

**STATE OF LOUISIANA
PARISH OF LAFOURCHE**

THE LAFOURCHE PARISH COUNCIL PUBLIC WORKS AND SOLID WASTE COMMITTEE, PARISH OF LAFOURCHE, STATE OF LOUISIANA, WAS SCHEDULED FOR WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2004, FOLLOWING A SPECIAL MEETING SCHEDULED TO BEGIN AT 6:00 P.M. IN THE COUNCIL ROOM AT THE LAFOURCHE PARISH COUNCIL BARRIOS CENTER, 1612 HWY. 182, SUITE 100, RACELAND, LOUISIANA.

Mark Atzenhoffer, Chairman, stated that the Public Works and Solid Waste Committee was ready for the transaction of business at 6:12 P.M.. Proceedings of the meeting were called to order with the following:

PRESENT: Mr. Tyrone Williams
Mr. Mike Delatte–Co-Chair
Mr. Michael Matherne
Mr. Tommy Lasseigne
Mr. Mark Atzenhoffer–Chairman
Mr. Lindel Toups
Mr. L. Phillip Gouaux, II
Mr. Brent Callais
Mr. Daniel Lorraine

ABSENT: None

PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE COMMITTEE

Chairman Atzenhoffer asked if anyone from the public wanted to address the committee. Barbara Danos commented on item (13), referring to Delta Farm Roads, and asked why the parish did not agree to take over a deplorable street from HWY 308 to LA 657, which state agreed to black top only if the parish took it over. Arthur Matherne discussed also Delta Farm Roads, mentioning that the garbage situation improved but the road is still in bad condition. Mr. Gouaux said that the road, with the exception of a small piece of about 500' that was given back to the parish, is still state owned.

PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR REPORT

Ray Cheramie, Public Works Director, reported on the following: operation acceptance of the Al Robichaux Pump Station, verbal agreement on a right-of-way at the Natural Gas Pump Station, the Kraemer Drainage Pump Project, acceptance of bids on changing the pumping engine at Loudivine, receiving bids on locating 36' pumps at both the Fantastic and Edward Guidry Pump Stations, the hiring of two employees for the barns at region B,C, and D for the culvert cleaners, the ordering of equipment, and the ring levees south of the South Lafourche Levee District not having legal right-of-ways. Councilmen addressed the following issues: expropriating the property of the right-of-ways at the ring levees, the status of Oak Point Road, the possibility of using a flex schedule, and the time limit of purchasing new equipment.

PRESENTATIONS

The first item (1) on the agenda was a presentation by Joe Picciola of Picciola & Associates with a report of a cost estimate to overlay the remaining unpaved public streets in Lafourche Parish. Mr. Toups mentioned that it will be approximately two months until the cost estimate would be ready.

The next item (2) on the agenda was a presentation by Windell Curole of South Lafourche Levee District with a report of proposed projects for 2004. Mr. Curole updated the council on its projects, specifically addressing the following issues: levees, drainage, pump stations, the flood gates, loss of marsh, and types of flooding. Mr. Curole also informed the committee that Drainage District No. 1 supplies spray for the SLLD and then a discussion ensued regarding the issue of the parish paying for the fuel for the pump stations.

MOTIONS

The next item (3) on the agenda was a motion to submit Rosemary Gardens Subdivision (141) lots, District 5 Ward 11, to be presented before the February 26, 2004, Planning Commission Meeting (Sketch Plat Approval). Chairman Atzenhoffer announced that item (3) has been pulled from the agenda.

The next item (4) on the agenda was a motion to submit Sugar Plum Mobile Home Park, (4) mobile home spaces, District 6, Ward 7, to be presented before the February 26, 2004, Planning Commission Meeting. (Sketch Plat Approval) Mr. Lindel Toups mentioned that these lots were sold for \$30,000 to \$40,000 and said that this mobile home development cannot be stopped because the parish does not have any zoning. Mr. Toups suggested hiding the development with a fence or bushes and was told by Pat Matherne that the committee could recommend this request to the Planning Commission. A **amendment** was offered by Mr. Lindel Toups and seconded by Mr. Phillip Gouaux to ask the Planning Commission to include a visual barrier, such a fence or bush, by a vote of eight (8) yeas and one (1) nay, being that of Mr. Tommy Lasseigne. The committee **recommended** that item (4), as amended, be sent to the Planning Commission by a vote of nine (9) yeas and zero (0) nays.

The next item (5) on the agenda was a motion to submit Eugene Chiasson Subdivision (2) lots, District 9, Ward 10, to be presented before the February 26, 2004, Planning Commission Meeting. (Sketch/Final Plat Approval).

Item (6) on the agenda was to submit Betty Benoit Subdivision (2) lots, District 3, Ward 1, to be presented before the February 26, 2004, Planning Commission Meeting. (Sketch/Final Plat Approval)

Item (7) on the agenda was to submit French Turn Subdivision, Addendum No. 4 (28) lots , District 8 Ward 10, to be presented before the February 26, 2004, Planning Commission Meeting. (Final Plat Approval)

Item (8) on the agenda was to submit Francis Bourgeois, Sr. Subdivision (2) lots, District 4, Ward 3 , to be presented before the February 26, 2004, Planning Commission Meeting. (Sketch/Final Plat Approval)

Item (9) on the agenda was to submit Perque Subdivision (4) lots, District 2, Ward 6, to be presented before the February 26, 2004, Planning Commission Meeting. (Sketch/Final Plat Approval)

Item (10) on the agenda was to submit Roz Properties Subdivision (1) lot, District 9, Ward 10 to be presented before the February 26, 2004, Planning Commission Meeting. (Sketch/Final Plat Approval)

Chairman Atzenhoffer made the following corrections: Item (7) should be a **sketch** plat approval and item (9) should be (**15**) lots. Pat Matherne said that items (5) through (10) were given

recommendations by the consultant to be submitted to the Planning Commission. A **motion** was offered by Mr. Phillip Gouaux and seconded by Mr. Lindel Toups to send items (5) through (10) to the Planning Commission. The committee **approved** the motion by a vote of nine (9) yeas and zero (0) nays.

The next item (11) on the agenda was a motion to submit James Cantrelle, II Subdivision (47) lots, District 6, Ward 4, to be presented before the February 26, 2004, Planning Commission Meeting. (Sketch/Preliminary Plat Approval). Mrs. Matherne said that she visited the site with the consultant and engineer. She added that this item was deferred at the last Planning Commission meeting due to safety issues, which will be addressed at tomorrow night's Planning Commission meeting. A motion was offered by Mr. Lindel Toups and seconded by Mr. Brent Callais to send item (11) to the Planning Commission. The committee **approved** the motion by a vote of nine (9) yeas and zero (0) nays.

The next item (12) on the agenda was a motion to recommend the placement of a Performance Bond in the amount of \$6,250.00 for the completion of final inspection items on Sugar Ridge West Subdivision, Addendum No. 3, District 2, Ward 6, to be presented before the February 26, 2004, Planning Commission Meeting. A discussion ensued by Pat Matherne regarding the need for the Performance Bond, since the subdivision did not pass inspection and, therefore, could not be given final inspection. She also described how the value of performance bonds are determined. A **motion** was offered by Mr. Mike Delatte and seconded by Mr. Lindel Toups. The committee **approved** the motion by a vote of nine (9) yeas and zero (0) nays.

The next item (13) on the agenda was a motion requesting someone from the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development and/or Senator Reggie Dupre and/or Representative Loulan Pitre to discuss the highway exchange program. A motion was offered by Mr. Phillip Gouaux and seconded by Mr. Daniel Lorraine to enter into discussion. A lengthy discussion ensued by Senator Dupre, who represents the majority of Lafourche and Terrebonne Parish residents, regarding the highway exchange program and how it works with DOTD, mentioning several state roads that are not eligible for any federal matches and are local in nature. Subjects addressed prior to discussing the exchange program: fuel taxes in Louisiana, DOTD's master plan and its budget, and federal matching for highways. Senator Dupre summarized the way new highways are built in the state—parishes agree to take over a local state highway with little traffic in exchange for the state bringing up that local highway to standards with any necessary repairs. He mentioned that many complaints have been received throughout Louisiana on these local roads and that this problem needs to be addressed. A discussion ensued regarding the funding of roads/highways. Senator Dupre continued to discuss the highway exchange program, mentioning the statutory limit on the number of roads and Lafourche Parish's deficit, which is growing, since this passed and could jeopardize the new highway construction being planned. Senator Dupre suggested that the exchange program be tried at a section of LA 657, the Delta Farms road, the new Larose link between 3235 and LA 1 and a new on system bridge, which will be part of a state highway system, in Larose that will be built near Larry Picciola's office. He also suggested addressing the portion between the intersection of LA 308 on the east side of Bayou Lafourche up to the Dead End, where the limits of the state jurisdiction are located. Senator Dupre suggested that the council pass a resolution and have the Parish President send a letter to Governor and the DOTD secretary making an offer to exchange the previously mentioned section of LA 657 if the state agrees to bring it up to standard, such as doing a full overlay and maybe adding some shoulders, in order to bring the road to the top of the list. He suggested that another action that could be considered would be to send a resolution to the Governor, DOTD, and the Lafourche Parish Delegation supporting some sort of dedicated funding for the local state highways. Councilmen then addressed Senator Dupre. Senator Dupre then suggested that the council give the Parish President the authority to negotiate on the exchange program. A **motion** was

offered by Mr. Phillip Gouaux and seconded by Mr. Brent Callais to authorize the Parish President to meet with DOTD and the Governor's office to negotiate with the state a deal where the parish could take over LA HWY 657, north of LA HWY 308, and LA HWY 310 under the Exchange Program. The committee **adopted** the motion by a vote of nine (9) yeas and zero (0) nays. Senator Dupre announced that tomorrow was the deadline for the advertising of local bills.

The next item (14) on the agenda was a motion to enter into discussion concerning the Kraemer Grave Site Stabilization Project. Mr. Mike Delatte described the problem to be that the protection levee and drainage system passes to the rear of the grave yard and that the water is approaching and has eaten away several feet. A **motion** was offered by Mr. Mike Delatte, seconded by Mr. Lindel Toups, and **carried** that the administration look into finding a solution to this problem with either monetary assistance or in-kind services.

The next item (15) on the agenda was a motion to enter into discussion concerning the Kraemer Highway 307 to Sanchez Road Levee Project. Mr. Mike Delatte said that he discussed this issue with the Department of Public Works and mentioned that this project could be done with in-kind services. He described the flooding problem of this area and suggested that a 60'-70' wide levee be built so that residents can avoid submerging their cars into flood waters. A **motion** was offered by Mr. Mike Delatte, seconded by Mr. Phillip Gouaux, and **carried** that the Department of Public Works address this problem by a vote of nine (9) yeas and zero (0) nays.

The next item (16) on the agenda was a motion to enter into discussion concerning a parish-wide equipment utilization report from the Department of Public Works. A **motion** was offered by Mr. Daniel Lorraine and seconded by Mr. Brent Callais requesting Ray Cheramie, Public Works Director, to present a monthly report on the canals/ditches dugged in each district and the equipment used to dig the canals, whether it is for the parish or the drainage district. Mr. Lorraine also wanted to know where the dragline was at. Mr. Toups said that he receives this report from each barn. Mr. Gouaux said that he felt this report was not necessary. The committee **adopted** the motion by a vote of seven (7) yeas and two (2) nays, being that of Mr. Michael Matherne and Mr. Phillip Gouaux.

The next item (17) on the agenda was a motion to enter into discussion concerning pumps in District 6. Mr. Toups said that Ray Cheramie addressed this issue under his report, saying that the pump will be installed.

The next item (18) on the agenda was a motion to enter into discussion concerning the drainage project in Valentine. Mr. Lindel Toups discussed the flooding problem in the area and asked that the project, which was canceled, be started again.

RESOLUTIONS

The next item (19) on the agenda was a resolution requesting the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development to clean a culvert located along LA. HWY. 1 and across HWY 1 by Circle K in Cut Off, in the area of Mr. Kenry Vegas' residence located at 16012 West Main, Cut Off, LA 70345, Ward 10, District 8, Lafourche Parish, State of Louisiana. Mr. Brent Callais mentioned that Mr. Vegas' sewer system does not work due to a heavy downpour and said that the culvert mentioned above is clogged and needs to be cleaned. A motion was offered by Mr. Brent Callais and seconded by Mr. Daniel Lorraine. Mr. Toups suggested that Mr. Callais request that the parish culvert cleaners be used. Mr. Callais said he would put in a second work order. The committee **adopted** said resolution by a vote of nine (9) yeas and zero (0) nays.

RES. NO. 04-017

The next item (20) on the agenda was a resolution requesting the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development to clean the culverts located in the vicinity of 10340 HWY 1 located in Valentine, Ward 4, District 7, Lafourche Parish, State of Louisiana. A motion was offered by Mr. Phillip Gouaux and seconded by Mr. Daniel Lorraine. The committee **adopted** said

resolution by a vote of nine (9) yeas and zero (0) nays.

RES. NO. 04-018

The next item (21) on the agenda was a resolution providing for the acceptance of work performed by Sealevel Construction, Inc., in accordance with the Certificate of Substantial Completion on the Construction of the Kraemer Drainage Pump Station - Fema Hazard Mitigation Grant Program, Ward (6), District (2), Parish of Lafourche, State of Louisiana. A motion was offered by Mr. Mike Delatte and seconded by Mr. Lindel Toups. The committee *adopted* said resolution by a vote of nine (9) yeas and zero (0) nays.

RES. NO. 04-019

OTHER BUSINESS

The next item (22) on the agenda was any other business of the Committee. Mr. Lindel Toups mentioned that the date for the March full council meeting had to be changed due to an election being held in the Barrios Center.

Item (a) was the Chair to address the Committee regarding agenda items. Chairman Atzenhoffer asked that councilmen be more specific when placing motions to enter into discussion concerning an issue on the agenda. He also referred to the Solid Waste sub-committee and asked that they be aware of the open meetings law and publish when the meetings will be held.

Next, Mr. Donovan Toups addressed the committee regarding the Loudivine Pump Station, specifically asking why the parish decided to replace the pump with 30" pump in this farm area. Ray Cheramie stated that one of the deplorable pumps is being replaced with an old pump that was removed from the Tom Foret Pump Station.

ADJOURN

On motion by Mr. Michael Matherne and seconded by Mr. Mike Delatte and with no further business the Lafourche Parish Council Public Works and Solid Waste Committee of February 25, 2004, is adjourned at 7:33 pm.

**MARK ATZENHOFFER, CHAIRMAN
LAFOURCHE PARISH PUBLIC WORKS
AND SOLID WASTE COMMITTEE**

**STACIE GRAVOIS, INTERIM COUNCIL CLERK
LAFOURCHE PARISH**