

SPECIAL MEETING OF JANUARY 28, 2022

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE ACADIA PARISH POLICE JURY PARISH OF ACADIA STATE OF LOUISIANA

GENTLEMEN:

Notice is hereby given that a **SPECIAL MEETING** of the Acadia Parish Police Jury will be held in the Police Jury Meeting Room, Courthouse Building, Crowley, Louisiana, at 10:00 AM, on Friday, January 28, 2022 to consider the following items;

AGENDA:

1. To rescind for cause the appointments of the Acadia Parish Hospital Board Members on the Acadia-St. Landry Hospital Board Commissioner Members
 - A. Rescind Ms. Myra Lewis appointment and fill the unexpired term with Jeff Richard.
 - B. Rescind Mr. Roger Boudreaux appointment and fill the unexpired term with Mr. Tony Cook.
 - C. Rescind Ms. Claire Doucet Jackson and fill the unexpired term with Ms. Rachel Broussard.
 - D. Rescind Ms. Candy Leger and fill the unexpired term with Mr. Lee Ward Bellard.

Dated at Crowley, Louisiana
This 28th day of January 2022.

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance, please contact Mr. Brian Toney at (337) 581-7007 describing the assistance that is necessary.

We, the undersigned members of the Acadia Parish Police Jury, do hereby accept such service of the foregoing notice, waiving any and all irregularities in such service and such notice and consent and agree that said Police Jury of Acadia shall meet at the time and place named therein and for the purpose therein stated.

/S/ Walter Andrus

/S/ Jeff Morgan

/S/ Gordon Morgan

/S/ Jimmie Pellerin

/S/ A. J. Credeur

/S/ Pat Daigle

/S/ Steve Comeaux

/S/ Chance Henry

President Chance Henry called the meeting to order and made the following statement:

To the hospital board; when we are elected we are here to do the hard stuff and the fun stuff. Today is the hard stuff and we will be open and honest and to do the job to the best of our ability. No public comment was heard at this time.

The notice of the special meeting was read to the public (see above). Mr. Glenn Howie spoke to the jurors and stated this special call meeting to remove members from the hospital board requires a 2/3 (7-2) vote for removal and Jurors must state cause for removal of board members.

A letter from the independent auditor was read:

Mr. Chance Henry, Police Jury President

Acadia Parish Police Jury

505 NE Court Circle

Crowley, Louisiana 70526

Dear Mr. Henry

Per your request during our meeting held on January 26, 2022 relative to the status of the agreed-upon procedures engagement for Acadia-St. Landry Hospital Service District (District) dated November 23, 2021, the following is a preliminary listing of exceptions noted on the procedures performed.

- In accordance with RS 46: I 057(6), an operating budget for the fiscal year 2020-2021 was prepared; however, there was no evidence of obtaining approval by the Board of Commissioners or the Police Jury for Acadia and St. Landry Parish.
- The District is providing meals for finance and medical staff meetings that are being held during lunchtime hours. The Attorney General has stated that reasonable expenditures for food during meetings and training sessions is allowable; however, meetings should not be deliberately scheduled during meal times for the purpose of providing meals. AG Opinion 03-0157 states that serving meals at brief meetings, particularly meetings that could be scheduled at times other than meal times would appear unreasonable.
- The District provided food for an employee luncheon and hospital week. The Attorney General has historically opined that the payment of food, drink, or other expenses associated with celebratory functions from public funds is improper under Article VII section 14 of the Louisiana Constitution.
- A contract to provide food services and housekeeping services was negotiated and signed by the District's chief executive officer without the formal approval of the Board of Commissioners.

The agreed-upon procedures are currently unable to be finalized due to a pending request for supporting documentation on certain credit card transactions in order to determine whether the expenditures were appropriate. A formal request was made on January 19, 2022 for these 11 transactions that were selected for testing.

Kolder, Slaven & Company, LLC

Bryan K. Joubert, CPA

President Henry then read the letter from District Attorney Donald Landry:

Doug Wimberly

302 La Rue France, Ste. 204 Lafayette, LA 70508

RE: Hospital Taxing District - Church Point

Dear Doug:

This will confirm our conversation in regards to the above captioned matter. My office has received an open meetings complaint as a result of the November 22 regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners. It appears from my brief investigation that an items was added to the agenda titled "Executive Session", in violation of the Louisiana Open Meetings Law.

Since you acknowledge my findings, I suggest that you present to the entire board a training session on the Louisiana Open Meetings Law. This should assist in avoiding similar issues in the future.

Please also point out to the Board that your minutes seem to be rather brief by topic and the public would benefit from more information being provided on each agenda item.

Donald D. Landry

District Attorney

15th JDC

President Henry again clarified that this was an independent audit due to public outcry which constituted the audit. He then stated that he was disappointed that the audit was not completed at this point in time. The audit had not been completed by Wednesday, January 26, 2022 and President Henry requested a draft be completed for the special meeting on Friday.

Mr. AJ Credeur then questioned the extension of the audit which was to be completed by December 31, 2021, this was the annual audit which is different from the independent audit paid for by the Police Jury.

Public comment was then opened. Mr. Glenn Howie then stated that the items should be reflected in the minutes which qualify as "cause".

Ms. Candy Leger, member of the Acadia-St. Landry Hospital Board, approached the podium and asked Mr. Glenn Howie what constitutes "cause for removal" in this matter. He stated that cause can be any manner that the police jury determines rises in level, inefficient items.

Ms. Leger stated that she also looked up the meaning of the word "cause" and found that maleficence, felony conviction and gross misconduct, the items brought up she wanted to address:

Meal time meetings – she stated this was not gross misconduct. It is a misunderstanding and can be corrected.

Contract without formal approval – this can be rectified. Does not have “cause” for removal.

Credit Card receipts – the accounts payable clerk is out sick with Covid. Therefore the receipts are not able to be pulled in a timely manner.

She stated that she has not received any complaint phone calls about the hospital; however, she has received phone calls about the performance of police jury members.

The request for documentation for the regular audit was requested on December 19, 2021; that was only a few days ago.

Mr. Credeur said this was their third notice for documentation for the regular audit.

President Henry stated this was for a separate audit due to the state. The independent audit was due on January 19, 2022.

Ms. Leger then questioned what the cost to the parish for this independent audit. She stated a certified letter was sent to the Administrative Office asking for the basis of the enhanced audit; to which they never received an answer. She believes Mr. Credeur is using the Police Jury to advance his personal agenda against the hospital and to attack the board members personal character. She feels that none of these items rise to any of the three items, then vote accordantly. Removal of the board members will not go unchecked. She is an officer of the court, She can not have this affect her income; she is a widow and has one income. Mr. Credeur stated this was not personal.

Mr. Glenn Howie asked what the statute she found is. Ms. Leger stated that the information was on her phone and she was not allowed to bring it into the courthouse.

President Henry stated things needed to get back on track. Ms. Leger stated that they were not given proper notice of this meeting and that the calling of this meeting was an ambush. They were given only 17 hours notice. Her time was up and she stepped down from the podium.

President Henry stated that the Board has legal council. Mr. Credeur stated that no one was attacking anyone’s personal character. Once the oath of office has been taken you open yourself up for public scrutiny. Mr. Henry stated that this issue has been going on for over a year and it’s time to clear up these matters. This board tried to prevent this from happening a year ago; however, the public outcry has gotten worse and it is time for some action to happen. The jury’s only authoritative action is to change the board members. The jurors have a responsibility to the public to correct the situation.

Mr. Jimmie Pellerin then commented that the Rayne Branch Hospital went out of business due to employees handing out milk.

Someone from the audience questioned the meal time meetings; Mr. Henry stated this came up in the audit. She asked for more information and Mr. Henry stated that they have gotten a lot of complaints; however, no one will come forward. The person in the audience stated that this was all hearsay.

Mr. Credeur stated they have been fighting this for two years, they have a responsibility to the public. The same complaints come to the jurors over and over for the past two year. The employees are fearful of filing complaints or coming forward for fear of being fired.

Mr. Credeur called for a question; however, no motion was made. Mr. AJ Credeur made a motion with Mr. Jimmie Pellerin seconding. A roll call vote was then called to vote on keeping or removing members from the board.

Mr. Glenn Howie then read the statute from the attorney general. There is no statutory definition. There is no definition for “cause”; however, for cause includes gross misconduct, felony conviction and maleficence.

Ms. Myra Lewis then approached the podium and stated that she feels like she is speaking for no reason and that the jurors seem to have their minds made up. She also feels like it is very personal and an ambush. She claims that she received a phone call from someone to inform her of the meeting. She stated that the District Attorney mentioning classes to correct situation and she feels that they deserve the opportunity to correct the situation they are being accused of. She is not trying to change anyone’s mind; however, she feels the wrong decision is being made. Individually or in a group she feels they have done nothing wrong.

Ms. Jazlyn Thibodeaux, daughter of Ms. Candy Leger, Assistant Principal at Church Point High School, stated that the entire hospital board was reinstated in the early 2000s, due to the criteria was not met, and feels like this is a personal vendetta. She stated that Mr. Lee Ward Bellard is up for a Hospital board position and Mr. Credeur will not be happy with him and this will all happen again because the board will not be Mr. Credeur’s puppets.

Mr. Roger Boudreaux, Hospital Board Member, stated that they wanted to borrow money from the USDA, Mr. Credeur wanted them to borrow money from a bank and they refused, he claims this is where it started. He then asked how many meetings Mr. Credeur and Mr. Daigle attended. Mr. Credeur then asked how many Mr. Boudreaux attended. Mr. Boudreaux stated he had excuses for each meeting he missed. Mr. Boudreaux then stated he spoke with District Attorney Don Landry who stated he did send a letter; however, there was no criminal intent. He recommended they take a class. Mr. Boudreaux also stated that COVID slowed things down on breaking ground on a new hospital.

Mr. Jimmie Pellerin spoke about Rayne Branch Hospital and how it ran well, then a new person took over and the milk was being given out to the public and it went under.

President Henry stated that it does feel like a personal vendetta. He is tired of all the fighting. Mr. Henry stated that boards don’t always see eye to eye. The reason this is all going on is to keep jobs in the town of Church Point. Mr. Henry pointed out that the only jurors that have seen the report before the meeting was himself, Mr. Credeur and Mr. Daigle, no one else. The rest are making up their minds today. There are a lot of errors; however, this has been going on for over 2 years.

A comment from the audience stated that the legal council for the hospital could not be present due to his wife having surgery. Mr. Henry stated he was sorry to hear that.

Mr. Walter Andrus stated he received phone calls from people from Church Point last night. He looked up “cause”, and does not feel that a felony has been committed. Mistakes can be corrected, decisions can be rectified. He does not feel that a major cause has been made, everyone is human and everyone makes mistakes. He has made up his mind about the vote and wants people to understand that everything needs to be documented. Admit to your mistakes and move on.

Mr. Gordon Morgan questioned an item from the auditors. The item is the budget to be turned over to the Jurors. The findings of the auditors is that they did not turn over a copy of the budget to the Jurors.

Ms. Cindy Walters, CEO of the Acadia-St. Landry Hospital, brought the board meeting minutes from September 23, 2020, the budget was on the agenda as item number 7, finance committee met on September 22, 2020, the budget was presented to the finance committee, and was approved ending fiscal year June 30, 2021. The 2021-2022 budget was also presented to the finance committee and approved. They were presented to the governing board in a timely manner.

They were not aware that the budget needed to be turned into the Jurors. Now that they are aware they will turn it in. She does not feel that it was a criminal act.

Someone from the audience questioned the credit card transactions. Mr. Henry stated that there were several credit card receipts that were not turned in to the auditors in a timely manner which is part of what caused the delay in finalizing the audit. The person in the audience questioned why this meeting was held when the audit was not completed. Mr. Henry stated that the hospital was not in compliance and that the meeting needed to be held regardless.

Ms. Walters approached the podium again and stated that the accounts payable person was out sick and this is the reason for the delay. They have no reason to delay or postpone the audit maliciously. Their legal council is researching the budget issue. Mr. Credeur and Mr. Daigle both received a packet with the budget included in it. She had no reason to believe that the board needed to send an additional budget to the Jurors.

Mr. Steve Comeaux stated he feels sick to his stomach with everything going on. He feels it is very personal on both ends; however, the same issues are continuing. In order to prevent problems, on his work crew, he gets rid of the problem.

Mr. Douglas Walters approached the bench, he stated this stuff is nonsense. He stated people needed time to get things done. Patience and understanding is needed in this matter. He asked for the Jurors do what is right for the people of Church Point.

Mr. Credeur stated he is doing what is right for the people of Church Point. He and Mr. Pat Daigle sit on the board and represent the people of Church Point. Those people are the ones he is concerned about. He also feels that he represents the people of Church Point. Mr. Credeur also pointed out that he has no personal feelings about any of the board members. He is worried about the employees that are disgruntled. The people are calling complaining about the massive turnover at the hospital and all the complaints that are not being dealt with. It has been going on for over a year and it is time for this to end.

Mr. Credeur then called for a Question and called for a vote.

Mr. Henry stated that a roll call vote was in order. A roll call vote was taken and went as follows:

Walter Andrus – Nay

Jeffery Morgan – Nay

Gordon Morgan – stated he wanted more evidence and voted Nay

Steve Comeaux – stated he doesn't know how to vote, this is the toughest thing since they took office, Mr. Credeur suggested closing the hospital. Mr. Comeaux then stated that if it is personal and he was playing with him for the vote, he would be very upset. A year ago, the jurors stepped in and stopped this; however, Mr. Credeur still has not stopped and nothing with the hospital has been fixed. He also stated that he wanted to see the final audit before he voted; however, that was not possible. Mr. Comeaux then voted Yea.

Jimmie Pellerin – he stated that Rayne Branch Hospital had to close due to employees handing out milk to the public. He then voted Yea.

AJ Credeur – Yea

Pat Daigle – Yea

Chance Henry – Yea

The final vote is 5-3 and it failed due to not a 2/3 vote. In order to pass it needed to be 7-2 the motion failed.

Mr. Steve Comeaux stated that he still wants to see the final report and if the hospital board drags their feet his vote will not change.

Mr. Henry stated this is not over with. Ms. Myra Lewis approached the podium and said she respects each one of the jurors.

Mr. Henry stated that this will be on the next agenda and this will be finished. He is tired of dealing with this. Mr. Gordon Morgan stated that they need to get everything to the auditors and get this audit finished with. Mr. Henry stated that the detailed invoices need to be turned in by Tuesday to the auditors. Mr. Gordon Morgan suggested they get the audit finished and turn everything in.

Some of the board members stated they were not advised and asked if they could be advised of the next meeting. Mr. Henry stated yes they will be advised.

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE MEETING, THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED.

HUEY BRYAN BORILL

SECRETARY-TREASURER

CHANCE HENRY

PRESIDENT