

BOSSIER PARISH POLICE JURY
FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES

Mr. Mac Plummer, Chairman

December 20, 2023

The Finance Committee of the Bossier Parish Police Jury met on this 20th day of December, 2023, at 1:30 p.m., in the Police Jury Meeting Room, Bossier Parish Courthouse, Benton, Louisiana. Mr. Mac Plummer, Chairman, called the meeting to order and the roll was called by Ms. Megan Ramos, Interim Parish Secretary, with the following members present:

Mr. Glenn Benton	Mr. Chris Marsiglia
Mr. Bob Brotherton, absent	Ms. Julianna Parks
Mr. Jimmy Cochran	Mr. Mac Plummer
Mr. Jerome Darby	Mr. Doug Rimmer
Mr. Charles Gray, absent	Mr. Philip Rodgers
Mr. John Ed Jorden	Mr. Tom Salzer

Mr. Plummer addressed the audience, asking if anyone would like to address the jury regarding an item not on the agenda. Mr. Butch Ford, Parish Administrator, requested to be added to the agenda as a visitor.

Motion was made by Mr. Rodgers, seconded Mr. Benton, to amend the agenda to add Mr. Butch Ford, as Visitor No. 1.

The Chairman called for public comment. There being none, **motion carried with the following votes recorded:**

AYES: Mr. Benton, Mr. Brotherton, Mr. Darby, Mr. Cochran, Mr. Jorden, Mr. Marsiglia, Ms. Parks, Mr. Plummer, Mr. Rimmer, Mr. Rodgers, Mr. Salzer

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Mr. Brotherton, Mr. Gray

Mr. Ford discussed the broadband money that the police jury got from ARPA. He stated that the police jury discussed moving that money to water and sewer projects in November of 2023. He further stated that the police jury has not received any requests for money from the companies who provide broadband services, and these funds have to be obligated by the end of 2024. Mr. Ford stated that the police jury has identified \$2 million dollars in water and sewer projects where the broadband money could be used. Mr. Benton stated that the parish needs this money in order to make improvements and grow the water systems. Mr. Ford stated that in order to have ample time to design the water and sewer projects and get them out to bid, a decision by the police jury on the use of these funds is needed by January.

Mr. Rodgers requested a list of projects where the broadband money was spent. He also would like a list of the proposed water and sewer projects for 2024.

Police Juror Elect, Ms. Pam Glorioso, spoke from the audience. She stated that she would like to be able to evaluate the broadband funds, before it gets allocated to water and sewer projects, due to many areas of the parish that have limited to no broadband service.

Ms. Kristin Delahoussaye and coworker, Bridget Homer, Capital Area Finance Authority, thanked the jury for letting them come again and speak to them about the down payment assistance program. They asked for the police jury to approve the bond that was issued on November 28, 2023, advising that the bond will close on December 28, 2023. She stated that this bond allows for down payment assistance for low to moderate income buyers. Ms. Homer stated that this will assist buyers with a lower interest rate, down payment assistance and closing costs. She stated that there is a strict vetting program for these participants, which includes a credit score requirement, an income requirement, as well as debt to income ratio. She further stated that they do not want to place people into a home that they are not going to be able to afford.

Mr. Rimmer inquired as to how much they are providing for down payment assistance. Ms. Delahoussaye stated that they provide up to 5%. Mr. Darby asked if there was anyone that participated in the program that was unable to pay back the loan. Ms. Delahoussaye stated that since they have been doing the program in Bossier Parish, they have done over 100 loans and none of the loans have been foreclosed on. Ms. Homer stated that the program educates homebuyers on the home buying process and home loans before they are issued any type of assistance. Mr. Benton inquired about where the funds are coming from for the program. Ms. Delahoussaye said that the state of Louisiana has allotted \$40 million for this program.

Mr. Rodgers asked why the program needs the police jury's approval. Ms.

Delahoussaye responded, advising that the bond council requires that the program go to the finance authority for each parish. She stated that a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement with the respective parish is required in order to offer other down payment assistance programs. Mr. Rodgers and Mr. Rimmer inquired about the surrounding parishes involvement in the program. Ms. Homer and Ms. Delahoussaye stated that all the surrounding parishes are participating in the program. Mr. Rodgers asked if any buyers in Bossier Parish have asked for this program. Ms. Delahoussaye stated that they have, and further stated that it becomes difficult when you have homebuyers from other parishes who want to move into Bossier Parish, and they are unable to use the downpayment assistance program.

Mr. Rodgers invited Mr. Frank Kelly, a local realtor, from the audience to discuss the program. Mr. Kelly stated that in his opinion, it will benefit the parish. He stated that he believes that homeowners are better citizens and better employees throughout the parish. He further stated that Bossier Parish is a poor parish and would benefit from this program. Mr. Kelly stated that every child in every Bossier Parish school gets free lunch. He explained that the Federal government provides that if more than 50% of students in a Bossier Parish school qualifies for free and reduced lunch, then all students get free and reduced lunch. He said the latest percentage that he knew of, was 52%. Mr. Kelly stated that this program targets first responders, veterans, teachers, and the respective staff for each, and he is in favor of the program and believes it will benefit residents of the parish.

Lakeisha Russell, mortgage sales manager with Gateway Mortgage, 2903 Paradise Drive, Shreveport, LA, 71105, requested to speak on this item. She stated that she has been in the mortgage business for 19 years. Ms. Russell stated that she has helped over 200 buyers a year close on their homes and is very knowledgeable on these types of programs. She stated that she uses them often, and this program offers a higher percentage of down payment assistance and a better interest rate than other downpayment assistance programs.

Mr. Rimmer stated that they will vote on this item in the regular meeting.

Motion was made by Mr. Rimmer, seconded by Mr. Benton, to approve payment of accounts payable invoices and budget to actual monthly comparison for the month of November, 2023.

The Chairman called for public comment. There being none, **motion carried with the following votes recorded:**

YEAS: Mr. Benton, Mr. Cochran, Mr. Darby, Mr. Jorden, Mr. Marsiglia, Ms. Parks, Mr. Plummer, Mr. Rimmer, Mr. Rodgers, Mr. Salzer

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Mr. Gray, Mr. Brotherton

There being no further business to come before the Finance Committee, the meeting was adjourned by Mr. Plummer.

MEGAN C. RAMOS
INTERIM PARISH SECRETARY

MAC PLUMMER, CHAIRMAN
FINANCE COMMITTEE