

STATE OF LOUISIANA  
PARISH LAFOURCHE

A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE LAFOURCHE PARISH COUNCIL, PARISH OF LAFOURCHE, STATE OF LOUISIANA, WAS SCHEDULED FOR TUESDAY, DECEMBER 22, 2009 AT 5:00 P.M., HELD AT THE MATHEWS GOVERNMENT COMPLEX, 4876 HIGHWAY 1, MATHEWS, LOUISIANA.

The Lafourche Parish Council was duly convened as the Governing Authority of said Parish by Mr. Jerry Jones, Chairman, who then stated that the Lafourche Parish Council was ready for the transaction of business at 5:00 p.m.

Proceedings of the meeting were called to order with the following:

**PRESENT:** Mr. Jerry Jones, Chairman  
Mr. Michael Delatte  
Mr. Joseph "Joe" Fertitta  
Mr. Matt Matherne  
Mr. Lindel Toups  
Mr. Phillip Gouaux  
Mr. Rodney Doucet  
Mr. Daniel Lorraine, Vice-Chairman  
Ms. Charlotte Randolph, Parish President

**ABSENT:** Mr. Louis Richard

Chairman Jones announced that the invocation would be led by Mr. Rodney Doucet. The Council then recited the Pledge of Allegiance led by Mr. Lindel Toups.

### ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

The first item (1) on the agenda was a report from the Parish President regarding the recent rain event and flooding in Lafourche Parish. President Randolph began by saying that Ms. Pam Roussell with the Governor's Office of Homeland Security was present with them; in that she had a continuous reel of photographs from the recent ordeal of flooding throughout the Parish. She then said that the Home Rule Charter requires that she go before Council when an emergency is declared, informing them of the expenditures that have occurred, so that none of it would come as a surprise to them. President Randolph stated that the emergency ended the morning prior to the meeting; but meanwhile there was still emergency work going on. She explained that people were still building levees and still attempting to keep water out of people's homes; particularly in Mr. Delatte's District. President Randolph reported that the most devastation was in Mr. Toups' District, because not only did so many homes flood, but the people were unable to return to their homes. She then gave figures of the most up-to-date expenses being occurred thus far: rental of about 22 pumps and being loaned six tractor pumps from the Corp, among many, many other expenses come to about \$255,000; and labor expenses costing about \$200,000. President Randolph said that they did not have an invoice from ES&H for the environmental situation in Alidore with the barrel of oil that had to be removed before the water could be removed; in which they were estimating such to be \$80,000 to \$100,000. She expressed they were definitely looking at about at least \$600,000, if not more.

President Randolph continued her report by saying she would be meeting with FEMA the next morning; that the individual assessment team had gone out to the community to assist the residents with financial help for the future; and that the Red Cross had gone out to offer assistance. She said Catholic Charities of New Orleans had also been here, that there was a toy drive that afternoon, in which they were able to give out toys to the children, being that Christmas was two days away, which made this situation even more difficult to endure for many of the people involved. President Randolph stated that this situation all began on December 8th, in which one of the first phone calls she made was to Mr. Lorraine, being that West 170th Street had problems in the first rain that occurred. She explained that there was a culvert that was blocked at that time. Also, Emerald Park and Midway in the northern part of the Parish where crews had to respond to potential flooding there.

President Randolph stated that the pictures they would see were of the Alidore area and of the Choupic/Choctaw/Chackbay areas (*see Exhibit "A"*); but they did not have pictures of the earlier problems that occurred in the Parish. (*Due to technical difficulties, the presentation was not viewable; therefore Council moved on to the next items on the agenda and would then come back to complete the presentation.*)

## **MOTION TO "OVERRIDE" VETOED BUDGET AMENDMENTS**

The next item (2) on the agenda were the following Amendments to the 2010 Operations and Capital Budgets which were vetoed by Parish President Charlotte Randolph on December 10, 2009: (Six votes are needed to override the veto.)

a.) **Amendment #3 - Operations and Maintenance Fund - To provide monies necessary to operate the Legislative Department:** General Fund 001: To decrease fund balance of General Fund by \$20,000.00 and increase Miscellaneous (Legislative Department) by \$20,000.00.

A **motion** was made by Mr. Doucet, *to override vetoed budget amendment #3*, and seconded by Mr. Lorraine for discussion.

Mr. Gouaux said that it was his understanding that by allowing an override of this vetoed item that it would throw the procedure out of whack. President Randolph replied as yes; stating that the purpose, as was stated in the Veto Message, was because the Budget would not be balanced. Mr. Gouaux then asked President Randolph if she would be agreeable to coming up with a Supplemental, after the first of the year, to cover such. President Randolph responded as to yes, certainly; expressing that it was just the timing and being the only reason for the veto. Mr. Toups then asked if that would be for both amendments, a and b; with President Randolph replying as sure.

Mr. Doucet then said, "So, we're only doing this! This is the 2010 Budget, it has nothing to do with 2009. So, 2010 is next year! You have quite a few miscellaneous in each and different segments of the Budget that could have covered it. So why did you veto this to balance the Budget? My understanding was to balance it for 2009. You telling me that we have to present a balanced budget for 2010 before we even start?" President Randolph replied, "That is correct!" Mr. Doucet continued, "But, even though that is some of the different funds there's a lot of miscellaneous that would have covered this? Couldn't you've gone back? And that is the question I want to ask you? Here's the question! Before you vetoed it, could you have gone back and look at the funds, and taken out some of the miscellaneous money that's in some of those funds to fill this? President Randolph replied as no; explaining that every part of the Budget, even Miscellaneous, was dedicated to a specific purpose, having a purpose. However, when you begin the year, you can shift some of that money around, in a different place, because the Budget presented to the Council had all these things in their dedicated areas. She went on to say that when 2010 begins, it could be said that \$20,000 was to be taken from the General Fund and put into another fund; being a part of the Supplemental that works so well. President Randolph reiterated that they had to indeed present a balanced budget before the end of each year and when they propose such a budget; further stating that all they would have to do is shift the money around in 2010; in which they often do with Supplemental Appropriations. She then asked Mr. Doucet which miscellaneous fund and amount was he concerned about. Mr. Doucet replied that there was one place of \$70,000, saying that was a lot of miscellaneous; in that he did not have his highlighted budget book present with him.

Detailed discussion ensued for clarification as to why there were miscellaneous funds and amounts; and of the balanced that remained in the 2009 Budget that was readjusted in the 2010 Budget.

The **veto of amendment #3** was *not overridden*, thus *failing* by a vote of (1) yea, that being Mr. Doucet; (7) nays; and (1) absent, that being of Mr. Richard.

b.) **Amendment #8 - Operations Budget - To increase Professional Services (General Fund 001 - Legislative):** General Fund 001: To decrease General Fund Balance by \$25,000.00 and increase Professional Services (Legislative Department) by \$25,000.00.

A **motion** was made by Mr. Doucet, *to override vetoed budget amendment #8*; which *died due to the lack of a second*.

## RESOLUTIONS

The next item (3) on the agenda was a resolution **approving an agreement** between the **Department of Transportation and Development (DOTD)** and Lafourche Parish Government for the **Federal Stimulus Project** entitled “**Lafourche Parish Turning Lanes**”; and authorizing the Parish President to sign, execute and administer said agreement and any all relevant documents and amendments. A **motion** was offered by Mr. Fertitta, seconded by Mr. Toups, and *carried* by a vote of (8) yeas, (0) nays, and (1) absent.

**RES. NO. 09-437     DOTD - FEDERAL STIMULUS PROJECT - TURNING LANES**

The next item (4) on the agenda was a resolution **requesting approval** for the Lafourche Parish Government to enter into a contract with **Arthur J. Gallagher Risk Management Services, Inc.** to provide **Commercial General Liability & Auto, Public Officials & Employee’s Liability and Crime Coverage**; and authorizing the Parish President to sign, execute and administer said contracts and any and all relevant documents. A **motion** was offered by Mr. Gouaux, seconded by Mr. Delatte, and *carried* by a vote of (8) yeas, (0) nays, and (1) absent.

**RES. NO. 09-438     ARTHUR J. GALLAGHER RISK MANAGEMENT SERVICES, INC.**

The next item (5) on the agenda was a resolution **accepting the low bid** for the **modular classroom building** for Lafourche Parish Government **Head Start - 2009**, awarding the low bid being submitted by **Comark Building Systems, Inc.**, in the amount of \$74,365.00; and authorizing the Parish President to sign, execute, and administer said contract and associated documents and amendments. A **motion** was offered by Mr. Gouaux, seconded by Mr. Toups, and *carried* by a vote of (8) yeas, (0) nays, and (1) absent.

**RES. NO. 09-439     COMARK BUILDING SYSTEMS, INC. - HEAD START BUILDING**

The next item (6) on the agenda was a resolution **accepting the bid** from **Volute, Inc.** in the amount of \$1,554,600.00 for the **Lewistown, Rita and Marydale Sewer Rehabilitation**; and authorizing the Parish President to sign, execute and administer a contract with Volute, Inc. and any and all relevant documents and amendments. A **motion** was offered by Mr. Delatte, seconded by Mr. Fertitta, and *carried* by a vote of (8) yeas, (0) nays, and (1) absent.

**RES. NO. 09-440     VOLUTE, INC. - LEWISTOWN, RITA & MARYDALE SEWER**

The next item (7) on the agenda was a resolution **approving Change Order No. 1** for the project entitled “**Lewistown, Rita and Marydale Sewer Rehabilitation**” as a deduct Change Order in the amount of \$679,173.00; and authorizing the Parish President to sign said Change Order and any and all relevant documents. A **motion** was offered by Mr. Delatte, seconded by Mr. Gouaux, and *carried* by a vote of (8) yeas, (0) nays, and (1) absent.

**RES. NO. 09-441     CHANGE ORDER #1 - LEWISTOWN, RITA & MARYDALE SEWER**

The next item (8) on the agenda was a resolution accepting the low bid from Week's Marine in the amount of \$1,720,237.00 for the Northwest Little Lake Marsh Creation & Enhancement Project; and authorizing the Parish President to sign, execute and administer a contract and any and all relevant documents. A **motion** was offered by Mr. Doucet, seconded by Mr. Toups, and *carried* by a vote of (8) yeas, (0) nays, and (1) absent.

**RES. NO. 09-442 WEEK'S MARINE - NORTHWEST LITTLE LAKE MARSH CREATION & ENHANCEMENT PROJECT**

The next item (9) on the agenda was a resolution amending Resolution Number 09-434, rescinding Resolution Number 08-394, thereby terminating an agreement with T. Baker Smith, Inc., signed in December, 2008, filed at the Lafourche Parish Clerk of Court's Office under Instrument Number 1062532 for the Company Canal Pump Station; and further authorizing the Parish President to sign, execute and administer a new contract with T. Baker Smith, Inc., pending State approval of said contract; and authorizing the signature of any and all relevant documents and amendments. A **motion** was offered by Mr. Toups, seconded by Mr. Matherne, and *carried* by a vote of (8) yeas, (0) nays, and (1) absent.

**RES. NO. 09-443 T. BAKER SMITH, INC. - COMPANY CANAL PUMP STATION**

A **motion** was then offered by Mr. Toups, to *defer back to item 1 (Administrative Report)*, seconded by Mr. Fertitta, and *carried* by a vote of (8) yeas, (0) nays, and (1) absent.

President Randolph continued her report regarding the recent rain event and flooding in Lafourche Parish. She said the pictures being shown on the projector (*see Exhibit "A"*) were of some that were taken by the State Governor's Office, as well as some other pictures that were included in there, of the area flooding. President Randolph stated that the estimate in the Raceland Community was up to 200 homes affected in various stages; some were completely inundated to the extent that they would not be repairable; and others may have had minimal damages in which they may be able to assist them. President Randolph then listed other sites, from a list of homes, with water in them; which included the St. Charles Bypass, Ozia Skyline, an apartment on Highway 182, St. Phillips Street, Belle Helene, Peltier Drive, North Second Street, and Marcel Street. She requested that the Councilmen take note of the water coming into the Alidore Community, as well as the rainfall. The estimates from December 8th through December 15th was that there was 15 to 20 inches of water in a training effect across the Parish.

Several Councilmen questioned flooding occurrences, expressed their concerns, beliefs/disbeliefs, and also gave theories of what they believed may have happened to cause such catastrophe and devastation. (*Not all discussion was transcribed in detail, being that it was not all quite audible.*)

President Randolph stated that her main point of this report was to discuss the money they have spent thus far, in that she wanted to tell the Councilmen where there was flooding, to show them some pictures, in which they had many, many more of. She reiterated that they had been working with the Red Cross and Catholic Charities to assist the residents, particularly in the Alidore area because so many of them were flooded out of their homes. President Randolph expressed that was difficult for some of these residents, and unfortunately some of them that lived in the Federal Housing portion are being asked to move to different areas, which was even more difficult for the families who have children who would have to change schools and that type of things. She said a meeting was held with Red Cross and Catholic Charities for the unmet needs; in which they were currently identifying specifics. President Randolph mentioned that she would be meeting with FEMA the next day, being that there was a threshold at which the State and the Federal Government awards the Parish a Declaration, so that would bring in additional assistance to the residents of the area. All of this was part of the Governmental process of this.

President Randolph next reported that they had the sewer system back up and running in the Community; and also turned on the electricity on Sunday. She explained the devastation of what the residents experienced when some were able to return home, that this had been a difficult time for everyone involved, in that the Parish was assisting the best they knew how.

President Randolph then asked if there were any questions as to any of the actions that have been taken during the storm. She said that at any point and time there would still be people working because the Corp has given the Parish emergency permits to build a levee in Choctaw and one in Choupic right now, just to be able to pump that water out; in which they would then sit with them for an after the fact permit.

Mr. Toups questioned President Randolph; asking if they could further look into the situation and then maybe have a meeting with the residents of the Alidore Community, letting them know what the Parish was planning on doing. He said that it would probably take a month or so to get a game plan; but to then meet with them and get them involved, which they may be able to give the Parish ideas. President Randolph said that she understood, in that she agreed with that; but it would take at least a month just for all the Agencies to get together. She then stated that way when they come to us with the questions, we would be able to answer them better than we can on the Parish level at the moment.

Mr. Delatte made mention to “bladders”; saying that if ever the Parish could afford in the future to purchase some, it would be a lot easier than moving sand bags. He expressed how they worked, that they were faster and easier to handle. President Randolph stated that the ones that were used were sent and loaned to the Parish by Terrebonne and Assumption Parishes. She said that Plaquemines Parish sent 10,000 sand bags, the State Department of Corrections sent Trustees to help fill sand bags, in that they had assistance from many, many different areas; being very fortunate for such assistance.

President Randolph saluted the people in the field; in that they worked very hard, they continue to work very hard, and they would address every need they could. She expressed that they do excellent work, that they have given up a lot of time, especially being called upon during all hours of the day and night.

Mr. Matherne questioned as to what was being done for the people to help them live and get by until they could get something. President Randolph replied by explaining that she had reported on such earlier in her presentation. She further stated that the Red Cross had closed the shelter on Monday at noon because they had found a place for people to live. Several members from the public began to make comments, which was *not audible*; with President Randolph saying, “Obviously you have not spoken to the Red Cross because the Red Cross is going home to home talking to people. This is what the Red Cross is telling me and I could only take their word for it. The situation with the public units is such that there are some people who don’t want to go to another area; and there’s nothing the Red Cross can do about that, they find a place for them. Catholic Charities has offered down payment on rental property, as well as the first month...” President Randolph was again interrupted by the audience; therefore, she stated that she was finished with her presentation.

Mr. Doucet commended the “Maintenance Contracts”; saying there was a lot of work done in his Districts, in that he did not have one phone call, with all of this rain. He expressed that his District usually floods 9 to 12 houses in two inches of rain; in which he had none. Mr. Doucet then commended the Contractors who were doing the work, in that they were doing good work. He reiterated that he did not have any problems. Mr. Doucet publically thanked President Randolph for calling him and asking him if he had any problems. He said he went around his District looking to see if he had any problem areas, but he did not have any whatsoever; thus being able to sleep. Mr. Doucet stated that he had asked President Randolph if she needed any help, in that if she or any of the Councilmen ever do, to please feel free to call him and he would come running. President Randolph briefly commented that she thought the problems in the future were going to be in the northern part of the Parish.

Mr. Matherne said that he knew that he could not talk to the members in the public; but he wanted to ask something else. He said, “I just wanted to ask if they keep their mouth shut and if somebody asked them whoever is hurting bad and needs help right away stand up, they won’t say nothing. I just wonder if that was possible. Well, if I’m wrong, I’m wrong! Go ahead and stand up if you need help!” President Randolph then began to state, “I have the phone number of the Red Cross. I have the phone number of...”; but she was again interrupted by the audience, so she stopped what she was saying.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

On **motion** by Mr. Fertitta and seconded by Mr. Doucet, and with no further business, the Lafourche Parish Council **Special Meeting** of **December 22, 2009** *adjourned* at **5:50 p.m.**

JERRY JONES, CHAIRMAN  
LAFOURCHE PARISH COUNCIL

CARLEEN B. BABIN, COUNCIL CLERK  
LAFOURCHE PARISH COUNCIL

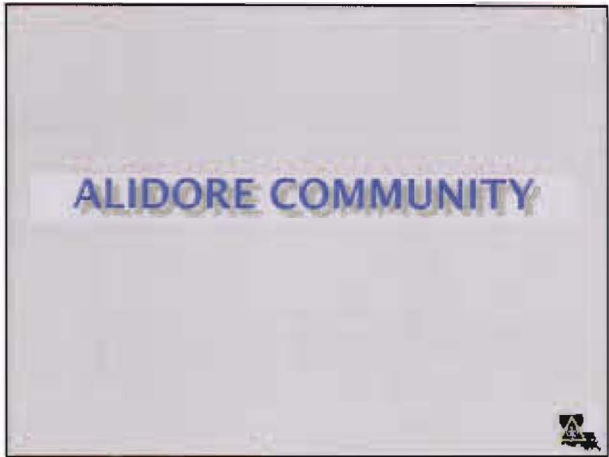


Exhibit "A"



"A"



"A"



"A"

# CHOCTAW ROAD AREA



Potential Flooding  
Flooded Areas (December 16, 2009)



"A"



"A"



"A"