VP Public Defenders Office to allow contract public defenders to be included on our health insurance policy.

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

Mr. David Bister, Chairman, submitted the Road Maintenance & Construction Committee report.

The committee recommends the jury approve resolution to perform work inside the municipality 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.

The committee recommends the jury approve requests from the VP Health Unit (to prevent a public health hazard and nuisance):

- Bury a dead horse at 1971 Planner Mill Road, D7 W7
- Bury a dead horse at 941 Holly Grove Road, D2 W2
- Fill in an abandoned well on the property next to 3639 Belview Road, D12 W1
- Fill in an abandoned well at 3775 Liliedahl Road, D7 W7

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

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

A motion was made by Mr. Clay, seconded by Mr. Mitchell and carried, to enter into public hearing to hear public input on a proposed ordinance providing for health insurance benefits.

There was no public comment.

A motion was made by Mr. Haymon, seconded by Mr. Thompson and carried, to return to regular session.

A motion was made by Mr. Clay, seconded by Mr. Brister, to adopt an ordinance providing for health insurance benefits. **The foregoing motion was subject to a roll call vote and recorded as follows:**

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

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Hilton and Fox

The motion carried and the ordinance was adopted.

A motion was made by Mr. Benjamin, seconded by Mr. Roshong and carried, to hold a public hearing on Monday, May 20, 2024 at 10:00am, during the regular police jury meeting, to hear public input on the following proposes ordinances:

1. A proposed ordinance to abandon Herring Road (#6003), District 6 Ward 6, in its entirety (1,584 feet beginning at Hwy 465).
2. A proposed ordinance to abandon P. Woodle Road (#6004), District 6 Ward 6, in its entirety (1,584 feet beginning at Herring Road).

A motion was made by Mr. Benjamin, seconded by Mr. Bailey and carried, to adopt a resolution authorizing the jury to finance one (1) John Deere 75 P-Tier Excavator (cleanout bucket, hydraulic thumb) for District 6 from Doggett Equipment with John Deere Financial; \$120,824.44 (state contract).

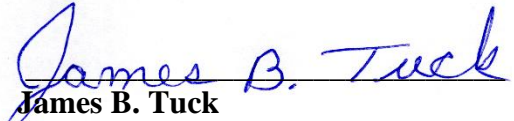
A motion was made by Mr. Thompson, seconded by Mr. Haymon and carried, to adopt a resolution authorizing the jury to finance one (1) 2024 John Deere 75 P-Tier Excavator (hydraulic coupler, hydraulic thumb, and digging bucket) for District 10, 11, 12 from Doggett Equipment with John Deere Financial; \$127,859.16 (state contract).

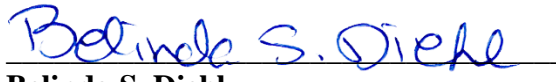
A motion was made by Mr. Roshong, seconded by Mr. Hostetler and carried, to adopt a resolution authorizing the jury to finance one (1) 2024 John Deere 310 P-Tier Backhoe Loader for District 1, 4, 8, 9 from Doggett Equipment with John Deere Financial; \$128,737.20 (state contract).

A motion was made by Mr. Bailey, seconded by Mr. Benjamin and carried, to adopt memorial resolutions for the following community members: Mr. Floyd Dempsey Merchant, Mr. Michael Shane Wellman, Mr. Darrell Trent Brinkley, Mr. Joe Kenneth Wellman, Mr. Ellis Gene Nash, Mr. Allen Richard, Sr., Mrs. Marianne Hood, Mr. Hershhal Weeks, Mr. Laurence Beall, Mr. David Bennett, Mrs. Kimberly Pridgen, Mr. James Hicks, Mr. Joe Bolton, Mr. Dempsey Merchant, Mr. Archie Spence.

A motion was made by Mr. Clay, seconded by Mr. Thompson and carried, to authorizing 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