

BOSSIER PARISH POLICE JURY
BENTON, LOUISIANA
MINUTES
April 2, 2014
www.bossierparishla.gov

The Bossier Parish Police Jury met in regular and legal session on the 2nd day of April, 2014, at 2:00 p.m., in the Police Jury Meeting Room, Bossier Parish Courthouse, Benton, Louisiana. The President, Mr. Doug Rimmer, Sr., called the meeting to order. The invocation was given by Mr. Mac Plummer, and the pledge of allegiance was led by Mr. Fred Shewmake. The Parish Secretary, Ms. Cindy Dodson, called the roll, as follows:

Mr. Rick Avery	Mr. Jerome Darby, Absent
Ms. Wanda Bennett, Excused	Mr. Wayne Hammack
Mr. Glenn Benton	Mr. Mac Plummer
Mr. Bob Brotherton	Mr. Doug Rimmer
Mr. Jimmy Cochran	Mr. Fred Shewmake
Mr. Sonny Cook, Excused	Mr. Jack Skaggs

Others present were Mr. Bill Altimus, Parish Administrator; Mr. Patrick Jackson, Parish Attorney; Mr. Joe E. "Butch" Ford, Jr., Parish Engineer; Ms. Cindy Dodson, Parish Secretary.

Mr. Breck Bickham, 1928 Old Plain Dealing Road, Plain Dealing, LA, stated that he filed a complaint with the Bossier Parish Property Standards Office regarding the condition of property located at 1918 Old Plain Dealing Road. He stated that there are inoperable vehicles, tires and debris, as well as an abandoned mobile home and travel trailer located on this property. Mr. Bickham stated that some items have been removed, but expressed concern regarding the condition of the mobile home. He stated that no one is living in the mobile home and he is concerned that it provides a breeding ground for snakes and rodents. Mr. Bickham stated that the Property Standards Officer has advised him that there is nothing further that can be done regarding the abandoned mobile home. He stated that this mobile home is a health hazard and is inhabitable, and requested clarification of parish regulations pertaining to an abandoned mobile home. Mr. Bickham stated that the travel trailer on the property is currently occupied and does not appear to have a proper sewerage system.

Mr. Bickham stated that it is his understanding that the complainant on property standards issues are to remain anonymous, but his name was released by the Property Standards Officer to the owner of property at 1918 Old Plain Dealing Road. Mr. Jackson stated that it is the parish's policy that the name of any complainant will remain anonymous.

Mr. Jackson stated that if the mobile home is structurally sound with secure doors and windows and is not otherwise a breeding place for mosquitoes, snakes, rodents or other vermin, the parish cannot condemn the structure.

Mr. Avery stated that the mobile home is in poor condition and is concerned about the existing sewer system on the property. Mr. Jackson stated that if the sewerage system is not in compliance with health department regulations, the issue will need to be addressed immediately. Mr. Ford stated that the health department has inspected the sewer system at 1918 Old Plain Dealing Road, and has determined that the existing sewer system is in compliance with health department regulations.

Mr. Benton expressed concern that two dwellings exist on the property which is a violation of parish regulations. Mr. Jackson stated that he will need to review the property standards file on this matter in order to make a determination if there are any violations of parish regulations.

Ms. Vivian Russell, owner of 1918 Old Plain Dealing Road, stated that the sewer system is in compliance. She stated that the Property Standards Officer did not provide her with any information pertaining to the name of the complainant, but that due to an existing issue with Mr. Bickham, she assumed he was the complainant in this matter. She stated that Mr. Bickham has expressed his desire to purchase the property on several occasions, but she has advised him that the property is not for sale.

Ms. Russell stated that there is no water or electricity service in the mobile home and her intentions are to demolish the structure. She stated that friends are currently residing in the travel trailer and that prior to placing the travel trailer on the property, applicable agencies were contacted to ensure that parish regulations were met.

Mr. Mike Vetkoetter, Property Standards Officer, advised that the mobile home appears to be structurally sound and that Ms. Russell has been very cooperative in working to bring the property into compliance with property standards regulations.

Mr. Bickham stated that his request is that the property be cleaned up and brought into compliance with parish property standards regulations. Mr. Jackson is to review this matter further and provide a report at a later date.

Ms. Jan Elkins, KTBS Channel 3, requested that the police jury consider a contribution to the 2014 Independence Day Festival. She extended appreciation for the police jury's past support of the event and asked that the jury reconsider its denial of the requested funding for 2014.

Ms. Elkins stated that July 4th, 2014, is on a Friday, and a larger crowd is anticipated. She stated that out-of-town patrons will possibly stay the entire weekend. Ms. Elkins stated that a steak cook-off will be held this year and they already have several participants for the event. She stated that Mr. Rodney Atkins will perform.

Ms. Elkins stated the Independence Day Festival is about celebrating living in a free country and expressing appreciation to our military, and urged the jury to consider funding for the event.

Mr. Rimmer advised that this request will be taken under advisement.

Mr. Robert Berry, Cypress Black Bayou Recreation and Water Conservation District, stated that there has been some recent controversy regarding where fishing is allowed near the spillway on Cypress Lake. He advised that a recent inspection determined that there is erosion behind the wing wall which prevents anyone from walking up to the wall, and that there is some erosion to the hand railing on the wing wall near the spillway. Mr. Berry stated that there are plans in the future to repair the erosion issue, but that the Cypress Black Bayou Recreation and Water Conservation District is one

of the only Districts in Louisiana and one of two in the United States that actually own its levees and the spillway. He stated that the District is responsible for all costs associated with repairs to all structures on the lake.

Mr. Berry stated that no one is being denied fishing in this area, but due to safety concerns, fishing on the spillway or the wing walls is prohibited. He stated that fishing is allowed off the old bridge and along the bank. He stated that boats can be launched in the bayou and are allowed up to the old bridge, but boats are not allowed past the pilings. Mr. Berry stated that buoys and cables have been placed in this area to keep boats out.

Mr. Avery asked if there have been drownings in this area of Cypress Lake. Mr. Berry advised that in the history of the park, there have been two fishermen that have fallen off the wing walls and drowned. Mr. Avery recommended that the police jury consider assisting Cypress Black Bayou Recreation and Water Conservation District in repairing the erosion and railing at the wing wall.

Ms. Diane Cappel reported that the 9th Annual Water Resource Festival will be held at the Louisiana Boardwalk on May 9 and 10, 2014. She stated that the purpose of the festival is to teach boat and water safety to the children of Caddo and Bossier Parishes. She stated that several booths will be set up at the event by various entities to help assist with teaching boat and water safety. Ms. Cappel stated that life jackets are given to the children attending the festival and requested the police jury's assistance with purchasing life jackets for Bossier Parish students.

Mr. Joe Haller, Park Ranger for the Corps of Engineers, stated that he travels to schools teaching children about boat and water safety. He stated that the USA Swimming Foundation will be sponsoring and endorsing this year's festival, and Olympians will be present at the festival representing the International Water and Boat Safety Congress.

Mr. Haller stated that providing life jackets to children is very important in teaching water safety, advising that approximately 1,000 children nationally die each year from drowning accidents.

Mr. Tom Pace stated that the Water Resource Festival name is registered with the Louisiana Secretary of State's Office and is a 501(c)(3) organization which receives no federal funding. He advised that he has participated in the Water Resource Festival for the past nine years and assists with marketing the festival.

Mr. Pace stated that the Water Resource Festival will be held on May 9, 2014, from 9:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m., and May 10, 2014, from 10:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. He stated that life jackets are provided to the children and they are taught how to properly use the life jacket. Mr. Pace requested that the police jury provide funding for the purchase of 300 to 500 life jackets at a cost of approximately \$5,000 to \$10,000. He stated that other local agencies will also be asked to provide assistance in purchasing life jackets for this event. Mr. Pace stated that the event will be titled "Water, Our Most Valuable Resource".

Ms. Cappel requested that the jurors attend the event to help distribute the life jackets to the children. She stated that approximately 70 percent of the children that attend the festival are Bossier Parish residents.

Mr. Rimmer advised that this request will be taken under advisement.

Ms. Dodson announced the public hearing to consider approval of the plat of the proposed development of Haymeadow Subdivision, Unit No. 5, located in Section 20, Township 19 North, Range 13 West, Bossier Parish, LA.

Mr. Ford stated that the developer has requested that this matter be tabled to allow additional time to complete the drainage study.

After further discussion, **motion was made by Mr. Skaggs, seconded by Mr. Cochran, to table the public hearing to consider the plat of the proposed development of Haymeadow Subdivision, Unit No. 5, located in Section 20, Township 19 North, Range 13 West, Bossier Parish, LA, to be considered at the April 16, 2014, regular meeting.**

The President called for public comment. There being none, **votes were cast and the motion carried unanimously.**

Ms. Dodson announced the public hearing to consider approval of the plat of the proposed development of River Bluff Subdivision, Unit No. 2, located in Section 5, Township 18 North, Range 13 West, and Section 32, Township 19 North, Range 13 West, Bossier Parish, LA.

Mr. Avery requested that this matter be tabled to allow additional time for all parties to reach an amicable resolution.

After further discussion, **motion was made by Mr. Avery, seconded by Mr. Shewmake, to table the public hearing to consider the plat of the proposed development of River Bluff Subdivision, Unit No. 2, located in Section 5, Township 18 North, Range 13 West, and Section 32, Township 19 North, Range 13 West, Bossier Parish, LA, to be considered at the April 16, 2014, regular meeting.**

The President called for public comment. There being none, **votes were cast and the motion carried unanimously.**

Ms. Dodson announced the public hearing to consider the application of Joey J. Moore, to the Bossier City-Parish MPC, for a zoning amendment to change the zoning classification of a four acre tract of land, more or less, located at 5857 Highway 80, Princeton, Bossier Parish, LA, from R-A, Residential-Agriculture District, to I-1, Light Industrial District, for a corporate office. The application received a favorable recommendation from the Bossier City-Parish MPC.

There being no opposition, **motion was made by Mr. Benton, seconded by Mr. Brotherton, to approve the application of Joey J. Moore, to the Bossier City-Parish MPC, for a zoning amendment to change the zoning classification of a four acre tract of land, more or less, located at 5857 Highway 80, Princeton, Bossier Parish, LA, from R-A, Residential-Agriculture District, to I-1, Light Industrial District, for a corporate office.**

The President called for public comment. There being none, **votes were cast and the motion carried unanimously.**

ORDINANCE NO. 4523

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND BOSSIER PARISH ORDINANCE NO. 3908 OF 2003, WHICH ADOPTED A UNIFIED DEVELOPMENT CODE FOR THE BOSSIER CITY-PARISH METROPOLITAN PLANNING COMMISSION AND THE PARISH OF BOSSIER, LOUISIANA, BY CHANGING THE ZONING CLASSIFICATION OF A FOUR ACRE TRACT OF LAND, MORE OR LESS, LOCATED AT 5857 HIGHWAY 80, PRINCETON, BOSSIER PARISH, LA, FROM R-A, RESIDENTIAL-AGRICULTURE DISTRICT, TO I-1, LIGHT INDUSTRIAL DISTRICT, FOR A CORPORATE OFFICE.

BE IT ORDAINED by the Bossier Parish Police Jury in regular and legal session convened on this 2nd day of April, 2014, that Ordinance No. 3908 of 2003 (Unified Development Code) of the Police Jury of Bossier Parish, is hereby amended to change the zoning classification of a four acre tract of land, more or less, located at 5857 Highway 80, Princeton, Bossier Parish, LA, from R-A, Residential-Agriculture District, to I-1, Light Industrial District, for a corporate office.

Applicant: Joey J. Moore

Purpose: Corporate Office

The ordinance was offered by Mr. Benton, seconded by Mr. Brotherton. Upon unanimous vote, it was duly adopted on this 2nd day of April, 2014.

CINDY A. DODSON
PARISH SECRETARY

DOUG RIMMER, SR. PRESIDENT
BOSSIER PARISH POLICE JURY

Ms. Dodson announced the hearing to consider condemnation of property at 5217 Clover Lane, Bossier City, LA. Mr. Mike Vetkoetter, Property Standards Officer, presented current photographs of the property advising that there has been no change in the condition of the property.

Motion was made by Mr. Skaggs, seconded by Mr. Cochran, to proceed with condemnation of property at 5217 Clover Lane, Bossier City, LA.

The President called for public comment. There being none, **votes were cast and the motion carried unanimously.**

Ms. Dodson announced the hearing to consider condemnation of property at Lot 8, Winnfield Acres Subdivision, Unit No. 2, 412 Bermuda Lane, Princeton, LA. Mr. Vetkoetter presented current photographs of the property and advised that there has been some improvement.

Motion was made by Mr. Benton, seconded by Mr. Avery, to proceed with condemnation of property at Lot 8, Winnfield Acres Subdivision, Unit No. 2, 412 Bermuda Lane, Princeton, LA.

The President called for public comment. Ms. Patsy Cain, owner of property at Lot 8, Winnfield Acres Subdivision, Unit No. 2, 412 Bermuda Lane, Princeton, LA, stated that she has been working on the property and requested additional time to complete the cleanup process.

After further discussion, Mr. Benton withdrew his motion and Mr. Avery withdrew his second. **Motion was made by Mr. Benton, seconded by Mr. Avery, to allow the owner of property at Lot 8, Winnfield Acres Subdivision, Unit No. 2, 412 Bermuda Lane, Princeton, LA, an additional thirty (30) days in which to bring the property into compliance with property standards regulations.**

The President called for public comment. There being none, **votes were cast and the motion carried unanimously.** The matter will be reviewed at the May 7, 2014, regular meeting.

Ms. Dodson announced the hearing to consider condemnation of property at 581 Rex Beard Road, Haughton, LA. Mr. Vetkoetter presented current photographs of the property and advised that the property is now in compliance with property standards regulations. He recommended that condemnation proceedings be dismissed.

Motion was made by Mr. Benton, seconded by Mr. Brotherton, to dismiss condemnation proceedings on property at 581 Rex Beard Road, Haughton, LA.

The President called for public comment. There being none, **votes were cast and the motion carried unanimously.**

Mr. Fred Shewmake, Chairman of the Homeland Security Committee, reported on a meeting of that committee, advising that he, Mr. Benton, Mr. Darby, and Mr. Plummer were present. He stated that Mr. Altimus and Ms. Connie Cubley were also present. Other jurors present were Mr. Avery, Mr. Cochran, Mr. Hammack and Mr. Rimmer.

Mr. Shewmake stated that eight applications were received for the position of Director of Bossier Parish Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness. He stated that Mr. Altimus, Bossier City Mayor Lo Walker, and Sheriff Julian Whittington have reviewed all applications and recommend that Mr. Ian C. Snellgrove be appointed to the position of Director of Bossier Parish Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness. Mr. Shewmake stated that the Homeland Security Committee has reviewed the applications received and concurs with this recommendation.

Mr. Altimus stated that it is recommended that the Bossier Parish Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Unit be relocated from its office facility on Benton Road to the Bossier Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness office building at 1511 Doctors Drive, Bossier City, LA. He stated that there is ample office space at this facility to house both operations, and stated that the current receptionist for CVEU will serve both entities.

Mr. Altimus stated that the appointment of an Assistant Director for Bossier Parish Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness will be made, advising that it is recommended that an employee from the existing Office of Homeland Security be considered for this position.

After further discussion, **motion was made by Mr. Shewmake, seconded by Mr. Plummer, to approve the appointment of Mr. Ian C. Snellgrove as Director of Bossier Parish Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness.**

The President called for public comment. There being none, **votes were cast and the motion carried unanimously.**

Ms. Sheryl Thomas, Parish Treasurer, advised that proposals were received from Capital One Bank, Citizens National Bank, and First Guaranty Bank for Fiscal Agent of the Bossier Parish Police Jury for the period of April 1, 2014, to April 1, 2016. She stated that after review of each proposal, it is recommended that the proposal of First Guaranty Bank be accepted. **Motion was made by Mr. Plummer, seconded by Mr. Cochran, to accept the proposal of First Guaranty Bank for Fiscal Agent of the Bossier Parish Police Jury for the period of April 1, 2014, to April 1, 2016.**

The President called for public comment. There being none, **votes were cast and the motion carried unanimously.**

Motion was made by Mr. Avery, seconded by Mr. Benton, to adopt a proclamation proclaiming the month of April, 2014, as Fair Housing Month in Bossier Parish.

The President called for public comment. There being none, **votes were cast and the motion carried unanimously.**

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, the 46th Anniversary of the National Fair Housing Law, Title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968, during the month of April, is an occasion for all Americans – individually and collectively – to rededicate themselves to the principle of freedom from housing discrimination whenever it exists; and

WHEREAS, this law guarantees each citizen the critical, personal element of freely choosing a home; and

WHEREAS, a fair housing law has been passed by the state of Louisiana, and implementation of the law requires the positive commitment, involvement, and support of each of our citizens; and

WHEREAS, the departments and agencies of the state of Louisiana are to provide leadership in the effort to make fair housing not just an idea, but an ideal for all our citizens; and

WHEREAS, barriers that diminish the rights and limit the options of any citizen to freely choose a home will ultimately diminish the rights and limit the option of all.

NOW, THEREFORE, We, The Bossier Parish Police Jury, do hereby proclaim the month of April, 2014, as

FAIR HOUSING MONTH

in the Parish of Bossier, and do hereby encourage all citizens to abide by the letter of spirit of the Fair Housing Law, and ask the citizens of this Parish to join in reaffirming the obligation and commitment to fair housing opportunities for all.

The proclamation was offered by Mr. Avery, seconded by Mr. Benton. Upon unanimous vote, it was duly adopted on this 2nd day of April, 2014.

CINDY A. DODSON
PARISH SECRETARY

DOUG RIMMER, SR., PRESIDENT
BOSSIER PARISH POLICE JURY

Motion was made by Mr. Skaggs, seconded by Mr. Cochran, to approve the request of Ms. Judith Bruce, Cash Point The Party Place, for a letter of no objection to the selling of alcohol and beer at a special event “5th Annual Sucker Punch Sally Rally and Music Festival Benefiting the Hillman House” on May 2, 2014, from 4:00 p.m. until 12:00 a.m., and May 3, 2014, from 10:00 a.m. until 12:00 a.m., at Cash Point The Party Place, 221 Cash Point Landing, Bossier City, Bossier Parish, LA.

The President called for public comment. There being none, **votes were cast and the motion carried unanimously.**

Mr. Ford reported on a meeting of the Road/Subdivision Regulations Committee advising that it is recommended that certain bridges in the parish be posted in an effort to extend the life of those bridges. He stated that the older, longer timber bridges in the parish are in need of repair and should be rated, recommending that any bridge with a sufficiency rating of less than 50 percent be posted at 15 to 25 tons. He stated that this will allow garbage trucks and/or school buses to cross those bridges. Mr. Ford further recommended that any bridge with a sufficiency rating above 50 percent be posted at 25 to 40 tons. He stated that by posting these bridges it will help to ensure that the Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Unit is able to re-route heavy loads to bridges that will accommodate the overweight trucks. Mr. Ford stated that any trucks exceeding 40 tons will be required to obtain a permit and bond prior to being authorized to cross the bridges, and the bridges will need to be inspected prior to the larger trucks being allowed to cross.

Mr. Ford advised that there have been several complaints regarding the five ton load limit on the Atkins Clark Road Bridge. He stated that due to utility issues, there will be a delay in repairs to the Atkins Clark Road Bridge.

Mr. Ford stated that he will prepare a recommendation for the posting of certain bridges and present it for the jury’s consideration on April 16, 2014. Mr. Jackson stated that an ordinance for each bridge is required.

After further discussion, **motion was made by Mr. Benton, seconded by Mr. Hammack, to take this matter under advisement for further consideration at the April 16, 2014, regular meeting.**

The President called for public comment. There being none, **votes were cast and the motion carried unanimously.** This matter is to be considered at the April 16, 2014, regular meeting.

Mr. Avery presented a request from the Town of Benton for assistance with the construction of a parking lot at a new community park. He stated that the Town of Benton will pay all material costs, and has requested that the police jury provide labor and equipment. Mr. Ford advised that labor and equipment costs will be less than \$10,000.

Motion was made by Mr. Avery, seconded by Mr. Cochran, to approve the request of the Town of Benton for assistance with the construction of a parking lot at a new community park with the Town of Benton paying all material costs.

The President called for public comment. There being none, **votes were cast and the motion carried unanimously.**

Jurors were provided a copy of district highway reports.

Mr. Altimus presented lapel pins from the Police Jury Association to Mr. Avery, Mr. Cochran, Mr. Darby, and Mr. Hammack recognizing the number of terms served as jurors.

Mr. Altimus advised that a ribbon cutting ceremony is scheduled Friday, April 4, 2014, at 2:00 p.m. for the new class wing addition at W. T. Lewis Elementary School.

Mr. Altimus stated that the police jury is hosting the Mayor’s Quarterly Breakfast scheduled for Wednesday, April 9, 2014, at 7:15 a.m. at the Bossier Civic Center. He requested that jurors advise the staff if they plan to attend.

Mr. Ford reported on the Infrastructure Summit held on March 25, 2014. He stated that the event was well attended and expressed appreciation for their attendance and to those who made presentations during the event.

Mr. Ford provided an update on the Koran/Doyline Road Bridge, advising that the acquisition of right-of-way will begin soon.

Mr. Ford provided an update on the Kingston Road Improvement project, advising that the acquisition of right-of-way is almost complete.

Mr. Ford advised that he and Mr. Easterly will be attending meetings tomorrow in Baton Rouge with the Department of Transportation and Development to discuss the North/South Corridor project and to discuss the matter of bridge ratings.

Mr. Ford stated that a meeting is scheduled Friday with the Department of Environmental Quality to discuss the letting of Contracts 1, 2 and 3 and the force main project for the Consolidated Waterworks/Sewerage District No. 1 of the Parish of Bossier.

Mr. Ronnie Andrews, Public Works Director, presented an update on activities of the highway department and on several road projects in the parish.

Mr. Brotherton reported that the South Bossier Park is officially open.

There being no further business to come before the Bossier Parish Police Jury in regular and legal session on this 2nd day of April, 2014, the meeting was adjourned by the President at 3:26 p.m.

CINDY A. DODSON
PARISH SECRETARY

DOUG RIMMER, SR., PRESIDENT
BOSSIER PARISH POLICE JURY