

Finance Committee  
February 26, 2020

The Finance Committee met Wednesday, February 26, 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. Absent: none. Also in attendance, Ms. Amy Magee and Ms. Regina Rowe.

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

The Chair opened the floor for public comments.

Ms. Amy Magee expressed concern for several of the agenda items that she felt did not belong in the Finance Committee.

Ms. Nia Evans-Johnson from the Sales Tax Collection Agency requested the Jury provide guidance on the requested replacement server for their office.

Ms. Regina Rowe questioned several of the agenda items.

Mr. Culpepper addressed the concerns with the agenda stating that there would be overlap with the items on the committees and that any committee would only be making recommendations for the Police Jury to consider.

With no other public comments, the Chair continued with agenda items.

Motion Ms. Cowans, seconded Mr. McCarty to recommend the Jury authorize the President to sign and execute the 2020 Trailblazer appropriation of \$1,080. They discussed that this amount was a 10% reduction from the prior year. Motion carried.

Motion Mr. McCarty, seconded Ms. Cowans to recommend the Jury authorize the President to sign and execute the 2020 Sparta Groundwater appropriation of \$1,350. They noted that this amount was also a 10% reduction from the prior year. Motion carried.

The Committee reviewed the cost estimates from the Road Superintendent to perform the requested road construction work in North Hodge and Eros. They discussed that the towns should understand the amounts would be deducted from the annual appropriation of \$6,750. Mr. Culpepper stated that the Jury should review the cost estimates to determine which options they would consider. The Chair deferred both requests to be reviewed by the full Jury at the Business Session.

The Committee reviewed the items for budget amendments. The Secretary-Treasurer explained that the changes would not necessarily make any accounts over-budget, but they were for new items that had not been planned.

Motion Mr. McCarty, seconded Ms. Cowans to recommend the Jury authorize the purchase of the digital whiteboard for the meeting room. Motion carried.

Motion Ms. Cowans, seconded Mr. McCarty to recommend the Jury authorize the purchase of a new fire alarm system at the Health Unit. Motion carried.

Motion Mr. McCarty, seconded Ms. Cowans to recommend the Jury authorize the purchase of the scanner for the Registrar of Voters. Motion carried.

The Chair deferred agenda items #6 through #8 to the Project Committee with no discussion.

Motion Mr. Culpepper, seconded Ms. Cowans to recommend the Jury continue to update and submit information for state funding for the livestock pavilion project and to authorize the President to sign the requested amendment to the Cooperative Endeavor Agreement with the State of Louisiana. Motion carried.

The Chair deferred agenda item #10 to the Project Committee and stated that Senator Morris had informed him that there may be BP funding available for parishes in north Louisiana and that he had requested the Jury submit potential projects.

The Chair invited the Secretary-Treasurer to discuss the monthly financials. The Secretary-Treasurer presented the monthly purchase orders to-date and reviewed the budget to actual report for the month-to-date. She explained the items that were over or under budget and informed the Committee of potential amendments to the budget for the future.

Mr. Culpepper made closing remarks stating that he was not trying to control Jury actions through the Committee and reiterated that the Committee makes recommendations for the full Jury to consider.

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