

RAPIDES PARISH POLICE JURY

REGULAR SESSION  
January 13, 2003

The Police Jury of the Parish of Rapides, State of Louisiana, met in Regular Session at its regular meeting place, the Police Jury Room of the Parish Courthouse, 701 Murray Street, Alexandria, Louisiana, on Monday, January 13, 2003, at three (3:00) o'clock p.m. (Central Standard Time).

There were present: Honorable Richard W. Billings, President; Ezra L. Reed, Vice President; and Police Jurors Davron "Bubba" Moreau, Theodore Fountaine Jr., Donald H. Wilmore, Joe Fuller, Scott Perry Jr.

Police Jurors Steve P. Bordelon and Richard L. Nunnally were absent.

Also present were Mr. Tim Ware, Treasurer; Mr. Eric S. Duck, Public Works Director; Ms. Donna Andries, Sales Tax Administrator; Ms. Jan Haworth, OEWD Director; Mr. Felix Mouton, WIA Operations Director; Mr. Robert Barr, Courthouse Building Superintendent; Chief David Peart, Fire District No. 2; and Ms. Angie Richmond, Secretary.

The invocation was given by Mr. Richard Billings.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mr. Joe Fuller.

The Police Jury of the Parish of Rapides, State of Louisiana, was duly convened as the governing authority of said Parish by Hon. Bubba Moreau, President, who welcomed all present and then stated that the Police Jury was ready for the transaction of business.

The first item of business was the election of officers for 2003.

On motion by Mr. Joe Fuller, seconded by Mr. Ezra Reed, to nominate Mr. Richard Billings for President for the year 2003.

Motion by Mr. Scott Perry, seconded by Mr. Joe Fuller, that nominations cease.

On vote the motions carried and Mr. Billings was elected President for the year 2003.

Mr. Billings assumed the Chair at this time and asked for nominations for Vice President.

On motion by Mr. Don Wilmore, to nominate Mr. Ezra Reed for Vice President for the year 2003.

Motion by Mr. Scott Perry that nominations cease.

On vote the motion carried and Mr. Ezra Reed was elected Vice President for the year 2003.

Mr. Billings presented a plaque to Mr. Bubba Moreau for his service as President of the Rapides Parish Police Jury for 2002 and a plaque to Mr. Joe Fuller for his service as Vice President of the Rapides Parish Police Jury for 2002.

On motion by Mr. Bubba Moreau, seconded by Mr. Joe Fuller and Mr. Scott Perry, to adopt the minutes of the Rapides Parish Police Jury held in Regular Session on December 9, 2002, as published in the Official Journal. On vote the motion carried.

On motion by Mr. Don Wilmore, seconded by Mr. Joe Fuller, that approved bills be paid. On vote the motion carried.

On motion by Mr. Don Wilmore, seconded by Mr. Joe Fuller, to accept the Treasurer's Report. On vote the motion carried.

Laid over was the appointment to the Kisatchie-Delta Regional Planning and Development District for three year term to fill the expired term of Mrs. Donna Andries, term expired on July 15, 2002.

Laid over was the appointment to the Fire District No. 3 Civil Service Board for a three year term to fill the expired term of Mr. Glen F. Bell, department elected, term expired on October 10, 2002.

Laid over was the appointment to the Ruby-Wise Recreation District to fill the vacancy in an unexpired term created by the death of the late Eddie Cannon, term will expire on February 18, 2006.

On motion by Mr. Bubba Moreau, seconded by Mr. Joe Fuller and Mr. Scott Perry, to appoint Mr. Robert Duggan to the Sewerage District

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No. 2 Board to fill the vacancy in an unexpired term, term will expire on October 12, 2006. On vote the motion carried.

Laid over was the appointment to the Board on the Code of Ethics for one year term to fill the expired term of Rev. Frank Mattox, term expired on December 10, 2002.

Laid over was the appointment to the Fire District No. 7 Civil Service Board for a three year term to fill the expiring term of Mr. Bobby R. Miller, department elected, term will expire on February 7, 2003.

On motion by Mr. Joe Fuller, seconded by Mr. Don Wilmore and Mr. Scott Perry, to reappoint Mr. Calvert S. Beauregard to the Poland Recreation District for a five year term, term will expire on February 8, 2008. On vote the motion carried.

Laid over was the appointment to the Esler Industrial Development Area Advisory Board for a five year term to fill the expiring term of Mr. William B. Owens, representing District I, term will expire on February 9, 2003.

Laid over was the appointment to the Buckeye Recreation District for a five year term to fill the expiring term of Mr. Parson E. Belgard, term will expire on February 12, 2003.

Laid over was the appointment to the Rapides Area Planning Commission for a five year term to fill the expiring term of Mr. Jim Smolenski, term will expire on February 12, 2003.

On motion by Mr. Don Wilmore, seconded by Mr. Theodore Fontaine and Mr. Ezra Reed, to authorize the President to sign certifications in accordance with R.S. 15:855.4 that the institution of the Inmate Maintenance Groups through the LA Department of Corrections does not displace any civilian employees. On vote the motion carried.

On motion by Mr. Don Wilmore, seconded by Mr. Theodore Fontaine and Mr. Ezra Reed, to authorize the President to sign certifications to the Legislative Auditor certifying on behalf of the Governing Body that funds made available during the year from January 1, 2001 to December 31, 2001, pursuant to LSA-R.S. 48:751-760 have been expended in accordance with the provisions of those statutes and other standards established by law. On vote the motion carried.

On motion by Mr. Don Wilmore, seconded by Mr. Theodore Fontaine and Mr. Ezra Reed, the following resolution was presented, as recommended by the Public Works Director, and on vote unanimously adopted:

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Rapides Parish Police Jury has been a participant in the Federal/State Off System Bridge Replacement Program since its beginning; and,

WHEREAS, the Rapides Parish Police Jury has always complied with all Federal and State regulations; and,

WHEREAS, this Police Jury desires to continue to participate in the Off System Bridge Replacement Program,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the Rapides Parish Police Jury does hereby express its desire and intent to participate in the Off System Bridge Replacement Program;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Mr. Eric Duck, Parish Public Works Director, is hereby designated as the representative of the Rapides Parish Police Jury responsible for implementation of the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development Off System Bridge Replacement Program;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Rapides Parish Police Jury does hereby assure the Department of Transportation and Development, State of Louisiana, that said Police Jury will comply with the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act, as amended (Uniform Relocation Act), 42 U.S.C. 4601-4655, and with implementing Federal regulations in 49 C.F.R. Part 24, all pertaining to land acquisition for right of way purposes;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Police Jury will comply with the Real Estate Section's 3.2.0.0, 4.1.1.0-4.3.3.0, 5.1.1.1-5.3.2.3 and 5.5.1.1.;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the President is authorized to sign a letter of assurances of compliance with the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act and applicable LDOTD policies.

THUS DONE AND SIGNED on this 13th day of January, 2003.

On motion by Mr. Don Wilmore, seconded by Mr. Theodore Fontaine and Mr. Ezra Reed, to reinstate into the Highway Department Asset/Inventory Listing the following, it having been recommended this equipment be kept for public use:

Asset Description	Acquired
6285 1992 GMC Truck	6-15-92

On vote the motion carried.

On motion by Mr. Don Wilmore, seconded by Mr. Theodore Fontaine and Mr. Ezra Reed, to approve the Secretary's Report. On vote the motion carried.

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On motion by Mr. Don Wilmore, seconded by Mr. Theodore Fountaine and Mr. Ezra Reed, to delete the following asset from the Juvenile Probation Asset/Inventory List as broken, no longer suitable for public use:

Asset Description	Acquired	Disposal
6776 Konica Copier	3-29-94	auction

On vote the motion carried.

On motion by Mr. Don Wilmore, seconded by Mr. Theodore Fountaine and Mr. Ezra Reed, to request the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development for a one year time suspension on the four year requirement to begin construction, as required by the Statewide Flood Control Guidelines, on the Cloverdale/Grundy Cooper Subdivision, State Project No. 576-40-0015, Statewide Flood Control Program, due to change in the scope of the project and delay in State funding in 2001, copy of this resolution to be sent to our Louisiana Legislative Delegation. On vote the motion carried.

On motion by Mr. Don Wilmore, seconded by Mr. Theodore Fountaine and Mr. Ezra Reed, to authorize to advertise for proposals for janitorial services at the Office of Motor Vehicles and Office of Health Region VI. On vote the motion carried.

On motion by Mr. Don Wilmore, seconded by Mr. Theodore Fountaine and Mr. Ezra Reed, to create the position of On-the-Job Training (OJT) Manager in the Workforce Operations Department, as requested by Felix Mouton Jr., Workforce Operations Director, request Civil Service to set a classification range, and delete the position of case manager coordinator. On vote the motion carried.

The next agenda item was a motion to direct the District Attorney to make a formal demand against the State of Louisiana, Department of Labor, to certify the previously nominated WIB members, and ask for a response from the State before the February 3, 2003 committee meetings. Mr. Perry had a problem with the wording of a formal demand, as he understood mediation with the WIB was presently underway, and asked that it be amended to an inquiry, with which Mr. Fountaine and Mr. Wilmore agreed. Mr. Fuller stated his understanding was the Police Jury had the right to make the appointments and the State did not have the right to withhold certification due to mediation.

On motion by Mr. Theodore Fountaine, seconded by Mr. Joe Fuller, to direct the District Attorney to make a formal inquiry of the State of Louisiana, Department of Labor, to certify the previously nominated WIB members, and ask for a response from the State before the February 3, 2003 committee meetings. On vote the motion carried. Mr. Don Wilmore and Mr. Scott Perry objected.

The next agenda item was to begin the condemnation process on the structures located at the corner of Fourth Street and Cappel Road, Ward 8. Mr. Butch Daigre, Parish Inspector, advised the property has been a problem for several years, the structures were in a terrible condition.

On motion by Mr. Scott Perry, seconded by Mr. Joe Fuller, to receive the report of the Parish Inspector recommending the abandoned and dilapidated structures located on the corner of Fourth Street and Cappel Road, Lots 2, 3, 4, 5, & 6 of Sepulvado Subdivision, being part of Lot 6 of Oak Isle Plantation, Section 34, T4N-R1W, Ward 8, District I, Rapides Parish, be condemned and demolished or removed, due to being in dangerous condition which endangers the public health or welfare, and it be referred to Legal Counsel for proper action. On vote the motion carried.

On motion by Mr. Don Wilmore, seconded by Mr. Theodore Fountaine and Mr. Ezra Reed, to grant approval to a resubdivision of Lot 9 of Harmony Hills North Subdivision, as recommended by the Rapides Area Planning Commission and Public Works Director, and authorize signing of the plat. On vote the motion carried.

On motion by Mr. Don Wilmore, seconded by Mr. Theodore Fountaine and Mr. Ezra Reed, the following resolution was presented and on vote unanimously adopted:

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, agriculture is the leading industry and largest employer in many Parishes in Louisiana and is a capital intensive industry, which is vulnerable to weather extremes; and,

WHEREAS, farmers in the State of Louisiana have suffered severe economic disaster during 2002 due to weather extremes, including drought, hurricanes and torrential rainfalls, which situation was compounded by historically low commodity prices and no federal crop disaster relief; and,

WHEREAS, many farmers and businesses, including sugar cane farmers and related businesses, will be unable to survive these trying economical times; and,

WHEREAS, it has been reported that the United States Presidential Administration, under the leadership of the Honorable George W. Bush, is working with the United States Trades Representative Office towards negotiations with the Mexican government for additional imports of Mexican sugar into the United States; and,

WHEREAS, these negotiations may lead to United States policy and/or legislation which could be detrimental to the sugar producing areas of the country, including the State of Louisiana and several other States of the nation which produce large volumes of sugar,

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NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Rapides Parish Police Jury does hereby express its strong opposition to any proposed Federal negotiations and/or legislation which would enable, authorize and/or increase the importation of Mexican sugar into the United States, being detrimental to the sugar industry in Louisiana,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED to request the Governor, our Congressional Delegation, our Louisiana Delegation, and the Police Jury Association to join in united opposition to any proposed Federal negotiations and/or legislation for this purpose.

THUS PASSED AND APPROVED on this 13th day of January, 2003.

On motion by Mr. Don Wilmore, seconded by Mr. Theodore Fountaine and Mr. Ezra Reed, to lay over for thirty days discussion on the proposed changes to the subdivision ordinance. On vote the motion carried.

On motion by Mr. Theodore Fountaine, seconded by Mr. Joe Fuller, for the President to appoint a committee to look at the salaries of Fire Protection District No. 2, to be composed of police jurors, the Fire Chief, the Treasurer and firefighters. On vote the motion carried.

On motion by Mr. Don Wilmore, seconded by Mr. Theodore Fountaine and Mr. Ezra Reed, to authorize to advertise for bids to purchase sixteen self-contained breathing apparatuses for Fire Protection District No. 14, to be paid from FEMA Funds, as recommended by the Flatwoods Volunteer Fire Association Board of Directors. On vote the motion carried.

On motion by Mr. Don Wilmore, seconded by Mr. Theodore Fountaine and Mr. Ezra Reed, to authorize Change Order No. 1 for Bid No. 1835 Build (Refurbish) and Install two 1500 Gallon Water Tanks for Fire District No. 7, which increases the bid amount by \$1,730 to replace pump intake and install diamond tread plate on rear interior and exterior flaraes, as requested by the Ruby-Kolin Volunteer Fire Department Board of Directors, to be paid from funds as budgeted. On vote the motion carried.

On motion by Mr. Don Wilmore, seconded by Mr. Theodore Fountaine and Mr. Ezra Reed, to delete from Fire District No. 9 Asset/Inventory Program the following vehicle as surplus and will be auctioned:

Asset Description	Acquired	Disposal
5599 1974 Ford F750	4-27-89	Auction

On vote the motion carried.

On motion by Mr. Don Wilmore, seconded by Mr. Theodore Fountaine and Mr. Ezra Reed, to advertise for bids to purchase one portable burn building (training) for Fire District No. 4, as recommended by the Holiday Village Volunteer Fire Department Board of Directors, to be paid from FEMA Funds. On vote the motion carried.

On motion by Mr. Don Wilmore, seconded by Mr. Theodore Fountaine and Mr. Ezra Reed, to authorize the hiring of Harold T. Wright in the position of firefighter for the Oak Hill VFD, effective January 1, 2003, at the rate of \$9.00 an hour, to work no more than 28 hours per week, as requested by the Oak Hill Volunteer Fire Department Board of Directors. On vote the motion carried.

On motion by Mr. Don Wilmore, seconded by Mr. Theodore Fountaine and Mr. Ezra Reed, to grant pay increase for Michael Christy from \$7.00 an hour to \$9.00 an hour effective January 1, 2003, as recommended by the Oak Hill Volunteer Fire Department Board of Directors. On vote the motion carried.

On motion by Mr. Don Wilmore, seconded by Mr. Theodore Fountaine and Mr. Ezra Reed, to grant approval for the Louisiana Office of Forestry to have access to the South Rapides Parish radio communication fire network, the fire chiefs in South Rapides Parish have no objections, and authorize the President to sign a user's agreement, as recommended by the Communications Director. On vote the motion carried.

After unanimous vote the following items were placed on the agenda:

The following resolution was offered by Mr. Don Wilmore and seconded by Mr. Theodore Fountaine and Mr. Ezra Reed:

RESOLUTION

A resolution approving the holding of an election in Ward 10 Recreation District, Rapides Parish, Louisiana, on Saturday, April 5, 2003, to authorize the renewal of a special tax therein.

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners of Ward 10 Recreation District, Rapides Parish, Louisiana (the "Governing Authority"), acting as the governing authority of Ward 10 Recreation District, Rapides Parish, Louisiana (the "District"), adopted a resolution on December 31, 2002, calling a special election in the District on Saturday, April 5, 2003, to authorize the renewal of a special tax therein; and,

WHEREAS, the governing authority of the District has requested that this Police Jury, acting as the governing authority of the Parish of Rapides, State of Louisiana, give its consent and authority for the District to hold the aforesaid election, and in the event that the election carries to continue to levy and collect the special tax provided for therein; and,

WHEREAS, as required by Article VI, Section 15 of the Constitution of the State of Louisiana of 1974, it is now the desire of this Police Jury to

approve the holding of said election and in the event that the election carries, to continue to levy and collect the special tax provided for therein;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Police Jury of the Parish of Rapides, State of Louisiana, acting as the governing authority of said Parish, that:

SECTION 1. In compliance with the provisions of Article VI, Section 15 of the Constitution of the State of Louisiana of 1974, and in accordance with the request of the Board of Commissioners of Ward 10 Recreation District, Rapides Parish, Louisiana, this Police Jury hereby approves the holding of an election in the District, on Saturday, April 5, 2003, at which election there will be submitted the following proposition, to-wit:

MILLAGE TAX RENEWAL PROPOSITION

SUMMARY: 10 YEAR 5 MILLS PROPERTY TAX FOR IMPROVING, MAINTAINING AND OPERATING THE RECREATIONAL FACILITIES OF THE WARD 10 RECREATION DISTRICT.

Shall Ward 10 Recreation District, Rapides Parish, Louisiana (the "District"), continue to levy and collect a special ad valorem tax of five (5) mills on all property subject to taxation in said District, for a period of ten (10) years, beginning with the year 2006 and ending with the year 2015 for the purpose of improving, maintaining and operating the recreational facilities of the District?

SECTION 2. In the event the election carries, this Police Jury does hereby further consent to and authorize the District to continue to levy and collect the special tax provided for therein.

This resolution having been submitted to a vote, the vote thereon was as follows:

YEAS: Richard W. Billings, Ezra L. Reed, Davron "Bubba" Moreau, Theodore Fountaine Jr., Donald H. Wilmore, Joe Fuller, and Scott Perry Jr.

NAYS:

ABSENT: Steve P. Bordelon and Richard L. Nunnally

And the resolution was declared adopted on this, the 13th day of January, 2003.

On motion by Mr. Don Wilmore, seconded by Mr. Theodore Fountaine and Mr. Ezra Reed, to endorse the construction of a replacement facility for Huey P. Long Hospital on the current available site and request our Louisiana Legislative Delegation to make continued funding of the charity hospital system in Louisiana a priority in this next Legislative Session. On vote the motion carried.

On motion by Mr. Don Wilmore, seconded by Mr. Theodore Fountaine and Mr. Ezra Reed, to authorize to advertise for bids for miscellaneous Firefighting Training Material for Fire Protection District No. 2, to be paid from FEMA Funds, as recommended by the Fire Chief. On vote the motion carried.

On motion by Mr. Don Wilmore, seconded by Mr. Theodore Fountaine and Mr. Ezra Reed, to award Bid No. 1836 Purchase sixteen self-contained breathing apparatuses for Fire Protection District No. 14 to First in Fire Corporation in the amount of \$39,033.88, as recommended by the Flatwoods Volunteer Fire Association Board of Directors, Treasurer and Purchasing Agent, to be paid from FEMA Funds. On vote the motion carried.

On motion by Mr. Don Wilmore, seconded by Mr. Theodore Fountaine and Mr. Ezra Reed, to award Request for Proposals No. 1837 Janitorial Services for the Office of Motor Vehicles and Department of Health and Hospitals Region VI Administrative Office to the low bidder, Brown's Janitorial Services, in the amounts of \$525/month for the Office of Motor Vehicles and \$1000/month for the Region VI Administrative Office, as recommended by the Treasurer and Purchasing Agent. On vote the motion carried.

On motion by Mr. Don Wilmore, seconded by Mr. Theodore Fountaine and Mr. Ezra Reed, to authorize payment of the expenses associated with the inauguration of the Justices of the Peace and Constables held on January 3, 2003, as requested by the Secretary, to be paid out of Justice of the Peace and Constable Travel and Training line item in the General Fund. On vote the motion carried.

On motion by Mr. Don Wilmore, seconded by Mr. Theodore Fountaine and Mr. Ezra Reed, to authorize the sale of a 1971 Ford Fire Truck, Asset No. 5937, from Fire Protection District No. 10 to Fire Protection District No. 14 in the amount of \$7,500, with payments to be made at the rate of \$2,500/year for the next three years, as recommended by the Plainview Volunteer Fire Association Board of Directors. On vote the motion carried.

After unanimous vote the following items were placed on the agenda:

On motion by Mr. Don Wilmore, seconded by Mr. Theodore Fountaine and Mr. Ezra Reed, to authorize to enter into an Intergovernmental Agreement with the Village of Forest Hill for ten hours of Gradall work with two trucks for ditching and setting culverts at 15 Stokes Lane, as requested by the Mayor, and authorize the President to sign same. On vote the motion carried.

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On motion by Mr. Don Wilmore, seconded by Mr. Theodore Fountaine and Mr. Ezra Reed, to waive the 150 foot culvert limitation and authorize the Parish Highway Department to install approximately 360 feet of 30" culvert along Cotton Gin Road with catch basins, in the approximately cost of \$7,000 to be paid out of the District F Economic Development Funds in the General Fund. On vote the motion carried.

On motion by Mr. Joe Fuller, seconded by Mr. Don Wilmore, to increase the salary of the Workforce Operations Director by 29% based on the recent salary survey as conducted by the Salary Task Force and request the Civil Service Board to make the necessary adjustment. On vote the motion carried.

On motion by Mr. Joe Fuller, seconded by Mr. Theodore Fountaine, to work with the Alexandria Central Economic Development District on their request for financial support to their sponsorship of the Central Louisiana Research Park Project and authorize the President to sign an Intergovernmental Agreement. On vote the motion carried.

The President asked if there was any public comment on any agenda item, to which there was no response.

On motion by Mr. Scott Perry, seconded by Mr. Joe Fuller, that there being no further business, the meeting be declared adjourned. On vote the motion carried at 3:20 p.m.

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Angie Richmond, Secretary  
Rapides Parish Police Jury

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Richard Billings, President  
Rapides Parish Police Jury