

**MINUTES
POINTE COUPEE PARISH POLICE JURY
April 10, 2018**

The Pointe Coupee Parish Police Jury met in regular session at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 10, 2018, at the Courthouse Annex in the Police Jury Meeting Room, New Roads, Louisiana.

President Olinde called the meeting to order and directed Secretary Gerrie Martin to call the roll:

PRESENT: Messrs. Mitch Langlois, Charles Watkins, Gordon Taylor, Stephen Smith, Justin Cox, Glenn Cline, Edward Bazile, Kurt Jarreau and Kyle Olinde. Arrived after roll call: Cornell Dukes and Anthony Hurst.

ABSENT: Mr. J. A. Bueche.

15 MINUTES OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

ADOPT MINUTES

Motion by Mr. Taylor and seconded by Mr. Langlois:

RESOLVED, That the minutes of March 27, 2018 meeting be adopted as presented and published in the official journal.

Unanimously carried.

PROCLAMATION DELARING APRIL AS NATIONAL AUTISM AWARENESS MONTH

Families Helping Families of Greater Baton Rouge Executive Director Jamie Tindle reported on autism and April being National Autism Awareness Month. She announced and encouraged everyone to participate in the 9th Annual Active for Autism 5K Run, Walk & Fun Fest on May 5, 2018 in Baton Rouge.

Motion by Mr. Smith and seconded by Mr. Langlois:

**PROCLAMATION
Autism Awareness Month**

WHEREAS, autism is a lifelong developmental difference, associated with significant alteration of an individual's ability to learn in the same way as others, which may include differences in social behaviors and communication; and

WHEREAS, autism, also known as autism spectrum disorders, affects people regardless of race, religion, socio-economic status or geography; and

WHEREAS, the incidence of autism in the United States is approximately 1 in 68 according to the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention; and

WHEREAS, evidence suggests autism is the result of neurological anomalies affecting the functioning of the brain and few members of the general public understand this complex syndrome; and

WHEREAS, persons with autism can be helped to reach their greatest potential, and accurate, early diagnosis and the resulting appropriate education and interventions, as well as community acceptance and accommodations, are vital to the future growth and development of the individual; and

WHEREAS, autism is a complex set of differences that requires increased research to one day better understand it; and

WHEREAS, the greater recognition and understanding of autism can ensure that individuals with autism are accurately diagnosed and appropriately treated throughout their lives.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, KYLE OLINDE, President of the Pointe Coupee Parish Police Jury, do hereby proclaim the month of April, 2018 as

AUTISM AWARENESS MONTH

in Pointe Coupee Parish, and encourage all citizens to participate in the Families Helping Families of Greater Baton Rouge 9th Annual Active for Autism 5K Run, Walk & Fun Fest on May 5, 2018 to bring awareness of autism.

Unanimously carried.

ANNOUNCE CANDIDACY FOR 18TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT JUDGE IN DIVISION "B"

Attorney Tonya Lurry announced her candidacy for 18th Judicial District Judge in Division "B" and asked the Jurors for their support.

CONCERNS ABOUT SILTATION IN CHENAL BAYOU

Mr. Jason Juneau, who resides on Chenal Bayou, voiced concerns and requested assistance from the Police Jury with the siltation problem in Chenal Bayou at Jarreau.

After discussion, the following resolution was offered:

Motion by Mr. Cline and seconded by Mr. Cox:

RESOLVED, That Professional Engineering Consultants Corporation be authorized to evaluate the siltation problem in Chenal Bayou, and present recommendations to the Police Jury to correct and alleviate the siltation problem.

Unanimously carried.

DISCUSSION & CONSIDERATION OF FINAL PLAT FOR POINTE PROSPECT ESTATES SUBDIVISION

Engineer Thomas Olinde of Patin Engineers and Surveyors requested approval and acceptance of the water, gas and road by the Police Jury of the final plat for Pointe Prospect Estates Subdivision at Oscar. He reported on documents received approving the gas and water systems and the road for the new subdivision.

Motion by Mr. Cox and seconded by Mr. Dukes:

RESOLVED, That the final plat for the water, gas and road in Pointe Prospect Estates Subdivision at Oscar be accepted by the Pointe Coupee Parish Police Jury; and be it

RESOLVED further, That Mr. Kyle Olinde be authorized to sign the final plat for Pointe Prospect Estates Subdivision at Oscar.

Unanimously carried.

PRESENTATION BY SEXUAL TRAUMA AWARENESS & RESPONSE (STAR)

Juror Dukes introduced Mrs. Kirsten Raby who gave a presentation about Sexual Trauma Awareness & Response (STAR) and the services they provide. She informed the Jury about their satellite office located at New Roads.

DISCUSSION ABOUT CONCERNS & COMPLAINTS ABOUT COLLECTION OF SOLID WASTE BY REPUBLIC SERVICES

Juror Cox voiced concerns about the numerous complaints received from citizens by the Towns of Fordoche and Livonia, and other areas in his district about the collection of solid waste, and the poor service being provided by Republic Services. He gave a detailed review of the various complaints received.

Mmes Karla Swacker, Sharon Mann, Messrs. Josh Irvin and Carlos Guerrero commented on the complaints received about the collection of solid waste in the parish. They assured the Jury the concerns and complaints will be addressed and will focus on providing great service to the parish.

After further discussion, the following resolution was offered:

Motion by Mr. Cox and seconded by Mr. Dukes:

RESOLVED, That as per the contract agreement, a written notice be sent to Republic Services about the complaints received regarding the collection of solid waste in the parish, and if after 30 days of receiving the notice and the complaints are not resolved, the Police Jury will proceed with assessing fines, as per contract, against Republic Services until complaints are resolved; and be it

RESOLVED further, That if anyone is identified using a cell phone while driving a Republic Services' truck while collecting solid waste in the parish, that they are no longer allowed to operate that vehicle on roads in Pointe Coupee Parish.

Unanimously carried.

Juror Cox stated the people are paying for a service they should be receiving. He reported on reviewing this matter after expiration of the 30-day period to determine whether the complaints are resolved.

DISCUSSION & CONSIDERATION OF CONDEMNATION OF A STRUCTURE LOCATED AT 7935 ISLAND ROAD, VENTRESS FOR LULA MEADOWS

A report was received from Certified Building Official Tommy Leonard concerning the condemnation of an abandoned structure located at 7935 Island Road at Ventress owned by Lula Meadows is in bad condition and a potential hazard for human occupancy.

Motion by Mr. Cox and seconded by Mr. Hurst:

RESOLVED, That an abandoned structure located at 7935 Island Road at Ventress owned by Lula Meadows be condemned; and be it

RESOLVED further, That a public hearing be held Tuesday, May 8, 2018 at 5:30 p.m. for the condemnation of an abandoned structure owned by Lula Meadows.

Unanimously carried.

DISCUSSION & CONSIDERATION OF CONDEMNATION OF TWO MOBILE HOMES LOCATED AT 8689 DOLPH STREET, NEW ROADS FOR RAYMOND CUSHIONBERRY

A report was received from Certified Building Official Tommy Leonard concerning the condemnation of two (2) abandoned mobile homes located at 8689 Dolph Street at New Roads owned by Raymond Cushionberry that are in bad condition and a potential hazard for human occupancy.

Motion by Mr. Hurst and seconded by Mr. Taylor:

RESOLVED, That the abandoned mobile homes located at 8689 Dolph Street at New Roads owned by Raymond Cushionberry be condemned; and be it

RESOVLED further, That a public hearing be held Tuesday, May 8, 2018 at 5:30 p.m. for the condemnation of the abandoned mobile homes owned by Raymond Cushionberry.

Unanimously carried.

UPDATE ON FALSE RIVER

President Olinde reported the water level on False River is 16.3 ft. and one (1) gate is open.

RESOLUTIONS:

APPROVE INVOICES FOR PECAN ISLAND BRIDGE REPLACEMENT & FR NITROGEN IMPACT MITIGATION PROJECTS

Motion by Mr. Cline and seconded by Mr. Dukes:

RESOLVED, That an invoice in the amount of \$350.00 submitted by Professional Engineering Consultants Corporation for the Pecan Island Bridge Replacement be approved for payment; and be it

RESOLVED further, That an invoice in the amount of \$2,198.25 submitted by Professional Engineering Consultants Corporation for the False River Nitrogen Impact Mitigation Project be approved for payment.

Unanimously carried.

ACCEPT RENEWAL PROPOSAL FOR \$178,247 FROM AMGUARD INS. CO. FOR GENERAL LIABILITY INSURANCE

Motion by Mr. Dukes and seconded by Mr. Langlois:

RESOLVED, That the renewal proposal submitted by AmGuard Insurance Company in the amount of \$178,247.00 for General Liability Insurance be accepted.

Unanimously carried.

APPROVE DONATION OF \$150 TO GOVERNOR JIMMIE DAVIS' ROSE GARDEN AT LA GOVERNOR'S MANSION

Motion by Mr. Dukes and seconded by Mr. Hurst:

RESOLVED, That in response to a request from LA First Lady Donna Edwards, each Police Juror allocate \$12.50 to fund the \$150 donation to Governor Jimmie Davis' Rose Garden at the LA Governor's Mansion.

Unanimously carried.

APPROVE REPAIRS NOT TO EXCEED \$1,800 FOR LEGIONER SEWERAGE SYSTEM

Motion by Mr. Taylor and seconded by Mr. Bazile:

RESOLVED, That repairs to the Legioner Sewerage System in an amount not to exceed \$1,800.00 be approved.

Unanimously carried.

APPROVE PURCHASE OF CULVERTS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$484.37 IN JUROR DISTRICT 7

Motion by Mr. Bazile and seconded by Mr. Cox:

RESOLVED, That a quote submitted by Coburn’s for the purchase of culverts in the amount of \$484.37 to be installed off of Texas Street at New Roads in Police Juror District 7 be accepted.

Unanimously carried.

AWARD BID FOR DEMOLITION OF ABANDONED BUILDINGS OWNED BY JOE BOLES

Motion by Mr. Dukes and seconded by Mr. Hurst:

RESOLVED, That the low bid submitted by Lionel Boudreaux Trucking in the amount of \$14,700.00 for the demolition and removal of the abandoned buildings located at the corner of Dolph & South Streets and 8633 Dolph Street at New Roads owned by Joe Boles be accepted.

Unanimously carried.

APPOINTMENT OF A MEMBER TO THE TOURIST COMMISSION

Motion by Mr. Langlois and seconded by Mr. Dukes:

RESOLVED, that Mr. George Miller be appointed to serve as a member of the Pointe Coupee Parish Tourist Commission for a three-year term.

Unanimously carried.

PROCLAMATION DECLARING APRIL AS FAIR HOUSING MONTH

Motion by Mr. Bazile and seconded by Mr. Hurst:

**PROCLAMATION
FAIR HOUSING MONTH**

WHEREAS, the strength of our nation flows from the promise of individual equality and freedom of choice; and

WHEREAS, the 50th 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 for 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 department 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 options of all.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, KYLE OLINDE, President of the Pointe Coupee Parish Police Jury do hereby proclaim the month of **April 2018**, as **FAIR HOUSING MONTH** in Pointe Coupee Parish and encourage all citizens of this Parish to join in reaffirming the obligation and commitment to fair housing opportunities for all.

Unanimously carried.

EXECUTVE SESSION--LITIGATION

Motion by Mr. Langlois and seconded by Mr. Smith:

RESOLVED, That the Police Jury convene in executive session at 6:43 p.m. to discuss a litigation matter.

The President called for a roll call vote that resulted as follows:

YEAS: Messrs. Langlois, Watkins, Taylor, Dukes, Smith, Cox, Cline, Bazile, Hurst, Jarreau and Olinde.

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: Mr. Bueche.

On a vote of 11-0-1, the motion carried.

OPEN SESSION

Motion by Mr. Langlois and seconded by Mr. Watkins:

RESOLVED, That the Police Jury return to open session at 6:48 p.m.

Unanimously carried.

As a result of executive session, the following resolution was offered:

Motion by Mr. Langlois and seconded by Mr. Smith:

Authorizing the Parish of Pointe Coupee to join in the national litigation *In Re: National Prescription Opiate Litigation*, and to retain special counsel to represent its interests in said litigation, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto.

WHEREAS, the Opioid Crisis has recently brought national attention and has impacted communities across the country, both large and small; and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Department of Health ("DHH") has filed a lawsuit alleging "Louisiana is overrun with opioid analgesic pain relievers and engulfed in a public health crisis"; and

WHEREAS, DHH alleges that as a result of that crisis Louisiana citizens bear a cost of approximately \$296 million per year in healthcare costs plus costs and strains on the criminal justice system; and

WHEREAS, hundreds of lawsuits have been filed on behalf of government entities in the *In Re: National Prescription Opiate Litigation*, MDL 2804, multi-district litigation in the Northern District of Ohio; and

WHEREAS, this Police Jury agrees that in order to ensure protection of the Parish's interests, a real necessity exists such that it join the aforementioned litigation and that Special Counsel should be retained to assist the district attorney in prosecution of any and all claims the Parish may have against manufacturers and distributors of Prescription Opiate drugs for any fault of theirs in causing or contributing to the Opioid Crisis; and

WHEREAS, this Police Jury has reviewed the proposed retainer agreement attached hereto and finds same to be reasonable and appropriate.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Police Jury of the Parish of Pointe Coupee, Louisiana, that the Parish retain the law firm of Gainsburgh, Benjamin, David, Meunier & Warshauer, LLC as Special Counsel, subject to approval of the Attorney General, to

represent the interests of the Parish in the *In Re: National Prescription Opiate Litigation*, MDL 2804.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Mr. Kyle Olinde, Police Jury President, be and he is hereby authorized to execute the attached retainer agreement on behalf of the Parish of Pointe Coupee, as well as any other documents which may be necessary to effect the purposes of this resolution.

Unanimously carried.

Motion by Mr. Watkins and seconded by Mr. Langlois, the meeting adjourned at 6:49 p.m.

Gerrie P. Martin
Secretary

Kyle Olinde
President