

CROWLEY, LOUISIANA

FEBRUARY 8, 2022

The Acadia Parish Police Jury conducted a public hearing before the regular meeting on Tuesday, February 8, 2022 at 6:00 PM, 3rd floor, Courthouse Building, Crowley, Louisiana to hear comments on:

Adopting an ordinance to add a 25 MPH speed limit on Airport Road between Aktinson and Leger Road. No comments were heard and the public hearing was closed.

THE ACADIA PARISH POLICE JURY met on the above date at 6:00 p.m., in the Police Jury Meeting Room, Courthouse Building, Crowley, Louisiana, in regular session with President, Chance Henry presiding. At the request of the President, a prayer was offered and the Pledge to the Flag was recited in unison. The roll was called and final attendance was recorded as follows:

WALTER ANDRUS
JEFF MORGAN
GORDON MORGAN
JIMMIE PELLERIN
A J CREDEUR
PAT DAIGLE
STEVE COMEAUX
CHANCE HENRY

A motion was offered by Mr. Pat Daigle, seconded by Mr. Steve Comeaux, and carried unanimously, to dispense with the reading and approve the minutes of the January 11, 2022 Regular Meeting, as written as well as the January 28, 2022 special meeting minutes as written.

A motion was offered by Mr. A J Credeur and seconded by Mr. Pat Daigle to add the appointment of Mrs. Nicole DeJean Broussard to take the place of Mr. Charles “Chuck” Terro on the Mire Fire District Board as item number 17.

Judge Gary Ortego, candidate for 3rd circuit court of appeals spoke to the Jurors about running for the position and he would appreciate the support.

Dr. Tina Stefanski gave an update on the COVID situation in the parish, she said everything looks good and the numbers are going down.

A motion was offered by Mr. A J Credeur, seconded by Mr. Steve Comeaux and carried unanimously to move forward with a new sound system proposed by Gulf Coast Sound for the jury room.

A motion was offered by Mr. Gordon Morgan, seconded by Mr. Walter Andrus and carried unanimously to move forward with the acceptance and termination of the water system project at the Crowley-Rayne Industrial Park water project.

A motion was offered by Mr. A J Credeur, seconded by Mr. Walter Andrus and carried unanimously to adopt an ordinance to add a 25 MPH speed limit sign on Airport Road between Atkinson and Leger Road.

A motion was offered by Mr. A J Credeur, seconded by Mr. Pat Daigle and carried unanimously to adopt a resolution to purchase one tandem dump truck for the road department.

The jurors decided to hold off on moving forward with adjusting the budget for the road department until the additional costs can be verified.

A motion was offered by Mr. A J Credeur, seconded by Mr. Jeffery Morgan and carried unanimously to adopt a resolution to include Lake Cove Road as a Parish Road within Acadia Parish; contingent upon Karl Aucoin getting the information he needs to proceed.

Mr. Burton Kolder with Kolder, Slaven and Company gave the agreed upon procedures report to the Jurors about Acadia-St. Landry Hospital findings:

1. Obtain the Acadia-St. Landry Hospital Service District's Bylaws and perform the following
 - a. Procedure – Obtain a completed related party questionnaire from each member of the Board of Commissioners and determine compliance with the State Statues.
Findings – Candy Leger indicated that an immediate family member (children, spouses of children, brothers and sisters, spouses of brothers and sisters, parents, souse, and the parents of spouse) was employed by the Hospital; but did not indicate the family members' names. Cindy stated that the related parties are Candy's sisters, which were hired prior to Candy being appointed to the Board. The sisters are not in a management position.
 - b. Procedure – Obtained a copy of the board members meeting attendance and determine compliance with the Hospital's bylaws.
Findings – The Hospital's bylaws state that no member shall miss more than 2 meetings annually and no more than 2 in succession without a valid reason being presented to the Board. There were 3 board members that missed in excess of 2 meetings during the fiscal year. There was 1 board member that missed 4 meetings in succession. The reason for the absence is communicated to the Board prior to the meeting commencement; however, the minutes do not document whether the reason is valid. The bylaws do not indicate whether the reason for absence needs to be documented in the minutes. Additionally, due to a clerical error on the September 24, 2020 board meeting attendance, there were two board members paid for this meeting that were absent and one board member that was not paid for this meeting when she was present.
 - c. Procedure – Obtain a copy of the budget and determine whether the budget was submitted for approval to the Board of Commissioners and the Police Jury.
Findings – The September 22, 2022 Finance Committee meeting referenced and approved the June 30, 2021 budget and the September 24, 2020 Board of Commissioners meeting moved and accepted the minutes for the September 22, 2020 Finance Committee meeting. However, the Board of Commissioners minutes did not specifically mention approval of the 2021 budget. Additionally, management asserted that the 2 members of the Acadia Parish Police Jury were provided with a copy of the September 24, 2020 board packet a day prior to the meeting. Documentation could not be presented to determine if the appropriate Police Jury personnel for Acadia and St. Landry Parish were contacted and instructed to obtain approval of the budget in accordance with RS 46:1057 (6).
 - d. Procedure – Obtain a listing of all real property purchased during the fiscal year July 2, 2020 – June 30, 2021. Determine whether the purchases were approved in accordance with the bylaws.
Findings – The District did not purchase real property during the fiscal period July 1, 2020 – June 20, 2021.

2. Procedure – Obtain from management of the Hospital Service District a listing of all active credit cards during the fiscal year including the name of the persons who maintained possession of the cards.
Finding – A listing of 6 active credit cards and the persons who maintained possession was obtained.
3. Procedure – Using the listing prepared by management, obtain the monthly statements for each active card and haphazardly select 10 transactions from each. For each transaction, observe that it is supported by (1) an original itemized receipt that identifies precisely what was purchased, (2) written documentation of the business/public purpose, and (3) documentation of the individuals participating in meals (for meal charges only). Determine compliance with Louisiana Revised Statutes and the entity’s bylaws.
Findings – The following exceptions were noted during the testing of 48 credit card transactions: (a) 9 purchases did not have a detailed invoice itemizing all items purchased at various restaurant’s totaling \$2,137.61 (Ruth’s Chris Steak House \$1,341.39, Chef Roy’s Frog City Café \$321.55, DC’s Sports Bar and Steakhouse \$192.4; and 6 various restaurants during the attendance of the 74th Annual Assembly and Exhibition for the Louisiana Academy of Family Practitioners totaling \$282.23); (b) 4 purchases were for food to be served during a finance/medical staff meeting/employee luncheon with no detailed listing of attendees (Fezzo’s \$131.94, Zea’s Rotisserie \$120.94, Joey’s \$392.00, and Family Dollar \$28.98); (c) 1 purchase of 17 gift baskets for doctors and other hospitals in the amount of \$3,241.36; (d) 1 purchase of food for hospital week in the amount of \$167.66; (e) 1 purchase of flowers in the amount of \$108.00 for patient day; (f) 1 purchase at a restaurant for 2 soft drinks in the amount of \$6.53 had a tip of \$20.00 which is 307% of the total purchases.
 - a. In accordance with the Louisiana Legislature Auditor’s guidelines and State Statute, all expenditures of public funds must be supported with proper supporting documentation in order to determine whether the expenditure was appropriate.
 - b. In accordance with Article VII section 14 of the Louisiana Constitution, use of public funds must be for a public purpose. The Attorney General has stated that reasonable expenditure for food during meetings and training sessions is allowable; however, meetings should not be deliberately scheduled during meal times for the purpose of providing food. 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 to be unreasonable. A detailed listing of attendees is required to determine parties present unrelated to the business purpose.
 - c. In accordance with Article VII section 14 of the Louisiana Constitution, public funds should not be loaned, pledged or donated to or for any person, association or corporation, public or private.
 - d. The Office of 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.
 - e. The Office of 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.
 - f. Any gratuities in excess of 20% would be considered unreasonable.
4. Procedure – Obtain from management a listing of all travel-related expenses reimbursements during the fiscal year. Randomly select 10 reimbursements, obtain the related expense reimbursement forms/prepaid expenses documentation of each selected reimbursement, as well as the supporting documentation. Determine compliance with Louisiana Revised Statutes and the entity’s bylaws.

Finding – The transactions selected for testing were supported with appropriate documentation.

5. Procedure – Obtain a copy of all new contracts during the fiscal year. Determine compliance with Louisiana Revised Statutes and the entity’s bylaws.

Findings – A new contract for physician recruitment was signed by the District’s CEO on March 12, 2021; however, the District’s Board of Commissioners minutes did not provide evidence of granting the CEO the authority to enter into a contract. Management has asserted that the CEO report presented to the Board of Commissioners on February 18, 2021 included relevant information related to the contract. The Board approved and accepted the CEO report and authorized the CEO to proceed with the search agreement.

6. Procedure – Any other expenditure and compliance matters which we deem to be appropriate during or after the period ended June 30, 2021.

- a. Procedure – Obtain a copy of the Food Services and Housekeeping Services Management Agreement dated subsequent to June 30, 2021 and determined if approved in accordance with the Hospital’s bylaws.

Finding – We were unable to locate the Board of Commissioners approval of the 3 year Food Services and Housekeeping Services Management Agreement with a monthly fee of \$24,843.20, \$25,588.50 and \$26,356.16 effective November 11, 2021, 2022 and 2023, respectively, in the board minutes prior to the contract being signed by the CEO. Management has asserted that the Board of Commissioners were aware at all times of the negotiations of the contract during the CEO report provided at the August, September and November 2021 board meetings.

Mr. Kolder stated that 46 acres were purchased in January of 2022 and that the Jurors should have known about the purchase before it was done.

Attorney Alecia Ardoin, representing the hospital approached the podium and stated that the jurors requested an illegal audit. Claimed that the auditors that do the yearly audit were the same ones that did this illegal audit and that this matter should be tabled for 30 days until it can be taken to court. Claims the audit was illegal. She claims the Jurors only have appointing authority not auditing authority. President Henry then asked what “power” they have. She claims the Jurors have taken on responsibility from constituents and the constitution does not allow this. President Henry states that he thinks there has been no felony charges; however there has been gross misconduct on the board members parts. Ms. Ardoin states that if the Jurors find misconduct the sheriff’s department should have been called. She is asking for item #’s 15 & 16 be tabled until it can be taken to court.

Mr. Walter Andrus questioned the Temporary Restraining Order against the Police Jury. He wants to know why it was served; being that that it was not signed off on by a judge. She stated that it was only to have the jurors hold off on 30 days.

Mr. Gordon Morgan questioned why they did not turn in the appropriate materials to the auditors to which Ms. Ardoin stated that council told them not to turn things in. She also stated that the Jurors have no authority over the Hospital Board. Mr. Gordon Morgan stated that he feels like a fool for giving them additional time to gather information and they still did not comply.

Mr. Roger Boudreaux approached the podium and questioned why over 24 thousand people called to complain; but no one showed up. He also asked if it was true that Legion Health Care Services was going to run the hospital at which point President Henry stated that they did approach the Jury; however, no decisions were

made. Mr. Boudreaux then asked Mr. Pat Daigle how many people called him to which Mr. Daigle did not respond. Mr. Boudreaux then stated that Mr. Daigle told him that he had received no calls on the subject. Mr. A J Credeur stated that he received numerous calls on the matter, Mr. Steve Comeaux also stated that he received plenty of phone calls as well and Mr. Gordon Morgan stated the same.

Mrs. Evelyn Bourgeois an employee of the hospital approached the podium and stated that Employee week has been going on at the hospital for over 20 years and wants to know why it is a problem now. She also stated that the hospital was in the red for years and is now in the black and it is now being ran well.

Mr. Patrick M. a resident of Church Point approached the podium and stated that he “overheard” a conversation but would not say by who only that “he” stated the new hospital would never be built, this was said over a year and a half ago.

Attorney Glenn Howie approached the podium and reminded the jurors that they had no right to interfere with day to day operations in the hospital that they could only remove commissioners with CAUSE and that cause must be stated.

Attorney Alecia Ardoin approached the podium and stated the Police Jury does not have the authority to remove members and replace them with members that will do their bidding. She does not believe that Just Cause has been found and urged the Jurors to wait 30 days before moving forward with the votes tonight.

A motion was offered by Mr. A J Credeur, seconded by Mr. Pat Daigle to rescind Ms. Myra Lewis’s appointment and fill the unexpired term with Mr. Jeff Richard. A roll call vote was taken and went as follows:

YEAS: Walter Andrus, Jeffery Morgan, Gordon Morgan, Jimmie Pellerin, A J Credeur, Pat Daigle and Chance Henry

NAYS: Steve Comeaux

Having a 2/3’s vote, being 7-1 the motion passed with cause being agreed upon procedures/findings and violation of open meeting law.

A motion was offered by Mr. A J Credeur, seconded by Mr. Walter Andrus to rescind Mr. Roger Boudreaux’s appointment and fill the unexpired term with Mr. Tony Cook. A roll call vote was taken and went as follows:

YEAS: Walter Andrus, Jeffery Morgan, Gordon Morgan, A J Credeur, Pat Daigle and Chance Henry

NAYS: Jimmie Pellerin and Steve Comeaux

With a 2/3’s vote, being 6-2 the motion passed with cause being agreed upon procedures/findings and violations of open meeting law.

A motion was offered by Mr. A J Credeur, seconded by Mr. Gordon Morgan to rescind Ms. Claire Doucet Jackson’s appointment and fill the unexpired term with Ms. Rachel Broussard. A roll call vote was taken and went as follows:

YEAS: Walter Andrus, Jeffery Morgan, Gordon Morgan, A J Credeur, Pat Daigle and Chance Henry.

NAYS: Jimmie Pellerin and Steve Comeaux

With a 2/3’s vote, being 6-2, the motion passed with cause being agreed upon procedures/findings and violations of open meeting law.

A motion was offered by Mr. Walter Andrus seconded by Mr. Steve Comeaux to rescind Ms. Candy Leger's appointment and fill the unexpired term with Mr. Lee Ward Bellard. A roll call vote was taken and went as follows:

YEAS: Walter Andrus, Jeffery Morgan, Gordon Morgan, Steve Comeaux, Jimmie Pellerin, A J Credeur, Pat Daigle and Chance Henry

With a 2/3's vote being 8-0, the motion passed with cause being work not being done, proper paper work not turned in based on audit findings and a motion was offered by Mr. A J Credeur, seconded by Mr. Pat Daigle with cause being agreed upon procedures/findings and violations of open meeting law.

A motion was offered by Mr. A J Credeur, seconded by Mr. Pat Daigle and carried unanimously to replace Mr. Charles "Chuck" Terro with Mrs. Nicole DeJean Broussard on the Mire Fire District Board for the unexpired term.

The Monthly Permit office report was looked over.

The presentation of the monthly financials was given by the CFO.

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE MEETING, THE MOTION WAS OFFERED BY MR. STEVE COMEAUX, SECONDED BY MR. GORDON MORGAN THAT THE MEETING ADJOURN UNTIL THE NEXT REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETING ON TUESDAY, MARCH 8, 2022 AT THE HOUR OF 6:00 P.M.

**HUEY BRYAN BORILL
SECRETARY-TREASURER**

**CHANCE HENRY
PRESIDENT**