



POLICE JURY REGULAR MEETING

Lincoln Parish Police Jury

Tuesday, July 09, 2024 at 7:00 PM

Police Jury Meeting Room | 100 West Texas Avenue, Floor Three,
Ruston, LA 71270

AGENDA

In compliance with the Americans With Disabilities Act, individuals needing special accommodations during this meeting should notify the Lincoln Parish Police Jury at 318-513-6200 at least three working days before the meeting.

Call to Order

Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance- Mr. Matt Pullin

Approval of Agenda

Public Comments on Agenda Items

Minutes of Prior Meeting

- [1.](#) June 11, 2024 Meeting

Committee Reports- Solid Waste and Recycling Committee

New Business

2. Legislative Update-State Representatives Chris Turner and Rashid Young
- [3.](#) Consider And Take Action If Necessary, Modifications to Current Intergovernmental Agreement with Lincoln Parish Coroner For General Liability Insurance Costs
- [4.](#) Authorize Agreement (MOU) Between Lincoln Parish Police Jury and the University of Louisiana at Monroe For Hosting of Mesonet Weather Station on Parish Property and Authorizing Parish Administrator to Execute Agreement
5. Schedule Public Hearing For 7:00 p.m., August 13, 2024 To Consider Levying Additional or Increased Millage Rates Without Further Voter Approval or Adopting The Adjusted Millages Rates After Reassessment and Rolling Forward To Rates Not To Exceed The Prior Year's Maximum.
6. Consideration and Recommendation of Candidate For The Greater Ward One Waterworks District- Mr. John Sutton to Fill Unexpired of Mr. Don Hogan Through December 31, 2025

Budget Reports- Mr. Michael Sutton, Treasurer

Other Business

7. Reports

Travel

8. Organization of Parish Administrative Official, July 31-August 2, 2024, Lafayette, LA (Hall-Klepzig-Sutton)

9. Authorize Travel-Highway Department Employees for Diesel Technician Training in Dallas, TX from 08/19-08/23/2024

Public Comments

Adjourn

TO: Lincoln Parish Police Jury
FROM: Public Works Committee
SUBJECT: Committee Report

The Public Works Committee of the Lincoln Parish Police Jury met in the Police Jury Meeting Room, 100 West Texas Avenue, Tuesday, June 11, 2024, at 6:30 p.m. Present were: Greg Williams, Chair, Dan Lord, T.J. Cranford, Milton Melton, and Diane Richards

Chair Williams called the meeting to order and delivered the Invocation.

Dan Lord offered a motion, seconded by Milton Melton, to approve the Agenda. The motion carried with the following votes:

YEAS: Williams, Lord, Cranford, Melton, and Richards

Chair Williams called for Public Comments on Agenda Items. There were none.

The first item on the Agenda was to authorize an advertisement for bids for the 2024 Capital Improvement Program Hot Mix Overlay Project for Chandler Road. After discussion, Diane Richards offered a motion, seconded by Dan Lord, to authorize the advertisement for bids. The motion carried with the following votes:

YEAS: Williams, Lord, Cranford, Melton, and Richards

Next item on the Agenda was to consider and take action if necessary, amending the 2024 Capital Improvement Program for participation with the City of Ruston in the hot mix overlay of Tech Farm Road. Administrator Hall explained that since Tech Farm Road travels through both jurisdictions, it would make economic sense to do the whole road at one time. After discussion, T.J. Cranford offered a motion, seconded by Dan Lord, to amend the 2024 Capital Improvement Program for participation with City of Ruston in the overlay of Tech Farm Road. The motion carried with the following votes:

YEAS: Williams, Lord, Cranford, Melton, and Richards

Next item on the Agenda was action on bids for hot mix. Milton Melton offered a motion, seconded by Dan Lord, to accept the sole bid of Amethyst Construction in the amount of \$110.00 per ton for hot mix for a six month contract. The motion carried with the following votes:

YEAS: Williams, Lord, Cranford, Melton, and Richards

Dan Lord offered a motion, seconded by Milton Melton, to authorize approving assistance to the Village of Choudrant for limb trimming contingent on Highway Department scheduling and availability. The motion carried with the following votes:

YEAS: Williams, Lord, Cranford, Melton, and Richards

T.J. Cranford offered a motion, seconded by Dan Lord, to authorize approving assistance to the Town of Dubach for ditch drainage contingent on Highway Department scheduling and availability. The motion carried with the following votes:

YEAS: Williams, Lord, Cranford, Melton, and Richards

Chairman Williams called for public comments. Mr. Dennis Woods spoke regarding the closure of Longstraw Road.

There being no other business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned.

Courtney Hall
Parish Administrator

Greg Williams
Committee Chair

The Lincoln Parish Police Jury met in regular session on Tuesday, June 11, 2024 at 7:00 p.m., in the Police Jury Meeting Room, 100 West Texas Avenue, Ruston, Louisiana. Present were: Greg Williams, District One; Karen Ludley, District Two; Dan Lord, District Three; T.J. Cranford, District Four; Logan Hunt, District Five; Glenn Scriber, District Six; Matt Pullin, District Seven; Chris Garriga, District Eight; Joe Henderson, District Nine; Milton Melton, District Ten; Diane Richards, District Eleven; and Annette Straughter, District Twelve.

President Scriber called the meeting to order, and delivered the Invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Dan Lord offered a motion, seconded by Annette Straughter, to approve the Agenda as presented. The motion carried with the following votes:

YEAS: Williams, Ludley, Lord, Cranford, Hunt, Scriber, Pullin, Garriga, Henderson, Melton, Richards, and Straughter

President Scriber called for Public Comments on the Agenda. There were none.

Chris Garriga offered a motion, seconded by Greg Williams, to approve the minutes of the May 17, 2024 Special Meeting. The motion carried with the following votes:

YEAS: Williams, Ludley, Lord, Cranford, Hunt, Scriber, Pullin, Garriga, Henderson, Melton, Richards, and Straughter

Under Committee Reports, Logan Hunt reported that the Economic Development and Planning Committee met on May 30, 2024, at 8:30 A.M. and the Committee recommends:

1. Accepting the Scope for the Strategic Master Plan as presented by Hunt, Guillot and Associates.

Logan Hunt offered a motion, seconded by Dan Lord, to approve the minutes of the Economic Development and Planning Committee. The motion carried with the following votes:

YEAS: Williams, Ludley, Lord, Cranford, Hunt, Scriber, Pullin, Garriga, Henderson, Melton, Richards, and Straughter

Greg Williams reported that the Public Works Committee met at 6:30 p.m. and the Committee recommends:

1. Authorizing an advertisement for bids for the 2024 Capital Improvement Program Hot Mix Overlay Project for Chandler Road.
2. Amend the 2024 Capital Improvement Program to participate with the City of Ruston in overlay of Tech Farm Road.
3. Approve hot mix bid from Amethyst Construction in the amount of \$110.00 per ton.

4. Approve assistance to the Village of Choudrant.
5. Approve assistance to the Town of Dubach

Annette Straughter offered a motion, seconded by Dan Lord, to approve the minutes of the Public Works Committee. The motion carried with the following votes:

YEAS: Williams, Ludley, Lord, Cranford, Hunt, Scriber, Garriga, Henderson, Melton, Richards, and Straughter

ABSTAIN: Pullin

Annette Straughter offered a motion, seconded by Joe Henderson, to approve the 2024/2025 Proposed Budget for the Lincoln Parish Sales and Use Tax Commission. The motion carried with the following votes:

YEAS: Williams, Ludley, Lord, Cranford, Hunt, Scriber, Pullin, Garriga, Henderson, Melton, Richards, and Straughter

Logan Hunt offered a motion, seconded by Chris Garriga, to adopt the Ruston Daily Leader as the Official Journal for a period of July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025. The motion carried with the following votes:

YEAS: Williams, Ludley, Lord, Cranford, Hunt, Scriber, Pullin, Garriga, Henderson, Melton, Richards, and Straughter

Next item on the Agenda was to consider, and take action if necessary, renewal of the Intergovernmental Agreement between Police Jury and Lincoln Parish Sheriff for Courthouse Security Services for an annual cost of \$112,320.00, an increase of \$17,520. After discussion, Logan Hunt offered a motion, seconded by Matt Pullin, to renew the Intergovernmental Agreement between Police Jury and Lincoln Parish Sheriff for Courthouse Security Services. The motion carried with the following votes:

YEAS: Williams, Ludley, Lord, Cranford, Hunt, Scriber, Pullin, Garriga, Henderson, Melton, Richards, and Straughter

Annette Straughter offered a motion, seconded by Matt Pullin, to authorize a comprehensive compensation study for all Police Jury departments, said study to be performed by Arthur J. Gallagher & Co. at a cost of \$33,750.00. The motion carried with the following votes:

YEAS: Williams, Ludley, Lord, Cranford, Hunt, Scriber, Pullin, Garriga, Henderson, Melton, Richards, and Straughter

Next item on the Agenda was an Adoption of Ordinance For Sale of Adjudicated Property Parcel No. 30182922176 Through The Lot Next Door Program. Matt Pullin offered a motion, seconded by Dan Lord, to adopt an ordinance for sale of adjudicated property parcel no. 30182922176 through the Lot Next Door program.

ORDINANCE NO.

AN ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE AN ACT OF SALE BY THE PARISH OF LINCOLN TO SELL ADJUDICATED PROPERTY DESCRIBED AS: PARCEL NO. 30182922176 IN ACCORDANCE WITH LA R.S. 47: 2202 T SEQ. AND TO AUTHORIZE THE LINCOLN PARISH POLICE JURY PRESIDENT TO SIGN ALL NECESSARY DOCUMENTS AND TO ADDRESS THEIR MATTERS RELATIVE THERETO

WHEREAS, the immovable property described below was adjudicated to the Parish of Lincoln in 1994, for nonpayment of taxes; and

WHEREAS, the three (3) year period for redemption provided by Art. 7, §25 of the Louisiana Constitution has elapsed, and the owner of record has failed to redeem the adjudicated property; and

WHEREAS, LA R.S. 47: 2202 et seq. provides that the Parish may sell adjudicated property in accordance with law after the expiration of the period for redemption; and

WHEREAS, the Parish of Lincoln has declared the property described below surplus and not needed for a public purpose and to dispose of said property in accordance with LA R.S. 47:2202, et seq.; and

WHEREAS, the Parish of Lincoln has received a written offer to purchase said property from Joseph Dunaway, for the consideration of \$3,306.66 (Three Thousand Three Hundred Six Dollars and Sixty Six Cents) cash, has been accepted by the Lincoln Parish Police Jury; and

WHEREAS, the property described herein below will be purchased through the Parish "Lot Next Door" program and is therefore exempt from the public bidding requirement.

NOW BE IT ORDAINED by the Lincoln Parish Police Jury, that any Act of Sale of the below described property shall contain the following conditions and requirements:

- 1) This property described as Lincoln Parish Parcel # 30182922176 bearing municipal address of 126 Newman Street, Ruston, LA , 71270 and more fully described as:

Parcel# 30182922176 / Assessment #22790 (Lincoln Parish)

Municipal Address: 126 Newman Street, Ruston, LA 71270

Legal Description:

A certain tract of land located in the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 30, Township 18 North, Range 2 West,

Lincoln Parish, Louisiana, more particularly described as beginning at a point 995 feet East and 460 feet South of the NW corner of the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of said Section 30, thence run South 92.7 feet; thence run North 85 degrees 00' West 125.5 feet; thence run North 82 feet, thence run East 125 feet to the point of beginning, together with one (1) 1975 Skyline Mobile Home, 14' x 70', Serial Number 015306141, which is situated on the hereinabove described property.

Brief Legal:

A TRACT IN NW OF NE, SEC 30-18-2, DESCR AS: BEG AT A PT 995' E & 460' S OF NWC OF NW OF NE, SEC 30, S 92.7', N 85 DEG 00' W 125.5', TH NORTH 82', E 125' TO PT OF BEG. 1975 SKYLINE MOBILE (14'X70') SERIAL# 015306141 , DECAL#00416

- 2) This property shall be sold in accordance with LS-R.S. 47:2201 et. seq., without any warranty, from either the Parish or Management Company, whatsoever, even as to the return of the purchase price.
- 3) The sale shall be on a form approved by the Parish Attorney and that the sales price is paid by certified frillds at the time of the sale.
- 4) The sale shall include a reservation of all mineral rights to the Parish, but shall convey all surface
- 5) The following shall be completed prior to closing of sale:
 - a. E&P Consulting Services, LLC shall certify in writing to the Parish Attorney that they have examined the mortgage records, conveyance records, probate and civil suit records of the Parish of Lincoln and that attached to this certification will be a written list of names and

last known addresses of all owners, mortgagees, and any other person who may have a vested or contingent interest in the property, or who has filed a request for notice as provided in the former provisions LS-R.S. 33:4720.17(B), as indicated in those records.
 - b. E&P Consulting Services, LLC will provide notice to those persons identified in accordance with LS-R.S. 47:2201 et. seq. Proof of said notice

will be filed in the conveyance records of Lincoln Parish immediately after the Act of Sale.

- c. At the time of closing, E&P Consulting Services, LLC will certify in writing to Parish Attorney and Clerk of Court that the number of days mandated by LS-R.S. 47:2201 et. seq. has elapsed since the above required notice was made or attempted and that the property has not been redeemed by the payment of the taxes owed.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, by the Lincoln Parish Policy Jury, that the Police Jury President is hereby authorized to execute a Cash Sale of the above described adjudicated property to the highest acceptable bidder. The Cash Sale shall contain all of the above conditions and requirements and shall be executed within the timelines specified. The above ordinance having been submitted to a vote, the vote thereon was as follows:

YEAS: Williams, Ludley, Lord, Cranford, Hunt, Scriber, Pullin, Garriga, Henderson, Melton, Richards, and Straughter

Next item on the Agenda was an announcement of a pending board vacancy for Greater Ward One Waterworks District.

Parish Treasurer Michael Sutton presented the budget report. Reports were also heard from various Department Heads.

Under Public Comments, Angela Coleman was present to speak about property on Garr Road. LeGina Jones was present to comment about Longstraw Road. Dubach Mayor Mona Wilson made comments on drainage issues in the Town of Dubach. There being no other business to come before the Jury, Annette Straughter offered a motion, seconded by Matt Pullin, to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried with the following votes:

YEAS: Williams, Ludley, Lord, Cranford, Hunt, Scriber, Pullin, Garriga, Henderson, Melton, Richards, and Straughter

Courtney Hall
Parish Administrator

Glenn Scriber
Police Jury President

Ron Coe, M.D.
Opinion 11-0033
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Thus, it is the opinion of this office that an elected coroner who is also a physician, must acquire general liability insurance for himself or herself and the employees of the office, but is not required to purchase medical malpractice insurance.²

III. Who is Responsible for Paying the Office of the Coroner's Insurance?

R.S. 33:1556(B)(1) states that "[a]ll necessary or unavoidable expenses . . . incident to the operation and functioning of the coroner's office shall be paid by the parish when such expenses are certified by the coroner as being necessary or unavoidable." See also, *Carriere v. St. Landry Parish Police Jury*, 97-C-1914, 97-C-1937(La. 1998), 707 So.2d 979. Under state law, the coroner and his or her staff is required to have general liability insurance. Hence, general liability insurance is legally necessary for the operation of the coroner's office and the parish must cover this expense.

IV. Who Bears the Responsibility for Defending and Paying Court Ordered Judgments Against the Coroner's Office?

R.S. 13:5108.1, the state indemnification statute, specifically excludes coroners and their employees from the class of individuals whom the state shall defend or indemnify. The state may not defend or indemnify coroners or their employees "against any claim, demand, suit, complaint, or petition seeking damages filed in any court over alleged negligence or other act, by the individual, including any demand under any federal statute when the act that forms the basis of the cause of action took place while the individual was engaged in the performance of the duties of the individual's office or employment with the state."³

Similarly, R.S. 42:1441(A) prohibits the State of Louisiana from being liable for any damage caused by a coroner or his or her employees while acting within the course and scope of his or her official duties. And yet, R.S. 42:1441(B) expressly provides that R.S. 42:1441(A) is "not intended to and shall not be construed to affect any personal liability which may arise from damage caused by . . . [a] coroner, . . . or the employee of any such public officer, nor shall the provisions of said Subsection A be construed to amend or repeal R.S. 13:5108.1." In other words, although the State of Louisiana is not obligated to defend or indemnify a coroner or his or her employees, if said individuals

² According to the Louisiana Patients Compensation Fund's (PCF) website, there is also no mandatory requirement under law that requires a coroner to enroll in the PCF. Our office would also direct you to contact a representative from the Louisiana Patients Compensation Fund should you seek more specific guidance on this issue. See http://www.doa.louisiana.gov/pcf/faq_coverage_surcharges.htm#7 (last visited 10/20/11).

³ R.S. 13:5108.1(A)(1).

Louisiana State Mesonet: Project Summary

Environmental monitoring is critical for human survival and proper resource management. Weather and climate disasters, such as tropical cyclones, severe weather episodes, major floods, droughts, and winter weather can significantly impact both the social and economic welfare across the United States. In the past 20 years, Louisiana has experienced *46 individual billion-dollar weather and climate disasters*, with these events severely impacting sectors such as energy, agriculture, and transportation, in addition to public life and property. In the past, environmental monitoring was primarily used to provide information about current and forecast weather conditions. However, given the increasing importance of environmental information, its use has been incorporated into many diverse sectors to decrease social and economic losses from weather and climate disasters.

One of the best weather and environmental monitoring tools available today are mesonets. Mesonets are interconnected networks of multiple instrumented weather and environmental monitoring stations across an entire state, or a small footprint of a state/region. The University of Louisiana Monroe (ULM), working with our congressional leaders, has secured funding to support the installation and operations of 50 initial mesonet stations across Louisiana, establishing the Louisiana State Mesonet (LSM). The LSM data will be available to NOAA and other interested parties, and will provide critical information that will impact sectors such as severe and hazardous weather forecasting, homeland security and emergency management, aviation, energy and renewables, agriculture, transportation, and education.

Each LSM site will provide measurements of: wind speed, wind direction, air temperature, relative humidity, incoming solar radiation, air pressure, precipitation (rate and total amount), and soil temperature and moisture at various soil depths. In addition, each site will be equipped with a camera to view field and sky conditions. These data are measured continuously, provided at regular intervals, and archived in a central repository at ULM where it can be accessed for current and future use. Real-time data will be made available via various data visualizations on the LSM website (in development). Example data visualizations the LSM will employ can be found on other state mesonet websites (e.g., Kentucky Mesonet <https://www.kymesonet.org/>; New York State Mesonet <http://www.nysmesonet.org/>).

A data access policy is being developed which will include a fee structure for access to a live data stream or for purchasing archived data. Parishes, cities, townships, or other landowners that agree to host a LSM site will receive their local site data (live or archived) at no cost. Real-time LSM data will always be publicly available for free via data visualizations from our website.

The LSM will be managed by ULM through the ULM School of Science and the Atmospheric Science program. Project contacts:

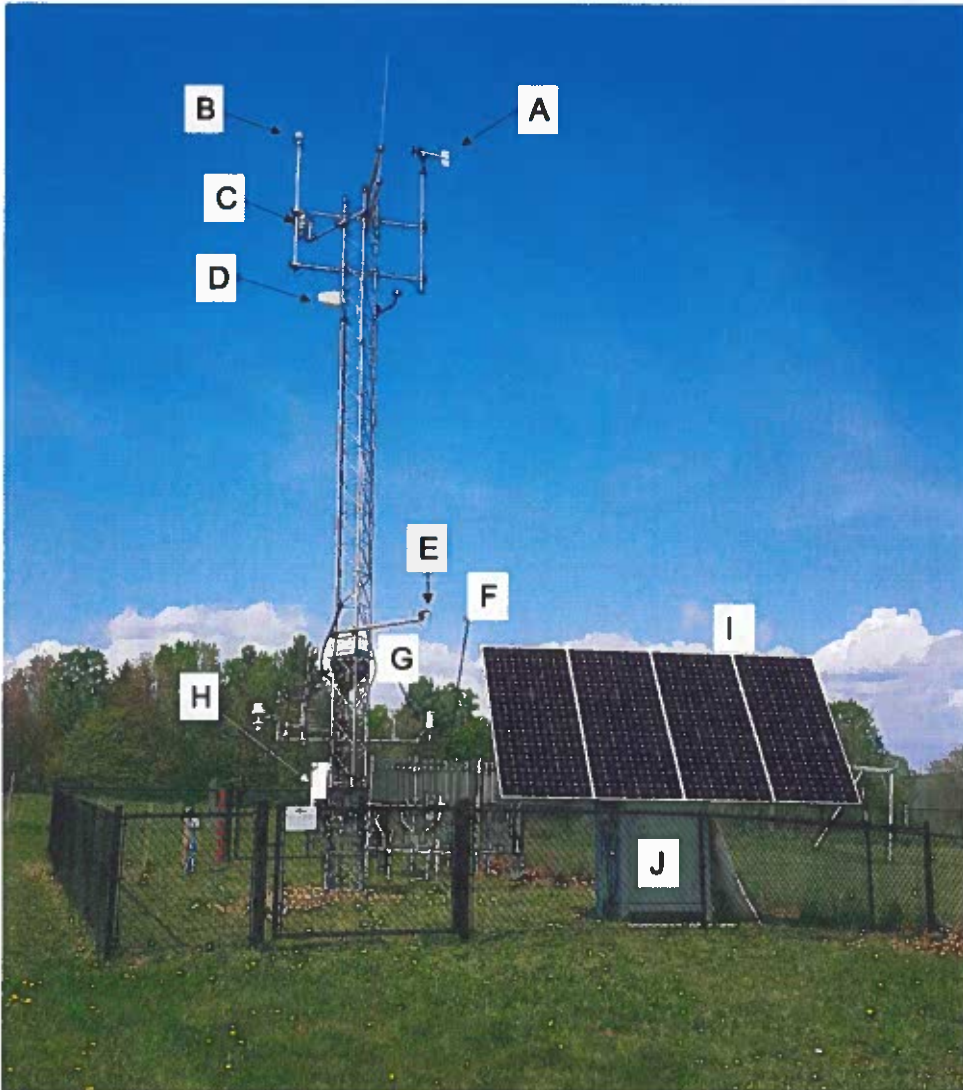
1. Mesonet Manager: Ms. Emily Newby, newby@ulm.edu, 318.342.1835
2. Project Director: Dr. Todd Murphy, murphy@ulm.edu, 318.342.3428
3. Institutional Contact: Dr. John Sutherlin, sutherlin@ulm.edu, 318.342.1413

Louisiana State Mesonet: Site Specifications

Site considerations for each mesonet location include:

1. Acceptable for 10-m (30-ft) tower installation, including 36"x36"x48" cement pad to anchor tower and guy wire anchors (if needed).
2. Site must be accessible by truck for installation and maintenance visits.
3. Acceptable to install security fence (if needed) around site perimeter.
4. Site must be in an open area, at least 30-ft from heat sources or bodies of water; ground cover should be natural vegetation; no nearby obstructions (e.g., buildings, vegetation, etc.) that blocks wind or shades the site.
5. 30-ft x 30-ft site footprint is preferred; smaller footprints are possible depending on availability, guy wire anchor requirement, and if conditions listed in #4 is met.
6. Local power or communications not required; each site will be solar powered and use cell network for communications.

An example mesonet site (from the New York State Mesonet), with instruments labeled, is seen in the photo below.



A – wind speed & direction; propeller anemometer

B – wind speed & direction; sonic anemometer

C – temperature @ 9-m

D – cell communication antenna

E – solar radiation; pyranometer

F – precipitation; tipping bucket rain gauge

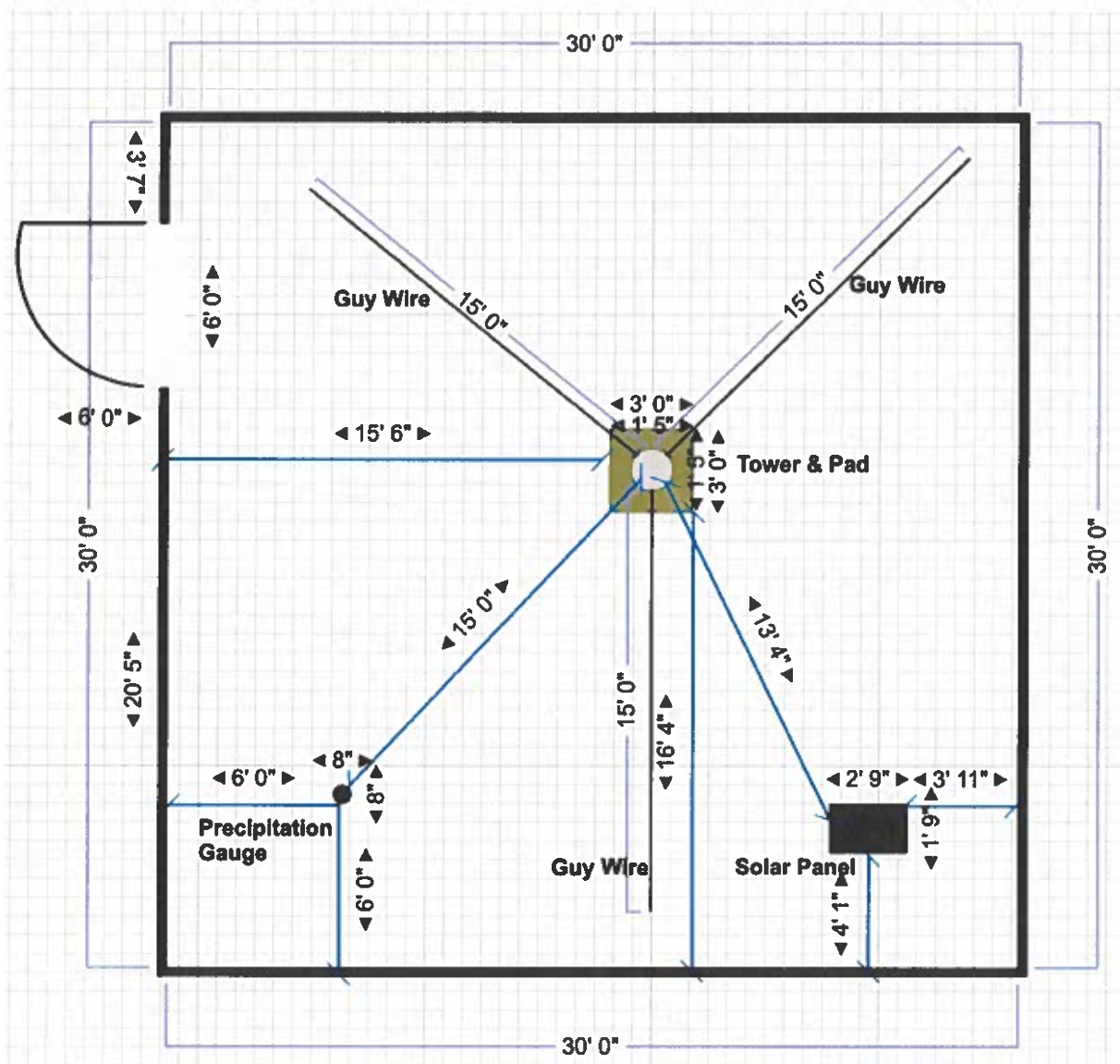
G – temperature & relative humidity @ 2-m

H – data logger enclosure; pressure sensor

I – solar panels

J – battery enclosure

Below is an approximate site layout, assuming a 30'x30' site with guy wire support.



Note: guy wires are not necessary if the concrete anchor pad for 10-m tower is 36"x36"x48" in solid soil. Sites without guy wires can cover a smaller area footprint (< 30'x30' site). Sites near the coast that may experience ≥ 110 mph winds due to hurricanes will need additional guy wire support and thus will require the 30'x30' footprint.