

OUACHITA PARISH POLICE JURY
FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2008 – 3:00 PM
POLICE JURY CONFERENCE ROOM

Chairman Charles Jackson called the meeting to order at 3:00 PM. Jurors present were Mr. Mack Calhoun, Mrs. Pat Moore, Mr. Dorth Blade, and Jackson.

Mr. Brad Cammack, Police Jury Treasurer, presented the 2008 amended and 2009 proposed budgets for the FEMA – Property Maintenance Fund. It was decided that the Jury would discuss plans for the future regarding the FEMA buy-out property after the first of the year.

Mr. Shane Smiley arrived at the meeting at 3:10 PM.

No action was taken.

Cammack presented the 2008 amended and 2009 proposed budgets for the General Fund Reserved fund. Cammack discussed the possibility of negotiating a reduction in the retainage paid to Tri-State properties beginning in 2009.

No action was taken.

Mrs. Cheryl Mouliere, Director of the Ouachita Parish Public Library system, presented the 2008 amended and 2009 proposed budgets. Statistical data for two comparable libraries was presented.

No action was taken.

Miss Cindy Lavespere and Mrs. Sissy Kennedy with the District Attorney's office presented the district attorney's budget that is within the Jury's general fund. There have been three (3) part-time assistant district attorneys moved to full-time status.

Lavespere and Kennedy also presented the Criminal Court Fund's 2008 amended and 2009 proposed budgets. This fund is supplemented by the District Attorney's office.

No action was taken on either budget.

Warden Brian Newcomer from Ouachita Correctional Center presented the 2008 amended and 2009 proposed budgets. It was noted that some of the numbers discussed were different than what appeared on the spreadsheets the jurors had. The department had continued to work on the budget and some changes had been made.

It was noted that there would be a meeting with the Jury, the Sheriff's Office, the District Attorney's office, and the Judge's office in the upcoming week. They will be discussing pre-trial detainees.

Newcomer discussed increasing personnel to include two (2) nurses on each shift. Also, raises are not included in the budget.

No action was taken on the budgets.

Cammack discussed the 2008 amended and 2009 proposed budgets for the Jail 1996 Construction fund.

No action was taken.

Cammack discussed the 2008 amended and 2009 proposed budgets for the Jail 2007 Capital Outlay budgets. The new key lock system is included in the budget.

No action was taken.

Cammack discussed the OCC – Debt Service Fund's 2008 amended and 2009 proposed budgets. Protested taxes have been held in the fund. It is hopeful that a resolution will be made regarding the disputed taxes.

No action was taken.

Mr. John Tom Murray, Public Works Director, and Mr. David Cobb, Public Works Assistant Director, presented the Permit Office's 2008 amended and 2009 proposed budgets.

Discussed was the inclusion of five (5) percent of Murray's salary and benefits being allocated to this department. Also, the Jury had contracted with a building code inspector to provide the necessary inspections. This cost is included in the budget.

A proposed new fee schedule was presented. It was decided that it would be re-visited in February 2009.

Murray informed the Jury of a possible circumventing of permitting policy that had been reported to him that morning. He is continuing to investigate the matter.

No action was taken on the budgets.

Murray and Cobb presented the 2008 amended and 2009 proposed budgets for Cheniere Lake Park. A new item included in the budget for 2009 was a twenty-five (25) percent allocation of a Public Works Department secretary's salary and benefits to the department. This employee spends time directly working on Cheniere Lake Park matters.

An increase in the rental rates was also discussed. Rental information from Kiroli Park was distributed for comparison.

No action was taken.

It was decided that the next meeting for the committee would be December 8, 2008 at 4:00 PM.

Calhoun left the meeting at 4:35 PM.

Cammack discussed the Workforce Investment Board's budgets. An updated spreadsheet that combined categories was presented.

Blade left the meeting at 4:37 PM.

Moore moved that the meeting recess at 4:45 PM. Smiley seconded the motion. There was no opposition. Meeting was in recess.

Blade re-entered the meeting at 4:55 PM.

Moore moved that the meeting reconvene at 4:55 PM. Smiley seconded the motion. There was no opposition. Meeting was reconvened.

Cammack presented the 2008 amended and 2009 proposed budgets for the Administrative Fund. Added to the budgets since the last presentation was an increase for Jury attorney, Jay Mitchell, and monies for additional raises within Finance Administration.

Moore discussed the evaluation of department heads and other employees.

Cammack discussed the consumer price index information that he gotten from the U. S. Department of Labor's website.

Cammack asked that the Jury let him know soon as to any cost of living increases.

There was no further business for the committee. The meeting was adjourned at 5:15 PM.