

BOSSIER PARISH POLICE JURY
BENTON, LOUISIANA
MINUTES, REGULAR MEETING
September 4, 2024
www.bossierparishla.gov

The Bossier Parish Police Jury met in regular and legal session on the 4th day of September, 2024, at 2:00 p.m., in the Police Jury Meeting Room, Bossier Parish Courthouse, Benton, Louisiana. The President, Mr. Philip Rodgers, called the meeting to order. The invocation was given by Mr. Glenn Benton, and the pledge of allegiance was led by Mr. Keith Sutton. Ms. Megan Ramos, Interim Parish Secretary, called the roll at 2:02 pm, with the following members present:

Quorum Present (12 Present)

Present: Bob Brotherton, Glenn Benton, Philip Rodgers, John Ed Jorden, Julianna Parks, Chris Marsiglia, Jimmy Cochran, Doug Rimmer, Pam Glorioso, Julian Darby, Tom Salzer, Keith Sutton

Others present were Mr. Joe E. "Butch" Ford, Jr., Parish Administrator; Dr. Ken Ward, Assistant Parish Administrator; Mr. Patrick Jackson, Parish Attorney; Mr. Eric Hudson, Parish Engineer; Ms. Megan Ramos, Interim Parish Secretary; Ms. Stacie Fernandez, Parish Treasurer.

Motion was made by Mr. Jorden, seconded by Mr. Sutton, to amend the agenda to add Mr. Bill Shelton, Justice of the Peace, as Visitor Number One.

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

Yes: Glenn Benton, Bob Brotherton, Jimmy Cochran, Julian Darby, Pam Glorioso, John Ed Jorden, Chris Marsiglia, Julianna Parks, Doug Rimmer, Philip Rodgers, Tom Salzer, Keith Sutton

No: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

Mr. Bill Shelton addressed the jury, advising that he currently serves as Justice of the Peace for District 1 in Bossier Parish. He presented jurors with an informational packet for review at their leisure. Mr. Shelton explained that the Justice of the Peace Court is a lower court in the judicial system with limited jurisdiction, comparable to mayor's court or city court. He stated that the Justice of the Peace Court hears disputes concerning matters under \$5,000, evictions, ejections, personal property seizures, repossessions, as well as issues arrest warrants and sets bail. He further stated that in some cases, Justices of the Peace can issue a search warrant, and can substitute for the coroner in some instances.

Mr. Shelton stated that Constables carry both a badge and firearm, must attend training every two years, and must be Peace Officer's Standards and Training (P.O.S.T.) Certified. He stated that Constables complete service on the parties and carry out the orders issued by Justice of the Peace Court. He further stated that Constables work with other law enforcement agencies when needed and advised that they serve as bailiffs during Justice of the Peace Court proceedings. Mr. Shelton stated that continuing education is required each year, advising that the Louisiana Attorney General's Office provides their continuing education annually. He stated that Justices of the Peace are allowed to request opinions from the Attorney General's Office.

Mr. Shelton stated that both Justices of the Peace and Constables are elected for a six-year term. He stated both must be of good moral character, eligible to cast an election ballot in the district in which they sit, possess the ability to read and write, and must have either a high school diploma or equivalent. He further stated that there are 14 total Justices of the Peace and Constables in Bossier Parish serving six districts within the parish.

Mr. Shelton stated that because these positions are of a lower level, this gives each Justice of the Peace and Constable the ability to work closely with residents. He stated that they routinely handle domestic disputes, landlord and tenant issues, and civil disagreements within their communities. He further stated that they are civil servants, much like members of the police jury body.

Mr. Shelton stated that each office holder provides their own office supplies, computers, and personal vehicles. He stated that constables provide their own gun and badge and advised that many do not have radios in their vehicles. He further stated that the pay is currently \$300 per month, which has been the same for approximately 25 years, and his predecessor's records indicate the pay was the same in the year 2001. Mr. Shelton stated that inflation has increased over 60% during this period and based on these factors, he is requesting a pay increase to \$600 per month.

Robert Wright, 6307 W. Oxbow Circle, Bossier City, LA, retired accountant and District 1 Constable, addressed the jury concerning the inflation increase and resulting request for the increase in salary for Justices of the Peace and Constables. Mr. Wright stated that in his opinion, he does not believe the increase in salary requested will replace the buying power once held. He stated that Constables in DeSoto Parish are paid a salary of \$1,000 per month. He further stated that he believes a fair salary is an increase from \$200 per month to \$400 per pay period, with a 26-pay period year. Mr. Wright stated this increase will result in a gross pay increase to \$10,400 per

year. He stated that this increase may not raise the buying power of each public servant to current levels but stated it does replace some which has been lost due to inflation.

Ms. Glorioso stated that the letter request received today from Mr. Shelton indicates a request for an increase to \$480 per month. Mr. Shelton stated that amount reflects his opinion, but after speaking with his cohorts, it was the consensus of the group to request an increase to cover the next 25 years. Mr. Glorioso stated that Mr. Wright mentioned an increase to \$10,400 per year. Mr. Wright stated that he is presenting two options today, one being \$1,000 per month and \$12,000 per year, the other being \$400 per pay period with a 26-pay period year, for a total of \$10,400 per year. He stated that his opinion is that the annual salary should be set at \$12,000, due to the amount of work performed. He further stated that they are currently working to establish a litter court in Bossier Parish, which will add to their duties.

Mr. Jorden suggested that the requested pay increase be considered during police jury budget proceedings. Mr. Wright stated that it is their desire to bring this to the attention of the police jury and advised that no decision is expected today.

Mr. Marsiglia asked about the size of each district and approximately how many miles are traveled by Justices of the Peace and Constables. Mr. Wright stated that districts begin near the area of the Jimmie Davis Bridge and cover the entire parish. He stated that if the litter court comes to fruition, he will also travel his district to observe any littering on public property. Mr. Marsiglia asked approximately how many miles are traveled and stated he is aware eviction notice service often takes multiple visits to complete. Mr. Shelton stated that geographically speaking, the districts on the north end of the parish are much larger, while those near municipalities are smaller with more dense populations.

Mr. Jorden asked if the salary paid by the parish is the total received by each, or if there are additional costs collected through proceedings. Mr. Shelton stated that court fees help offset some costs. He stated that he served 14 years as Justice of the Peace in Red River Parish and presided over 1,000 cases. He further stated that he has served District 1 in Bossier Parish for the last ten years and has presided over approximately 100 cases.

Mr. Rimmer stated that per the information presented today, DeSoto Parish is paid \$1,000 per month, but the letter received from Mr. Shelton states DeSoto Parish receives a salary of \$700 per month. Mr. Wright stated that he has been advised that DeSoto Parish receives a salary of

\$1,000 per month. Mr. Shelton stated that page 27 of his letter details the total DeSoto Parish receives in salary, which is \$8,400 per year.

Ms. Parks asked if costs are reimbursed when mileage is incurred in service of eviction notices, as those costs are paid in district court. Mr. Shelton stated that those costs are not collected, and advised the cost for Justice of the Peace matters is \$100 per eviction, with an additional cost of \$20 for each defendant. He stated these costs are split on a 50-50 basis between the Justice of the Peace and Constable. Ms. Parks asked who is responsible for passing the costs of the person(s) utilizing Justice of the Peace Court to the filer, instead of all taxpayers bearing that burden. Mr. Shelton stated he believes the state legislature approves the costs and fee schedule. Mr. Wright stated that it is not practical to collect those costs in the proceedings of Justice of the Peace Court. Mr. Shelton stated that it is not only mileage involved in the cases, but also the time spent by the Justice of the Peace in reviewing the matter before each case and decision.

Ms. Parks asked Mr. Shelton what other matters Justices of the Peace and Constables handle besides the approximately 100 court cases handled during the past ten years. Mr. Shelton stated that he also performs two to three wedding ceremonies per month, at a typical cost of \$75-100 per event. Ms. Parks asked if there is anything else handled by each office. Mr. Shelton stated that they can sign warrants and handle search and seizure matters, but there is no extra income for criminal matters. He stated that he is also an Ex-Officio Notary for limited subject matters, such as the sale of a vehicle.

Mr. Rodgers asked how many Justices of the Peace and Constables are in Bossier Parish. Mr. Shelton stated that there are 14 in total, seven in each office. Mr. Wright thanked the jurors for their time and consideration.

Mr. Eric Hudson, Parish Engineer, stated that sealed bids were received on August 27, 2024, for Project No. 2024-130, South Bossier Highway Department Building, advising that two bids were received. He recommended that the bid of Blocker Builders, LLC, be accepted, advising that the bid amount for Base Bid and Alternate No. 1 as submitted by Blocker Builders, LLC, in the total amount of \$271,000.00, is lower than the engineering estimate of \$320,000.00 for the project.

Motion was made by Mr. Brotherton, seconded by Ms. Glorioso, to accept the bid of Blocker Builders, LLC, in the total amount of \$271,000.00, which includes a Base Bid amount

of \$259,000.00, and a lump sum bid amount of \$12,000.00 for Alternate No. 1, for Project No. 2024-130, South Bossier Highway Department Building, in accordance with bids received on August 27, 2024.

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

- Yes:** Glenn Benton, Bob Brotherton, Jimmy Cochran, Julian Darby, Pam Glorioso, John Ed Jordan, Chris Marsiglia, Julianna Parks, Doug Rimmer, Philip Rodgers, Tom Salzer, Keith Sutton
- No:** None
- Abstain:** None
- Absent:** None

Bid results are as follows:

Contractors:	Base Bid (Lump Sum)	Alternate No. 1 (Lump Sum)
Blocker Builders, LLC	\$259,000.00	\$12,000.00
Testament Construction Service, LLC	\$266,500.00	\$18,100.00

RESOLUTION

BE IT RESOLVED by the Bossier Parish Police Jury in regular and legal session on this 4th day of September, 2024, that it does hereby authorize the Parish Administrator and/or Parish President to execute on its behalf, any and all documents in connection with the bid of Blocker Builders, LLC, in the total amount of \$271,000.00, for Project No. 2024-130, South Bossier Highway Department Building, in accordance with bids received on August 27, 2024.

The resolution was offered by Mr. Brotherton, seconded by Ms. Glorioso. Upon unanimous vote, it was duly adopted on this 4th day of September, 2024.

MEGAN C. RAMOS
INTERIM PARISH SECRETARY

PHILIP RODGERS, PRESIDENT
BOSSIER PARISH POLICE JURY

Mr. Eric Hudson, Parish Engineer, stated that sealed bids were received on August 29, 2024, for Project No. 2024-113, LA 614 Water Distribution Improvements, American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funded project, advising that three bids were received. He recommended that the low bid of Budd’s Construction of Haughton, LLC, in the amount of \$204,273.40, be accepted.

Motion was made by Mr. Benton, seconded by Mr. Darby, to accept the bid of Budd’s Construction of Haughton, LLC, in the amount of \$204,273.40, for Project No. 2024-113, LA 614 Water Distribution Improvements, American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funded project, in accordance with bids received on August 29, 2024.

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

Yes: Glenn Benton, Bob Brotherton, Jimmy Cochran, Julian Darby, Pam Glorioso, John Ed Jorden, Chris Marsiglia, Julianna Parks, Doug Rimmer, Philip Rodgers, Tom Salzer, Keith Sutton
No: None
Abstain: None
Absent: None

Bid results are as follows:

Contractors:	Bid
Budd’s Construction of Haughton, LLC	\$204,273.40
David Lawler Construction, LLC	\$208,752.00
Bayou Country Contractors and Irrigation, LLC	\$251,694.00

RESOLUTION

BE IT RESOLVED by the Bossier Parish Police Jury in regular and legal session on this 4th day of September, 2024, that it does hereby authorize the Parish Administrator and/or Parish President to execute on its behalf, any and all documents in connection with the bid of Budd’s Construction of Haughton, LLC, in the amount of \$204,273.40, for Project No. 2024-113, LA 614 Water Distribution Improvements, American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funded project, in accordance with bids received on August 29, 2024.

The resolution was offered by Mr. Benton, seconded by Mr. Darby. Upon unanimous vote, it was duly adopted on this 4th day of September, 2024.

MEGAN C. RAMOS
 INTERIM PARISH SECRETARY

PHILIP RODGERS, PRESIDENT
 BOSSIER PARISH POLICE JURY

Motion was made by Ms. Parks, seconded by Mr. Sutton, to schedule a public hearing on October 2, 2024, to consider abandonment of Willow Brook Subdivision, Unit No. 4, a Planned Unit Development, located in Section 28, Township 19 North, Range 13 West, Northwestern Land District, Bossier Parish, LA.

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

Yes: Glenn Benton, Bob Brotherton, Jimmy Cochran, Julian Darby, Pam Glorioso, John Ed Jorden, Chris Marsiglia, Julianna Parks, Doug Rimmer, Philip Rodgers, Tom Salzer, Keith Sutton
No: None
Abstain: None
Absent: None

Motion was made by Mr. Benton, seconded by Mr. Sutton, to table Agenda Item No. 11, consider scheduling a public hearing on October 16, 2024, to consider approval of the application of Jacob Malone, Raley and Associates, Inc., to the Bossier City-Parish MPC, for a zoning amendment to change the zoning classification of a certain tract of land being 1.778 acres, more or less, located in Section 14, Township 18 North, Range 12 West, Bossier Parish, LA, (Located at the Southwest Intersection of Hwy 80 and Forest Hills Boulevard), from B-1 (Business, Commercial Office District) to B-3 (General Business District), for a proposed convenience store, fueling station, and car wash, to be considered at the October 2, 2024 regular meeting.

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

Yes: Glenn Benton, Bob Brotherton, Jimmy Cochran, Julian Darby, Pam Glorioso, John Ed Jorden, Chris Marsiglia, Julianna Parks, Doug Rimmer, Philip Rodgers, Tom Salzer, Keith Sutton
No: None
Abstain: None
Absent: None

Ms. Ramos announced the condemnation hearing to consider condemnation of property at 116 Doe Lane, Benton, LA, Tax Assessment No. 164316, Police Jury District 3. Mr. David Ghormley, Property Standards Officer, presented photographs of the property and reported that there has been no change in the condition of the property.

Ms. Glorioso asked Mr. Ghormley if condemnation of the property includes demolition or removal of the structure. Mr. Ghormley stated that it allows the parish to cut the grass and clean up any debris on the property. He stated that the home is intact, so no work is needed on the structure itself. Ms. Glorioso asked if any windows need covering. Mr. Ghormley stated they are all intact. Mr. Rimmer stated that homes can remain inhabited even after condemnation by the parish, and advised this process allows the parish to clean the property and place a lien on the property for future collection.

Mr. Patrick Jackson, Parish Attorney, stated that municipalities can perform such tasks as grass cutting, but the parish does not have that authority. He stated that condemnation allows the parish to cut the grass, remove tires and other debris holding water which breeds mosquitoes, and clean properties to ensure they are safe. Mr. Rimmer stated that the lien placed by the parish is

paid once a property is sold. Mr. Jackson stated that these liens can languish for years, or even decades, and advised that mortgage lenders typically contact the parish when the property is sold.

Mr. Rodgers stated that the parish has received complaints from nearby neighbors regarding the condition of this property. Mr. Ghormley stated that when this property was first brought to his attention, the grass was extremely tall in both the front and back yards. He stated that an attempt was made to cut the front yard at that time, but the back yard grass remains very tall.

Mr. Benton stated that in some cases, cleanup of a property is completed prior to parish crews arriving on site. Ms. Glorioso stated that Mr. Jackson explained the process for her, as her previous experience in condemnations entails destruction of the home.

Motion was made by Mr. Benton, seconded by Mr. Jorden, to proceed with the condemnation of property located at 116 Doe Lane, Benton, LA, Tax Assessment No. 164316.

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

Yes: Glenn Benton, Bob Brotherton, Jimmy Cochran, Julian Darby, Pam Glorioso, John Ed Jorden, Chris Marsiglia, Julianna Parks, Doug Rimmer, Philip Rodgers, Tom Salzer, Keith Sutton
No: None
Abstain: None
Absent: None

Ms. Ramos announced the condemnation hearing to consider condemnation of property at 189 Hedge Drive, Benton, LA, Tax Assessment No. 105804, Police Jury District 3. Mr. David Ghormley, Property Standards Officer, presented photographs of the property and reported that there has been little change in the condition of the property.

Mr. Willie Washington, 4915 Laurel Lane, Bossier City, LA, was present on behalf of the property owner. He stated that his family did not leave the property in this condition, and advised that the items on the property belong to someone in the neighborhood. He further stated that his desire is to demolish the home. Mr. Washington stated that he is currently working to clean the property and requested an extension of 30 days in which to bring the property into compliance.

Motion was made by Mr. Benton, seconded by Mr. Darby, to grant the owner of property at 189 Hedge Drive, Benton, LA, Tax Assessment No. 105804, an extension of 30 days in which to complete the required cleanup of the property, said property to be considered for condemnation at a hearing to be held October 2, 2024.

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

Yes: Glenn Benton, Bob Brotherton, Jimmy Cochran, Julian Darby, Pam Glorioso, John Ed Jordan, Chris Marsiglia, Julianna Parks, Doug Rimmer, Philip Rodgers, Tom Salzer, Keith Sutton
No: None
Abstain: None
Absent: None

Ms. Ramos announced the condemnation hearing to consider condemnation of property at 264 Hedge Drive, Benton, LA, Tax Assessment No. 103284, Police Jury District 3. Mr. David Ghormley, Property Standards Officer, presented photographs of the property and reported that some cleanup work has been done.

Mr. Tarae Hardman, 9120 Sorrento Drive, Shreveport, LA, was present on behalf of the property owner. Mr. Rodgers stated that he is aware that some progress has been made on cleanup of the property, and asked Mr. Ghormley if the mobile home located on the property should be removed. Mr. Ghormley stated that some siding is missing, and he is unsure how long the structure has been open and empty. Mr. Hardman stated that his focus has been on getting the debris removed and the grass cut. He stated that he also plans to remove the home as soon as he can pay for the cost to demolish it. He further stated that he is working to clean the property and requested an extension of 90 days in which to bring the property into compliance. Mr. Ghormley stated that he does not have any issues with allowing the property owners additional time and advised that the parish has granted a 90-day extension in the past. He requested that the property owners stay in contact with his office regarding the status of work completed. Mr. Rodgers stated that the structure must be removed by the end of the 90-day extension.

Ms. Parks asked Mr. Ghormley if the property is secure, as it appears to pose a threat to children who may attempt to enter the structure. Mr. Ghormley stated that the structure is not secure. Ms. Parks asked Mr. Hardman to board up any places on the structure which would allow someone to enter the home. Mr. Hardman stated that he will board up those areas on the structure by next week. Mr. Cochran asked Mr. Hardman to provide a status report to Mr. Ghormley every 30 days.

Motion was made by Mr. Benton, seconded by Ms. Glorioso, to grant the owner of property at 264 Hedge Drive, Benton, LA, Tax Assessment No. 103284, an extension of 90

days in which to complete the required cleanup of the property, said property to be considered for condemnation at a hearing to be held December 4, 2024.

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

Yes: Glenn Benton, Bob Brotherton, Jimmy Cochran, Julian Darby, Pam Glorioso, John Ed Jordan, Chris Marsiglia, Julianna Parks, Doug Rimmer, Philip Rodgers, Tom Salzer, Keith Sutton
No: None
Abstain: None
Absent: None

Ms. Ramos announced the condemnation hearing to consider condemnation of property at 1001 Trey Avenue, Benton, LA, Tax Assessment No. 103423, Police Jury District 3. Mr. David Ghormley, Property Standards Officer, presented photographs of the property and reported that there has been no change in the condition of the property.

Motion was made by Mr. Benton, seconded by Mr. Cochran, to proceed with the condemnation of property located at 1001 Trey Avenue, Benton, LA, Tax Assessment No. 103423.

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

Yes: Glenn Benton, Bob Brotherton, Jimmy Cochran, Julian Darby, Pam Glorioso, John Ed Jordan, Chris Marsiglia, Julianna Parks, Doug Rimmer, Philip Rodgers, Tom Salzer, Keith Sutton
No: None
Abstain: None
Absent: None

Ms. Ramos announced the condemnation hearing to consider condemnation of property at 5685 Bellevue Road, Haughton, LA, Tax Assessment No. 120522, Police Jury District 4. Mr. David Ghormley, Property Standards Officer, presented photographs of the property and reported that there has been no change in the condition of the property.

Mr. Benton asked if a mortgage company is involved with this property. Mr. Ghormley stated that there is not a mortgage company involved.

Mr. Jordan asked if the property is currently inhabited. Mr. Ghormley stated it is not inhabited, and advised that at one point, a vehicle was removed from the property and an attempt

was made to cut the grass. He stated that nothing more has been done at this property since that time.

Motion was made by Mr. Jorden, seconded by Mr. Cochran, to proceed with the condemnation of property located at 5685 Bellevue Road, Haughton, LA, Tax Assessment No. 120522.

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

Yes: Glenn Benton, Bob Brotherton, Jimmy Cochran, Julian Darby, Pam Glorioso, John Ed Jorden, Chris Marsiglia, Julianna Parks, Doug Rimmer, Philip Rodgers, Tom Salzer, Keith Sutton
No: None
Abstain: None
Absent: None

Ms. Ramos announced the condemnation hearing to consider condemnation of property at 130 Rye Circle, Bossier City, LA, Tax Assessment No. 110820, Police Jury District 12. Mr. David Ghormley, Property Standards Officer, presented photographs of the property and reported that there has been no change in the condition of the property.

Mr. Ghormley stated that there is a mortgage company involved, advising that a property management company is assigned to the property. He stated that some efforts have been made on cleanup of the property, advising that the contractor has reported that he is awaiting parts to repair his mower. Mr. Ghormley stated that it has been more than 10 days, and no further progress has been made to cut the tall grass. Mr. Ghormley stated that this will be the third time the parish has mowed this property.

Ms. Glorioso asked if this is a vacant lot or if there is a home on the property. Mr. Ghormley stated that there is an unoccupied home on the property, and advised that this property is located on Sligo Road.

Mr. Sutton stated that he observed the contractor mowing and advised it has been more than 10 days since that last attempt and no one has returned to complete the work. Mr. Ghormley stated that he spoke with the contractor and advised him that the deadline to complete the work was this morning.

Mr. Rimmer asked if there is a process in place for repeat offenders. Mr. Ghormley stated that there is a \$50 fine for each time a property comes before the board and advised that since this is the third time the parish has mowed this property, a fine of \$150 will be added to the lien.

Motion was made by Mr. Sutton, seconded by Mr. Salzer, to proceed with the condemnation of property located at 130 Rye Circle, Bossier City, LA, Tax Assessment No. 110820.

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

Yes: Glenn Benton, Bob Brotherton, Jimmy Cochran, Julian Darby, Pam Glorioso, John Ed Jordan, Chris Marsiglia, Julianna Parks, Doug Rimmer, Philip Rodgers, Tom Salzer, Keith Sutton

No: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

Mr. Eric Hudson, Parish Engineer, stated that Change Order No. 1 on Project No. 2023-131, Consolidated Waterworks/Sewerage District No. 1 West Central Water System-New Water Well, results in a \$2,454.00 decrease in the total contract cost.

Motion was made by Mr. Benton, seconded by Ms. Glorioso, to approve Change Order No. 1, Project No. 2023-131, Consolidated Waterworks/Sewerage District No. 1 West Central Water System-New Water Well, and authorize execution of documents, Police Jury District 4.

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

Yes: Glenn Benton, Bob Brotherton, Jimmy Cochran, Julian Darby, Pam Glorioso, John Ed Jordan, Chris Marsiglia, Julianna Parks, Doug Rimmer, Philip Rodgers, Tom Salzer, Keith Sutton

No: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

RESOLUTION

BE IT RESOLVED by the Bossier Parish Police Jury in regular and legal session on this 4th day of September, 2024, that it does hereby authorize the Parish Administrator and/or Parish President to execute on its behalf, any and all documents in connection with Change Order No. 1, for Project No. 2023-131, Consolidated Waterworks/Sewerage District No. 1 West Central Water System-New Water Well, said Change Order No. 1 resulting in a decrease of \$2,454.00 from the total cost of the contract.

The resolution was offered by Mr. Benton, seconded by Ms. Glorioso. Upon unanimous vote, it was duly adopted on this 4th day of September, 2024.

MEGAN C. RAMOS
INTERIM PARISH SECRETARY

PHILIP RODGERS, PRESIDENT
BOSSIER PARISH POLICE JURY

Motion was made by Mr. Rimmer, seconded by Mr. Darby, to adopt a resolution authorizing the Bossier Parish Police Jury to consent to the assignment by Empresa Operating, LLC (“Assignor”) to Trinity Oil & Gas Exploration, LLC, of certain rights, title and interest held by Assignor in certain mineral leases identified in that certain “Lease for Oil, Gas and Other Liquid or Gaseous Minerals” filed in the conveyance records of Bossier Parish, Louisiana, as Registry No. 1316144, and to authorize the Parish Administrator to execute any and all documents, instruments, pleadings or affidavits that may be necessary or convenient to evidence said consent.

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

RESOLUTION

BE IT RESOLVED that the Bossier Parish Police Jury in regular and legal session on this 4th day of September, 2024, hereby consents to the assignment by Empresa Operating, LLC (“Assignor”) to Trinity Oil & Gas Exploration, LLC, of certain rights, title and interest held by Assignor in certain mineral leases identified in that certain “Lease for Oil, Gas and Other Liquid or Gaseous Minerals” filed in the conveyance records of Bossier Parish, Louisiana, as Registry No. 1316144;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Parish Administrator is hereby authorized to execute any and all documents, instruments, pleadings or affidavits that may be necessary or convenient to evidence said consent.

The resolution was offered by Mr. Rimmer, seconded by Mr. Darby. Upon unanimous vote, it was duly adopted on this 4th day of September, 2024.

MEGAN C. RAMOS
INTERIM PARISH SECRETARY

PHILIP RODGERS, PRESIDENT
BOSSIER PARISH POLICE JURY

Mr. Matt Redmon, Assistant Parish Engineer, discussed the request for a variance of parish regulations to allow the construction of 20 personal storage unit buildings below the road surface level located at Safe Harbor Drive, Benton, LA, Police Jury District 6. Mr. Redmon stated that the road surface elevation is 177.72 feet, and the storage units will be constructed with a finished floor at an elevation of 176.8 and 177.0 feet. He stated that he has reviewed the drainage plan and

advised that it slopes away from the units on the cul-de-sac. He further stated that the drainage plan accounts for the bypass drainage from the south at Flowerbrook Drive and advised that there is internal drainage carrying the internal parking lot drainage to the detention pond.

Mr. Redmon stated that he recommends approval of the request for variance to allow construction of the 20 personal storage unit buildings below the road surface level.

Motion was made by Mr. Marsiglia, seconded by Mr. Jorden, to approve a request for a variance of parish regulations to allow the construction of 20 personal storage unit buildings below the road surface level located at Safe Harbor Drive, Benton, LA, Police Jury District 6.

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

Yes: Glenn Benton, Bob Brotherton, Jimmy Cochran, Julian Darby, Pam Glorioso, John Ed Jorden, Chris Marsiglia, Julianna Parks, Doug Rimmer, Philip Rodgers, Tom Salzer, Keith Sutton
No: None
Abstain: None
Absent: None

Mr. Butch Ford, Parish Administrator, reported that the annual budget session will be held on October 8, 2024, at 6:00 p.m., at the new Bossier Central Library.

Mr. Ford stated that the Police Jury Association of Louisiana annual Region IV meeting is scheduled for October 23, 2024, in Natchitoches, LA, and reminded jurors to register to attend.

Mr. Ford stated that Russell Craig, Commanding Officer of the Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Unit, is retiring after 17 years of service to Bossier Parish. He stated that his last day is this Friday, September 6, 2024, and invited jurors to attend a reception in the Police Jury conference room honoring Officer Craig.

Mr. Eric Hudson, Parish Engineer, stated that there has been no change in the status of the Caplis Sligo Bridge project.

Mr. Hudson advised that the North-South Corridor project is going well, but progress has been hampered by recent weather. He stated that he is attending a progress meeting on September 5, 2024, and will provide an update to the jury afterward.

Mr. Hudson reported that he is still working with the state in selecting a new consulting firm for the East-West Project.

Mr. Hudson advised that water and sewer projects are ongoing and invited jurors to attend the weekly sewer meeting which occurs each Thursday at 1:30 p.m. in the Police Jury conference room.

Mr. Hudson advised that the Bay Hills Pavement Rehabilitation project is going well.

Mr. Hudson reported that he attended a meeting with Mr. Butch Ford, Dr. Ken Ward and Jim Hollier at the Department of Transportation and Development office regarding the Highway 80 area in Haughton. He stated that with the water and sewer improvements made in that area, development is ongoing. He further stated that the parish and DOTD are working together to ensure the best outcome for future development. Mr. Hudson stated that another meeting is scheduled for this Friday, and he will update the jurors following that meeting.

Mr. Rodgers asked about the North-South Corridor and new Crouch Road progress. Mr. Hudson stated that he will know more after the progress meeting tomorrow. He stated that crews are almost to the bridge with the asphalt, and he believes that may be finished by the end of October. He further stated that he will provide an update on the timeline following the meeting. Mr. Benton asked if the project will be finished by the scheduled completion date. Mr. Hudson stated that he will know more about the timeline tomorrow, and advised that the completion date is December 2024, per the contract.

Ms. Parks asked Mr. Hudson to include the need for a red light at the intersection of the new North-South Corridor and Interstate 220 during his next meeting with DOTD. Mr. Hudson stated that Mr. Hollier is following up with the Baton Rouge office and he will have a status update after Friday's meeting.

Mr. Hudson presented video footage of overlay work on Swan Lake Road, which is part of the 2024 Road Program, as well as a new 6,000-gallon tanker truck recently purchased. He stated that in the past, the parish has contracted water service in emergency situations, but this will allow the parish to supply water immediately in these situations. Mr. Benton asked if the truck has a pump attached. Mr. Hudson stated that the truck does have a pump attached, but the parish also has another pump for the truck.

Mr. Rodgers asked if the parish currently employs CDL drivers with tanker endorsements. Mr. Hudson advised that the parish has several employees with tanker endorsements already in place. Mr. Marsiglia asked about the material used to build the tanker. Mr. Hudson stated he does not have that information with him today.

Mr. Allen Burson, Assistant Public Works Director, presented an update on activities of the highway department and on several road projects within the parish.

Mr. Rodgers thanked Mr. Burson and the highway department crews for the boom axing work completed in his district.

Mr. Benton stated that he is holding Mr. Kevin Gay and his family in his prayers.

Mr. Jorden thanked the highway department for the work done on Old Plain Dealing Road.

Mr. Marsiglia stated that he is keeping Mr. Kevin Gay and family in his prayers.

Ms. Parks thanked Mr. Bill Shelton for attending today's meeting and bringing the matter of Justices of the Peace and Constables pay to the attention of the jury.

Mr. Rimmer stated that he will continue to pray for Mr. Kevin Gay and his family.

Mr. Jackson stated that he cannot attend the retirement gathering for Officer Craig due to military duty. He stated that he feels it important to enter into the record his appreciation to Russell Craig for all he has done for Bossier Parish. He further stated that when the CVEU began 17 years ago after the Haynesville Shale was discovered in the parish, it was due to the loss of \$20,000,000 in parish infrastructure in a 24-month period.

Mr. Jackson stated that following his career with the Louisiana State Police, Russell helped set up the CVEU here in Bossier Parish, which quickly became the envy of most every parish statewide. He stated that Russell took the brunt of most complaints when the department began operations, and he does not want to let this moment pass without officially thanking Russell for his tremendous service. He further stated that the citizens of the parish may not realize how much infrastructure has been protected because of Russell's commitment to its preservation.

Mr. Jackson stated that he has received several requests from police jurors regarding the first responder ad valorem tax exemption. He stated that our elected Tax Assessor, Mr. Bobby Edmiston, previously came to a committee meeting to discuss this matter and give a brief class on the process of the exemption and its potential effects. He further stated that he has continued to research this issue and advised that several have requested a written opinion from him. Mr. Jackson stated that he has spoken to the Louisiana Legislative Auditor's office and the Louisiana

Assessor's Association regarding the tax exemption and advised that these two organizations do not fully agree concerning the outcome when the exemption is approved.

Mr. Jackson stated that he is asking for permission from the jury to request an opinion from the Louisiana Attorney General to ask if in a reassessment year, if the first responder ad valorem tax exemption is granted, will the remaining taxpayers of the parish pay the difference in taxes. He stated that he will need a resolution from the police jury approving the request which will be attached to his request for opinion. Mr. Jackson stated that the statute providing for the exemption appears to give the police jury the authority to decide on behalf of the cities, Bossier Parish School Board, Cypress Black Bayou and Bossier Parish Sheriff's Office. He further stated that whether the jury decides today, or December 1, it will not change anything for this year as taxes have already been collected and advised that next year's taxes will not be due until January.

Mr. Rimmer asked if the motion today is only to request an official opinion from the Attorney General's office. Mr. Jackson stated that is correct and advised that he must attach the resolution providing police jury approval to his request.

Mr. Rimmer asked if the parish also needs to obtain opinions from other taxing bodies in the parish regarding this exemption. Mr. Jackson stated that those requests can be accomplished by letter to each of the taxing bodies.

Motion was made by Mr. Cochran, seconded by Mr. Sutton, to request an Attorney General's Opinion pertaining to Act 179 of the 2023 Louisiana Regular Session, to add Article VII, Section 21(O) of the Constitution of Louisiana, and to authorize execution of documents.

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

RESOLUTION

BE IT RESOLVED by the Bossier Parish Police Jury in regular and legal session on this 4th day of September, 2024, that the Parish Administrator, Parish President, or Parish Attorney, be and is hereby authorized to execute on behalf of the Bossier Parish Police Jury, any and all documents in connection with a request for an Attorney General's Opinion pertaining to Act 179 of the 2023 Louisiana Regular Session, to add Article VII, Section 21(O) of the Constitution of Louisiana.

The resolution was offered by Mr. Cochran, seconded by Mr. Sutton. Upon unanimous vote, it was duly adopted this 4th day of September, 2024.

MEGAN C. RAMOS
INTERIM PARISH SECRETARY

PHILIP RODGERS
BOSSIER PARISH POLICE JURY

There being no further business to come before the Bossier Parish Police Jury in regular and legal session on this 4th day of September, 2024, the meeting was adjourned by the President at 3:11 p.m.

MEGAN C. RAMOS
INTERIM PARISH SECRETARY

PHILIP RODGERS, PRESIDENT
BOSSIER PARISH POLICE JURY