

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE POLICE JURY, PARISH OF OUACHITA,  
STATE OF LOUISIANA, TAKEN AT A REGULAR MEETING  
HELD MONDAY, AUGUST 18, 2008 AT 5:35 P.M.**

The Police Jury of the Parish of Ouachita, State of Louisiana met in regular and legal session in the Ouachita Parish Police Jury Meeting Room, Courthouse Building, Monroe, Louisiana on Monday, August 18, 2008 at 5:35 p.m., and was duly convened by Mr. Walt M. Caldwell IV, President, who stated that the Police Jury was ready for the transaction of business.

<b><u>Members Present</u></b>	<b>(6)</b>
<b>Charles Jackson</b>	<b>District A</b>
<b>Mack Calhoun</b>	<b>District B</b>
<b>Walt Caldwell</b>	<b>District C</b>
<b>Dorth Blade</b>	<b>District D</b>
<b>Shane Smiley</b>	<b>District E</b>
<b>Pat Moore</b>	<b>District F</b>

<b><u>Members Absent</u></b>	<b>(0)</b>
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Invocation was given by Mr. Blade. Pledge of Allegiance to the flag was led by Mr. Blade.

Motion to adopt the minutes of the Regular Meeting including the Personnel and Public Works Committee Meetings held on August 4, 2008, was offered by Ms. Moore, seconded by Mr. Blade. Motion passed without opposition.

The president noted the numerous visitors on the agenda. The president stated that each group would only be allowed five (5) minutes of speaking time. The president recognized Mr. Johnny Pace, 299 Wall Williams Rd, West Monroe, LA. Mr. Pace spoke regarding a problem that has existed for many years regarding drainage in the northwest area of the Parish. Mr. Pace asked the jury to investigate the issuing of permits, compliance, and engineering of the subdivisions surrounding the area. The president explained to Mr. Pace that the jury was not an investigative body and could not help him. No other action was taken on this matter.

The president recognized Mr. Drew Kennedy and Robert Cooper. They were not present at this time.

The president recognized Rev. Pat Hezekiah, 3915 Segrest Mercy, Monroe, LA. Mr. Hezekiah spoke regarding adjudicated properties located on Segrest Mercy owned by the parish. Mr. Hezekiah asked to be reimbursed for monies paid toward the purchase of the property located at

3902 Segrest Mercy. Mr. Mitchell spoke regarding the matter and stated that he would work with Mr. Hezekiah to resolve his issue.

The president recognized Ms. Vera Hill, 1355 Buckhorn Bend Loop Rd, Monroe, LA. Ms. Hill presented pictures to the jury that showed flooding and drainage in her area. Ms. Hill asked that the jury clean out the ditch next to her property. Ms. Moore thanked Ms. Hill and the other residents of the area for advising the jury of this issue. The president asked Mr. Murray to speak regarding the problem. The president asked Ms. Hill to speak with the Homeland Security Director regarding her damage before leaving. No other action was taken on this matter.

The president recognized Mr. Ed Johnson, Huntington Park Subdivision. Mr. Johnson spoke regarding various drainage problems throughout the subdivision. Ms. Moore thanked Mr. Johnson for coming and stated that she would give his list of issues to the Public Works Director. Discussion ensued. No other action was taken on this matter.

The president recognized Mrs. Jean Hatten. Mrs. Jean Hatten was not present at this time.

The president recognized Mr. Cedric Hemphill of Herbert Land Architect, Inc. Mr. Hemphill spoke on behalf of the parish libraries. Mr. Hemphill presented documents prepared by his firm for roof repairs at the Carver, Anna Meyer, Ouachita Valley, and West Monroe branches. The president stated that this item was on Mr. Blade's agenda and asked whether any juror had a problem with addressing this item at this time. None had a problem taking up this matter at this time. Motion offered by Mr. Blade, seconded by Ms. Moore to advertise for bids for roof repairs at the Carver, Anna Meyer, Ouachita Valley and West Monroe branches of the library. Discussion ensued. Motion passed without opposition.

The president recognized Drew Kennedy, 162 East Restful Homes Rd, West Monroe, LA. Mr. Kennedy spoke regarding the dam problem located in Ridgedale Lake Subdivision. Mr. Kennedy asked the jury for engineering and material assistance in rebuilding the dam. Discussion ensued. Mr. Harrison stated to the jury and Mr. Kennedy what kind of assistance that he could provide to the residents of the subdivision. Discussion ensued. Mr. Kennedy expressed his thanks to the jury and their efforts for addressing the issue of drainage. No other action was taken on this matter.

Mr. Jackson and Mr. Calhoun spoke regarding the drainage issues affecting their respective districts. Mr. Jackson stated that anyone who had suffered flood damage should contact the Office of Homeland Security.

Ms. Brenda Kennedy of 1850 Buckhorn Bend Rd spoke regarding the ditch located in the Buckhorn Bend area. Mr. Mitchell explained to Ms. Kennedy the off road ditch system and the procedures for maintaining such ditches. Discussion ensued. No other action was taken.

The president recognized Mrs. Jean Hatten. Ms. Rebecca Harrison, neighbor of Ms. Hatten spoke on her behalf. Mrs. Harrison presented photos of the flooding in and around her property

and spoke regarding damage to the surrounding properties. Discussion ensued. Mr. Mitchell spoke regarding the gates and pumps operated by the Tensas Basin Levee District. Additional discussion ensued. Mr. Beckham, Homeland Security Director spoke regarding what action was being taken by his office to resolve this issue. No other action was taken by the jury.

The president stated that he would entertain a motion to recess the regular meeting of the police jury in lieu of the Finance Committee Meeting. The motion was offered by Mr. Blade, seconded by Mr. Smiley to recess the regular meeting in lieu of the Finance Committee Meeting. Motion passed without opposition.

The chairman, Mr. Charles Jackson called the Finance Committee Meeting to order at 6:55 p.m.

## **FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING**

The chairman asked Mr. Harrison to speak regarding the status of the capital outlay and LCDBG items for prioritization and submission. Mr. Harrison spoke regarding the proposed projects for capital outlay. Mr. Harrison stated that he would present the updated priority listing at the next jury meeting.

The chairman spoke regarding the Audit Engagement for the years 2008-2009. Mr. Cammack spoke regarding the letter received from Luffey, Huffman, Ragsdale & Soignier. Discussion ensued. Motion offered by Mr. Jackson, seconded by Mr. Calhoun to engage the CPA firm of Luffey, Huffman, Ragsdale & Soignier for the year of 2008-2009. Motion passed without opposition.

The chairman spoke regarding the contract for actuary services for Compliance with GASB Statement 45. Motion offered by Mr. Jackson, seconded by Ms. Moore to contract with Milliman for actuary services. Motion passed without opposition.

The chairman recognized Mr. Cammack. Mr. Cammack spoke regarding the claims statement. Motion offered by Mr. Blade, seconded by Ms. Moore to approve the claims for the period of July 18, 2008 through August 14, 2008. Motion passed without opposition.

Mr. Cammack spoke regarding the general fund and the repair of the roof at the Ag Building. Discussion ensued. During the discussion of the general fund, Mr. Caldwell spoke regarding the North Louisiana Economic Partnership and their request for funding. Mr. Caldwell stated that this was an item on his agenda. Mr. Cammack asked the jury for a recommendation regarding the repair of the roof at the Ag Building. Motion offered by Mr. Caldwell, seconded by Mr. Smiley to authorize the advertisement of sealed bids for the roof at the Ag Building. Motion passed without opposition.

Mr. Cammack spoke regarding various on-going projects at the parish courthouse. Discussion ensued. No action was taken on this item. Mr. Cammack asked Mr. Mitchell to speak regarding

the franchise fees for cable. Mr. Mitchell spoke regarding the cable franchise fees. Ms. Cupit spoke regarding the monthly exception report and budget variances. Discussion ensued. No action was taken on these matters.

The chairman stated that he had received notice from Mr. Rhodes, Green Oaks Detention Center of an item that needed to be addressed, at this time in order to avoid a delay in obtaining needed staff at the Juvenile Detention Center. A motion to amend the agenda to take up the matter of hiring Juvenile Detention Officers was offered by Mr. Caldwell, seconded by Mr. Calhoun. Motion passed without opposition.

Mr. Rhodes spoke regarding the hiring of three Juvenile Detention Officers II position. Motion offered by Mr. Calhoun, seconded by Mr. Caldwell to hire three Juvenile Detention Officer II. Motion passed without opposition.

The chairman asked if there were any other business to come before the finance committee. Mr. Cammack asked the committee if an item under his name on the regular agenda could be addressed at this time. No one had a problem addressing the item. Mr. Cammack presented the bid tabulation for janitorial services for the WIA Office. Mr. Cammack recommended that the low bid submitted by Mid South Cleaning Service be accepted. Discussion ensued. Motion offered by Mr. Caldwell, seconded by Mr. Jackson to accept the low bid of Mid South Cleaning Service for janitorial services for the WIA Office. Motion passed without opposition.

There being no other business to come before this committee, a motion to adjourn and enter back into the regular meeting was offered by Mr. Blade, seconded by Mr. Calhoun. The finance committee meeting was adjourned at 7:27 p.m.

The president resumed the regular meeting of the police jury at 7:27 p.m.

The president recognized Mr. Jackson, District A.

**MR. CHARLES JACKSON, DISTRICT A:**

Mr. Jackson asked Mr. Harrison to speak regarding the Green Springs/Springs Drive Drainage Project. Mr. Harrison stated that they were working on the final plans for the project and would most likely have them done within 30 days. Mr. Harrison stated that the plans would then be submitted to the State Floodplain Management Office for review. Discussion ensued. Mr. Murray spoke to the jury regarding the flooding problems in the area. No other action was taken on this matter.

Mr. Jackson asked Mr. Harrison to speak regarding the LA Government Assistance Program. Mr. Harrison reported on the status on the active and proposed projects under this program. Mr. Harrison presented a listing of proposed projects for the current year funding. Mr. Harrison recommended to the jury to present a listing of projects in excess of the \$144,000 allocated to the parish. Discussion ensued. Mr. Harrison spoke regarding the projects under consideration for FY 2008-2009 Funding under the Local Government Assistance Program. Motion offered by Mr.

Jackson, seconded by Mr. Calhoun to instruct Mr. Harrison to make funding applications to the Local Government Assistance Program for the following projects:

- 1) R.O.W. Acquisition and Roadbed Preparation for Parker Road Extension - \$50,000
- 2) Indian Village Water System (upgrade water main along LA 144) - \$66,700
- 3) Extension of Barr Lane (Crocker Lane to Laird Street) - \$76,000

Motion passed without opposition.

**MR. CALHOUN, DISTRICT B:**

The president recognized Mr. Calhoun, District B.

Mr. Calhoun asked Mr. Harrison to speak regarding the Cheniere Lake Area 3 Bathrooms. Mr. Harrison stated that he had spoken with the parish health unit and the state board of health about the sewerage treatment plant for the facility. Mr. Harrison stated that both agencies were in agreement with the plan and plans were being completed for the sewerage treatment plant. No other action was taken on this matter.

Mr. Calhoun asked Mr. Harrison to speak regarding the road repairs due to damage from the pipeline in District B. Mr. Harrison stated that bids were opened today for the project, and that the low bid of \$771,161.76 was submitted by Amethyst Construction, Inc. Mr. Harrison stated that the bid exceeded the amount of \$416,000 allocated for the project and recommended to take the bids under advisement. No other action was taken on this matter.

**MR. CALDWELL, DISTRICT C:**

The president asked Mr. Mitchell to speak regarding the Road Lighting Districts. Mr. Mitchell spoke regarding a request from the homeowners in Frenchmen's Bend Subdivision about creating a road lighting district. Discussion ensued. No other action was taken on this matter.

**MR. BLADE, DISTRICT D:**

The president recognized Mr. Blade, District D.

Mr. Blade spoke regarding the Ingleside Sewerage District. Mr. Blade asked Mr. Mitchell to speak regarding the agreement for operating the sewerage district. Mr. Mitchell stated that the district needed to solicit proposals to operate and maintain the district. Mr. Mitchell suggested to the jury to authorize the administrative staff to request proposals for such an agreement. No other action was taken on this matter.

Mr. Blade spoke regarding a cost estimate on Nutland Road and asked Mr. Murray to speak regarding the matter. Mr. Murray presented three cost estimates for the road and stated that right-of-way acquisitions had to be addressed. Mr. Murray stated that the City of Monroe was

better staffed to address the right of way acquisitions. Discussion ensued. Motion offered by Mr. Blade, seconded by Ms. Moore to proceed with the off road drainage project on Nutland Road. Additional discussion ensued Mr. Cammack and Mr. Mitchell spoke regarding funding for the project. Discussion ensued again. The president reminded the jury that a motion and a second was on the floor. The president stated that Mr. Blade has made a motion to enter into a cooperative endeavor agreement with the City of Monroe to clean out the ditches on Nutland Road, with the city contributing matching funds and right of way acquisitions and the source of the matching funds from the parish to come from the general fund with an offsetting amount equal to the funds being spent to be transferred from the interest bearing account (Glenwood Sale proceeds) to the account set aside to provide matching funds for the state drainage improvement program grants, seconded by Ms. Moore. Motion passed without opposition.

The president recognized Mr. Smiley, District E.

**MR. SHANE SMILEY, DISTRICT E:**

The following ordinance was introduced by Mr. Smiley:

**ORDINANCE NO. 8900 (INTRODUCTION)**

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 14.1, DECREASING THE SPEED LIMIT ON AYCOCK ROAD FROM TWENTY-FIVE (25) MILES PER HOUR TO FIFTEEN (15) MILES PER HOUR; AND FURTHER PROVIDING WITH RESPECT THERETO.**

**WHEREAS**, the Ouachita Parish Police Jury has heretofore established a specific speed limit of twenty-five (25) mph on Aycock Road, a parish road located in District E of Ouachita Parish;

**WHEREAS**, residents have requested that the speed limit be decreased to fifteen miles-per-hour (15 mph) on said Road:

**WHEREAS**, decreasing the speed limit to fifteen miles-per-hour (15 mph) on Aycock Road is in the public interest,

**NOW, THEREFORE:**

**BE IT ORDAINED** by the Ouachita Parish Police Jury in legal and regular session that Section 14-1 of the Compiled Ordinances of the Ouachita Parish Police Jury, be and hereby amended as follows, to-wit:

**Section 14.1 Speed Limits**

## **Aycock Road – 15 miles per hour**

**BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED** that Notice of this proposed speed limit be published in the Official Journal of the Ouachita Parish Police Jury and a Public Hearing be held to hear comments from all interested parties.

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The president recognized Ms. Moore:

### **MS. PAT MOORE, DISTRICT F:**

Mrs. Moore asked Mr. Harrison to speak on the status of the Tanglewood Request for Qualifications. Mr. Harrison stated that he was in the process of securing qualification statements for the next set of service for this project and would bring that back to the next meeting.

Mrs. Moore spoke regarding increasing the litter crews in the parish. Ms. Moore suggested that a meeting be set with the sheriff, warden, and the administrative staff to discuss the possibility of adding additional litter crews. Discussion ensued.

Mr. Blade left the meeting at this time. Mr. Murray stated that he had one inmate crew and had asked the sheriff for additional inmates. Additional discussion ensued.

Mr. Blade returned to the meeting at this time. Discussion ensued again. The president suggested that Mr. Calhoun, Mr. Blade, Mr. Murray and Ms. Moore meet with the sheriff to discuss this issue. The president stated that he would call the sheriff to set up the meeting. No other action was taken on this matter.

### **ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS:**

The president recognized Mr. Cammack

#### **FISCAL: Mr. Brad Cammack, Treasurer**

Mr. Cammack stated that he had no additional items.

The president recognized Chief Hemphill.

#### **FIRE: Chief Pat Hemphill, Fire Department**

The chief spoke regarding the problem with structures with no visible display of house numbers and possibly enforcement of such with our code enforcement officers. Discussion ensued. Mr. Mitchell spoke regarding the matter and suggested an amendment to the ordinance and imposing a fee on those properties not in compliance. Discussion ensued again. No other action was taken on this matter.

The chief informed the jury that another Citizen Advisory Meeting would be held on Tuesday, August 26, 2008 in the Police Jury Conference Room.

**LEGAL: Mr. Jay B. Mitchell, Assist. Dist. Attorney**

The president recognized Mr. Mitchell. Mr. Mitchell spoke regarding the proposed change to Ordinance No. 8901 which pertains to livestock. The following ordinance was introduced by Mr. Caldwell:

**ORDINANCE NO. 8901 (INTRODUCTION)**

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 3, ARTICLE II OF THE COMPILED ORDINANCES OF OUACHITA PARISH GOVERNING “LIVESTOCK” TO REGULATE THE TETHERING OF LIVESTOCK; AND FURTHER PROVIDING WITH RESPECT THERETO:**

**WHEREAS**, Ouachita Parish Animal Control has encountered repeated instances in which livestock, primarily horses, tethered to graze outside of any fence or enclosure have broken free and have roamed onto or near state highways or parish roads;

**WHEREAS**, the presence of such loose livestock on parish roads or state highways presents a risk to the motoring public; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Ouachita Parish Police Jury finds that the regulation of tethered livestock in an effort to reduce the risk of livestock roaming onto roadways is in the public interest;

**NOW, THEREFORE:**

**BE IT ORDAINED** by the Ouachita Parish Police Jury in legal and regular session that Chapter 3, Article II of the Compiled Ordinances of Ouachita Parish, Louisiana governing “Livestock” be, and hereby is, supplemented and amended as follows to provide for the regulation of tethered livestock in the unincorporated areas of Ouachita Parish, Louisiana:

**“ARTICLE II. LIVESTOCK**

**Division 1. Tethered Livestock**

**Sec. 3-12. Prohibition.**

It shall be unlawful for any person to tether, picket or otherwise tie livestock outside of a fence or enclosure, whether for grazing or other purposes, unless such livestock is closely attended by a responsible person of sufficient age to prevent such livestock from coming loose and roaming unconfined.

**Sec. 3-13. Penalty.**

Persons found to be in violation of the above provision shall be subject to a fine of not more than \$200.00 per offense.



**Sec. 3-14. Separate offense.**

For the purposes of this Division, each animal tethered, picketed or otherwise tied in violation of this Ordinance shall constitute a separate offense.

**Sec. 3-15. Impoundment and fees.**

In the event that the owner of livestock tethered, picketed or otherwise tied in violation of this Ordinance cannot be readily located or fails to immediately secure said livestock, then Ouachita Parish Animal Control may impound the animals. To recover an animal from impoundment pursuant to this Section, the owner shall pay an impoundment fee of \$100.00 together with a boarding fee of \$5.00 for each day, or portion thereof, that the animal is impounded.”

The president recognized Mr. Murray, Public Works Director.

**PUBLIC WORKS: Mr. John Tom Murray, Director**

Mr. Murray spoke regarding the final subdivision approval of Old Darbonne Subdivision with regards to the sewer line. Discussion ensued. Mr. Murray informed the jury that he would be signing the final approval subject to the conditions being met with West Ouachita Sewer District No.5. Mr. Mitchell spoke regarding the matter. No other action was taken on this matter.

Mr. Murray spoke regarding the cancellation of donated sick leave to an employee approved at the last meeting. Mr. Murray stated that the employee is no longer a parish employee. Motion offered by Mr. Jackson, seconded by Mr. Caldwell to approve the cancellation of donated sick leave. Motion passed without opposition.

The president recognized Mr. Harrison, Engineer.

**ROADS & DRAINAGE: Mr. Don Harrison, Engineer**

Mr. Harrison spoke regarding the testing services for FY 2008 – LCDBG Program. Mr. Harrison stated that he had requested proposals from the three local testing laboratories for soils and materials. Only one of the agencies had returned a written proposal. Mr. Harrison recommended that the jury accept the proposal of Ardaman & Associates, Inc., of West Monroe for testing services. Motion offered by Mr. Jackson, seconded by Mr. Smiley to accept the proposal of Ardaman & Associates, Inc. Motion passed without opposition.

**BEER AND WHISKEY APPLICATIONS**

Mr. Mitchell presented the following beer and whiskey application for approval.

**MAHAJAN, RAJINDER**

**DBA RISHI OF MONROE II, LLC DBA  
TOBACCO SHOP, 515 LINCOLN RD #105,  
MONROE, LA 71203 (WARD 2), CLASS B -  
BEER RETAIL DEALER, OFF PREMISES  
AND CLASS D – RETAIL LIQUOR OFF  
PREMISES (New Owner)**

Motion offered by Mr. Blade, seconded by Mr. Smiley to approve the application for beer and whiskey. Motion passed without opposition.

Mr. Cammack spoke regarding the Ingleside Sewer System. Mr. Cammack asked the jury to approve L & R Utilities for the interim maintenance of the Ingleside Sewer System on a as-needed basis. Motion offered by Mr. Blade, seconded by Mr. Smiley to approve L & R Utilities for the maintenance of the Ingleside Sewer System. Motion passed without opposition.

**INVITATION FOR PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:**

Deputy Heckford spoke regarding the Keep Louisiana Beautiful Conference that was being held in the parish later in the week.

Susan Poe, 121 Camp Drive spoke regarding the Keep Louisiana Beautiful Conference and asked that the jury considering coming to the conference.

Motion to adjourn offered by Mr. Calhoun, seconded by Mr. Blade. The meeting was adjourned at 8:57 p.m.