

Operations Committee
May 21, 2020

The Operations Committee met Thursday, May 21, 2020 at 5:00 PM in the Police Jury Meeting Room of the Jackson Parish Courthouse, 500 E. Court Street, Room 301, Jonesboro, Louisiana. Members present: Mr. Lewis Chatham, Ms. Amy Magee and Mr. Lynn Treadway. Absent: none. Also in attendance: Mr. Jody Stuckey, Road Superintendent; Mr. Robin Sessions, Solid Waste Superintendent, and Ms. Gina Thomas, Secretary-Treasurer.

The meeting was called to order by the Chair, Ms. Magee. Mr. Treadway gave the invocation and Mr. Chatham led in the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

There being no public comments, the Chair moved on to agenda items.

The Committee reviewed the proposed 2020 Asphalt Maintenance Program. Ms. Magee explained that The Parish Engineer and Mr. Stuckey had reviewed the asphalt roads from the priority lists and developed an asphalt plan for the 2020 season based on the priority of the roads and the estimated costs. Any road that exceeds the cost of bid law is skipped and reserved for the annual road program. They discussed the private road sign on Hawthorn and Ms. Magee asked Mr. Stuckey to notify the landowner that they either needed to remove the sign or the road would be removed from the system. Mr. Chatham requested that the planned work on Harris Loop be changed to include the portion of the road where the residents lived.

Motion Mr. Treadway, seconded Mr. Chatham to recommend the Jury adopt the 2020 Asphalt Maintenance Program with the verification of Hawthorn Road and the changes to Harris Loop. Motion carried.

The Committee reviewed the request from East Hodge for the Jury to assist them with culverts, asphalt repairs, and drainage issues on Ebony, Church, and Brown Street. The Committee discussed the Jury's policy not to do drainage work in municipalities and discussed the other requests that had been declined for other municipalities. Mr. Stuckey explained the culverts that had been purchased by East Hodge and their request to have them installed. Ms. Magee stated they should send them the estimated cost of the installation and offer East Hodge the option to use their annual appropriation towards that project. The Committee reviewed the roads that needed asphalt repairs. Ms. Magee stated that the road did not have soil cement to stabilize it and that they would need to contract the work out to a company with the capabilities to fix it. The Committee discussed available grants that the municipalities could apply for.

Ms. Magee asked the Secretary-Treasurer to draft a letter of response to present to the Jury for review at the June Business Session.

The Committee reviewed the road issues on Shalimar Road.

Motion Mr. Treadway, seconded Mr. Chatham to recommend the Jury authorize the Riley Co. to review and present a plan for repairs on Shalimar Road. Motion carried.

The Committee discussed other road issues.

Motion Mr. Chatham, seconded Mr. Treadway to recommend the Jury authorize the Riley Co. to review and present a plan for repairs on Poda and Rosco Roads. Motion carried.

The Committee discussed the need for a definition for public use roads. Ms. Magee asked that the members of the Committee present their definition at the next Committee Meeting for discussion. She asked the Secretary-Treasurer to reach out to other parishes to see what they have.

The Committee discussed issues with dumpster divers at the solid waste bin sites. Ms. Magee stated that the Sheriff agreed to have deputies patrol the areas and issue tickets to repeat offenders. Mr. Treadways asked about having the constables issue tickets as well. Ms. Magee stated that she would invite the constables to the next Operations Committee Meeting for them to discuss enforcement.

The Committee discussed the agreement with Union Parish for dumping fees and Ms. Magee stated that they would have a negotiation meeting in July to determine the new terms. The Committee and Mr. Sessions agreed that they were happy with the agreement with Union Parish. Ms. Magee asked Mr. Sessions to also explore their other options to ensure the Parish is being responsible with public funds.

The Committee discussed the Solid Waste Department financials. The Secretary-Treasurer explained the net loss in the fund year over year. The Committee stated they would consider asking the public for an additional ad valorem tax in the future. Ms. Magee asked the Secretary-Treasurer to work on adding some of the additional expenses to the CARES act reimbursement request.

The Committee discussed the closure of the Pine Thicket road-side bin site. Mr. Sessions gave a report on the work they will perform to make sure the site is clean and does not leave any drainage issues.

Mr. Sessions gave a report on the work to prepare the annex building and stated that they had slowed down due to the coronavirus. He stated that with social distancing, they would not be using the facility yet.

The Committee discussed other matters of the Solid Waste Department including post-retirement benefits.

The Secretary-Treasurer presented a proposal to automate the building permit process by using an enhanced webpage and implementing electronic funds to receive payments by credit and debit card. The Chair asked Ms. Thomas to get quotes and research what would be needed.

Motion Mr. Treadway, seconded Mr. Chatham to adjourn. Motion carried.