

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 Beau Petitjean 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
GORDON MORGAN
PAUL ED GUIDRY
TROY LANTZ

KIRK GUIDRY
BEAU PETITJEAN
PAT DAIGLE
JEFFERY MORGAN

Quorum present.

A motion was offered by Paul Ed Guidry, seconded by Troy Lantz and carried unanimously, to dispense with the reading and approve the minutes of the March 12, 2024 meeting, as written.

There were no amendments to be added to the agenda.

A discussion was held by Austin Freeman, Acadia Parish Section Chief, 15th Judicial Public Defenders Office to give jurors some updates. Mr. Freeman has gotten in touch with the Acadia Parish Warden, Danielle Washington, District Attorney's Office, and Judge Privat about the issue with overcrowding in the Acadia Parish Jail. Due to this issue, it has caused a mass number of inmates being housed in East Carroll Parish, Iberia Parish, and multiple other parish jails that the Acadia Parish Police Jury is paying for. They would like to implement an inmate docket to try to have the inmates to get credit for time served or have 5 year offer or less or that may be candidates for probation to be brought to court on May 31, 2024 in front of Judge Privat to try to clear out the jail. The reason for this is because it is getting hard to communicate with their clients who are not in their parish. Most of the other attorneys are not from that area and East Carroll is not a reasonable drive for them to visit the inmates. Mr. Freeman's plan is to have most, if not all, of the Acadia Parish inmates to be housed at the Acadia Parish Jail if that is feasible. Mr. Freeman is expecting that to be about 75 to 100 inmates will be able to resolve their cases by May 31, 2024. When Mr. Freeman started, he had about 331 felony cases and he is now down to 50. He also had a request from his supervisor, Amanda Martin, to ask if the Parish has any extra space in the courthouse or any government buildings that they could utilize. They need more office space to hire more attorneys so they can keep up with the court trials that are expected to come. The firm has hired Darius Moore, Rochelle Jones, Amber Mason, and Mr. Freeman in the past year to try to handle cases. They have also just hired another juvenile attorney to try to help with the juvenile cases. Mr. Freeman asked for the Jurors help to get the back-log down. The inmate docket was a success in Texas when Mr. Freeman tried it there. Mr. Freeman is trying to get himself and his current staff out of their office to free up room to hire additional attorneys.

President, Beau Petitjean, understands that the more inmates Acadia Parish has, they are having to be housed at other jails and the daily cost for that is expensive. Beau is appreciative that the D.A., A.D.A.'s and Mr. Freeman's firm is on board to help lower the count of inmates housed outside of the parish and save expense of Acadia Parish taxpayers.

Vice President, Paul Ed Guidry, did ask Mr. Freeman to clarify what his question

to the Jurors were. Mr. Freeman explained that it is just to have new hired attorneys there. Mr. Borill did explain they right now we are over crowded but the VA building that is coming up in discussion may be a good place for some of the courthouse staff to go or it can be discussed if that would be a good place for Mr. Freemans staff. Mr. Freeman would like to get out of the current building they are in and use those funds to hire more attorneys to help with the cases.

A discussion was held by Sheriff K.P Gibson to speak about liter abatement program. He is interested in bringing that program back to Acadia Parish and would like the help from the Acadia Parish Police Jury to share the cost. The cost to the Acadia Parish Police Jury would be for half of the hourly overtime rate. Therefore, the cost from Acadia Parish Police Jury would be between \$15.00 and \$30.00 per hour. There would be 1 officer to oversee 3-4 inmates. 25 to 30 hours per week, Monday-Friday.

Gordon Morgan, District 4, questioned what happens if this program is not working? Sheriff Gibson did reassure him that the grant could be recalled if the Acadia Parish Police Jury wanted to pull out of the agreement. Sheriff Gibson explained that they have already received a grant for this and that money went to the truck, trailer, lights, and logos.

Bryan Borill, Secretary-Treasurer, asked if Acadia Parish Police Jury was still paying for the portable toilets. Sheriff Gibson did confirm.

A motion was offered by Gordon Morgan, seconded by Kirk Guidry and carried unanimously to move forward with the Liter Abatement Program Expansion – Sharing the cost between the Acadia Parish Sheriff's Office and Acadia Parish Police Jury.

A discussion was held with possible action on offenders monitoring devices. Glen Howie, Parish Attorney, spoke about the possibility of the president to enter into an agreement with home detention companies to provide for electronic monitoring of pre-trial detainees when any of the judges of the 15th Judicial District Court authorize the release of pre-trial detainees via electronic monitoring. The Acadia Parish Police Jury pays \$3.50 per day to the Sheriff's Department for inmates housed at the Acadia Parish Jail. The Acadia Parish Police Jury currently pays \$25.39 a day for inmates in East Carroll Parish. Mr. Howie quotes the figure around $\frac{3}{4}$ of a million dollars in 2023. That's approximately \$50,000 – \$60,000 every month going to East Carroll Parish Sheriff's Department. By going with these monitoring devices, the Acadia Parish Police Jury could pay around \$13.00 a day for monitoring the inmates from their homes. Southern Coast Solutions and Louisiana Home Detention were the two companies that responded to Mr. Borill. Acadia Parish Jail has 180 beds, of those at least 160 are always occupied. That being said, Acadia Parish has between 60-70 inmates housed in East Carroll Parish Jail. Glen Howie would like the Jurors to consider a resolution for next month's meeting for the President, Beau Petitjean, to focus on an agreement with either one of the companies to help empty our jails and not have our inmates in other parish's jails. This has been tabled to April's Meeting.

Sheriff K.P. Gibson had a request for the Acadia Parish Police Jury to please look into each company and ask for references to ensure the company is monitoring fully. Beau and Bryan both agreed to obtain references and include the Sheriff before a decision is made.

A motion was offered by Gordon Morgan seconded by Kirk Guidry and carried unanimously to move forward with calling for a public hearing on May 14, 2024 to change the speed limit on Bobby Jean Drive from 45mph to 15mph –Mire, La (Scott Address – District 6).

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

The Acadia Parish Police Jury will conduct a public hearing before the regular meeting on Tuesday, May 14, 2024 at 6:00 PM before the regular Police Jury meeting, 3rd floor, Courthouse Building, Crowley, Louisiana, to hear comments on the following items:

- 1. Discuss with possible action adopting an Ordinance changing the speed limit from 45mph to 15mph on Bobby Jean Drive – Mire, LA (Scott Address) – District*

Ashley Leblanc, Emergency Management Director, spoke to the jurors on the bid process and the five (5) bids that were received for Engineering and/or Architectural Services for Disaster Damages to impacted facilities and infrastructure.

A motion was offered by Paul Ed Guidry, seconded by Jeffery Morgan and carried unanimously to move forward awarding Marerro, Couvillon & Associates, LLC (MCA) for Engineering and/or Architectural Services for Disaster Damages to impacted facilities and infrastructure. (Old VA Building)

RESOLUTION

BY MESSRS: PAUL ED GUIDRY & JEFFERY MORGAN

***BE IT RESOLVED** by the Acadia Parish Police Jury in regular session duly convened this 12th day of March 2024, hereby accepts the RFQ bid by Marerro, Couvillon & Associates, LLC (MCA) for Engineering and/or Architectural Services for Disaster Damages to Impacted Facilities and Infrastructure. (Old VA Building)*

***ADOPTED:** MARCH 12, 2024*

A motion was offered by Paul Ed Guidry seconded by Gordon Morgan and carried unanimously to appoint Richard Faul to First Ward Drainage District to fill the unexpired term of Martin Dischler Jr. The unexpired term ends 06/2024.

RESOLUTION

BY MESSRS: PAUL ED GUIDRY & GORDON MORGAN

***BE IT RESOLVED** by the Acadia Parish Police Jury in regular session duly convened this 12th day of March 2024, does hereby appoint Richard Faul to First Ward Drainage District to fill the unexpired term of Martin Dischler Jr. The unexpired term ends 06/2024.*

***ADOPTED:** MARCH 12, 2024*

Acadia Parish Permit Office monthly report were presented.

THEREFOR BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE MEETING, THE MOTION WAS OFFERED BY GORDON MORGAN, SECONDED BY PAUL ED GUIDRY THAT THE MEETING ADJOURN UNTIL THE NEXT REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETING ON TUESDAY, APRIL 9, 2024 AT THE HOUR OF 6:00 P.M.

/S/ Huey Bryan Borill
HUEY BRYAN BORILL
SECRETARY-TREASURER

/S/ Beau Petitjean
BEAU PETITJEAN
PRESIDENT