

OUACHITA PARISH POLICE JURY  
FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING

MONDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2009 – 4:00 PM  
POLICE JURY CONFERENCE ROOM

Chairman Charles Jackson called the meeting to order at 4:05 PM. Present were Mr. Mack Calhoun, Mr. Dorth Blade, Mr. Shane Smiley, and Jackson.

It was announced that Mrs. Pat Moore was still meeting with the “Safe Routes to School” program representatives. She’ll be at this meeting as soon as she can.

Mr. Brad Cammack, Jury Treasurer, presented updated 2008 amended and 2009 proposed budgets for the Health Unit. After Cammack talked with Mr. Bill Land, architect, he included \$125,000.00 for the remodel/renovation project. A truck will be transferred to the Health Unit from the Courthouse Maintenance department for \$8,850.00.

No action was taken.

Mrs. Stephanie Smith and Mr. Morgan Herring from the Ouachita Parish Assessor’s office presented the 2009 purchase requests. Two items on the list are reimbursements for 2008 purchases. They are: \$3,000 for kitchen repairs (flood related) and \$50,000 for personal property record scan (project was escalated by the flooding in the office). The remainder of the items is for 2009.

Calhoun moved that the Jury reimburse the Assessor’s Office for the two 2008 items and collect as appropriate from the other taxing bodies. Smiley seconded the motion. There was no opposition. Motion passed.

Cammack presented the 2008 amended and 2009 proposed budgets for West Ouachita Sewer District #9. The board will be meeting today. The budget had been sent to them for review. Two members of the three-member committee asked Cammack to present the budget to the Jury.

Mrs. Pat Moore arrived at the meeting at 4:20 PM.

No action was taken.

Cammack presented the 2008 amended and 2009 proposed budgets for the Ouachita Correctional Center. At the last meeting, Warden Newcomer had presented information that was different than the spreadsheet the jurors had. This new spreadsheet incorporates the changes.

It was noted that Mr. Walt Caldwell, Calhoun, and Blade would be meeting with the Sheriff, District Attorney, and Judges later in the week.

Jackson led a discussion regarding options that may be available to the Jury concerning the correctional center. The law specifies what the Jury is required to pay for the facility. However, the Jury has a history of paying for items above and beyond what is required.

Moore would like the Jury to look at having more education and training programs available to those who are incarcerated. She mentioned the possibility of using capital project funds to purchase a temporary building for classroom space.

No action was taken on the budget.

Mr. Butch Beckham, Ouachita Parish Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness director, presented the 2008 amended and 2009 proposed budgets for the department. Ms. Karen Cupit, Senior Accountant, assisted in the discussion.

No action was taken.

Representatives from the judicial system were present to discuss the 2008 amended and 2009 budgets. The representatives were Judges Sharon Marchman, Marcus Clark, and Ben Jones and Court Administrator Scott Kadar.

It was announced that the swearing-in ceremonies will be held December 29 and 30, 2008.

Marchman presented the budget information.

The Judges also announced that a \$10.00 coroner's fee would be included in court costs. Two other costs are being decreased by \$5.00 each. Total court costs will not increase.

Blade moved that the 2008 amended budgets for the Judges and the Court Reporters be approved. Calhoun seconded the motion. There was no opposition. Motion passed.

Cammack presented the 2008 amended and 2009 proposed budgets for the Court Fees fund and the Criminal Jurors Fee fund. These funds will have a decrease in funding in 2009 as the fees are being decreased \$5.00 for non-moving violations.

No action was taken on the budgets.

Cammack revisited the Judges and Court Reporters budgets to point out the "net expenditures" item included on the spreadsheet.

Discussion ensued regarding the new audio/visual equipment that has been placed in the courtrooms. Plans are for other courtrooms to get new equipment in upcoming budget cycles.

The Judges would also like to discuss with the Jury the option of hiring employees under the Jury instead of through their own system.

Jackson discussed what is left for the Jury to consider in the budget process. The next meeting will be Monday night during the regular meeting.

There was no other business to come before the committee. The meeting was adjourned at 5:55 PM.