

Finance Committee
April 29, 2020

The Finance Committee met Wednesday, April 29, 2020 at 12:00 PM in the Police Jury Meeting Room of the Jackson Parish Courthouse, 500 E. Court Street, Room 301, Jonesboro, Louisiana. Members present: Mr. Todd Culpepper, Mr. John McCarty, and Ms. Tarneshala Cowans who joined by teleconference as permitted by Proclamation JBE 2020-30 which modified quorum requirements from R.S. 42:19. Absent: none. Also in attendance: Mr. Lewis Chatham, Ms. Amy Magee and Mr. Lynn Treadway.

The meeting was called to order by the Chair, Mr. Culpepper. Mr. Culpepper gave the invocation and Mr. McCarty led in the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

There were no public comments.

The Committee reviewed the list of remaining capital projects for the year 2020.

Mr. Culpepper stated he was not concerned about the projects for the Road Department due to the balance in the funds and stated that he felt comfortable with proceeding with the planned 2020 projects.

He stated that the Solid Waste fund is heavily dependent on sales tax revenue and requested that they delay construction of new model bin sites until 2021.

The Secretary-Treasurer stated that the federal government was going to be reviewing a stimulus package with requests from NACO and the Police Jury Association for funds directed to local governments to cover the losses from COVID-19 and to stimulate the economy.

Mr. Culpepper reviewed the projects for the Maintenance Department and stated that unless there were safety issues, they should be delayed a year. Ms. Cowans agreed that only safety-related projects should proceed for the time being.

Mr. Culpepper requested that any work to the building on Industrial Drive be postponed until the Jury could better understand the financial impact of the pandemic. He stated that he would like to see the Operations Manager Position and the Pinebelt Summer Worker program suspended for the year. The Secretary-Treasurer stated that Pinebelt Director, Ms. Conchita Malone-Doyle had also discussed suspending the summer worker program until next year.

Mr. Culpepper asked that the Jury suspend any municipal appropriations for the year, including special projects that exceed the annual allotment.

Mr. McCarty stated that he would like to see a hold on the 2020 projects, but not to terminate them until the Jury knows if they will receive any stimulus money for the year.

Motion Ms. Cowans, seconded Mr. McCarty to recommend the Jury proceed with the planned constructions projects in the Road Department, suspend construction of model bin sites for Solid Waste until 2021, suspend maintenance projects unless there is a safety issue, hold construction improvements on the Industrial Drive building, suspend funding the Pinebelt Summer Worker program for 2020, suspend the Operations Manager position, suspend municipal appropriations including special projects and the 2020 annual allocation, and suspend the dedication of funding for an Industrial Development Board. Motion carried with Mr. McCarty asking that all recommendations be reassessed if the proposed stimulus bill passes.

Motion Mr. McCarty, seconded Ms. Cowans to adjourn. Motion carried.