

February 20, 2017

The regular monthly meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the Bayou Lafourche Fresh Water District was held on Monday, February 20, 2017 at 5:00 p.m. at the Water District office, 1016 St. Mary Street, Thibodaux, LA

Present were: Hugh Caffery, Chairman
Gene Harrell, Vice-Chairman
Greg Nolan, Secretary/Treasurer
Jake Giardina
Donald Schwab
Chris Domangue
Ray Mayet
Eli Miles, Jr
Francis Richard
Ron Animashaun

Absent: Lance Authement

Also present: Barry Marionneaux, Attorney; Dan Grandal, Stantec; Jason Kennedy, Delta Coast; Stevie Smith
Cyndi Guion, FOBL; Alma Robichaux, BTNEP; Robert Mire; Nick Porto; Jerry Waguespack
Ben Malbrough, Executive Director; Jana Langley, Administrative Assistant

Chairman Hugh Caffery opened the floor to nominations for the slate of officers of the Board. Commissioner Eli Miles, Jr. nominated to keep the current slate of officers. Chairman Hugh Caffery asked for any other nominations, and there were none. Moved by Commissioner Ray Mayet, seconded by Commissioner Francis Richard to close the nominations for the slate of officers. Moved by Commissioner Eli Miles, Jr., seconded by Commissioner Ray Mayet and unanimously approved to proclaim the current slate of officers.

Moved by Commissioner Francis Richard, seconded by Commissioner Jake Giardina to dispense with the reading of the minutes, and approve the minutes of January 23, 2017. Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Commissioner Ray Mayet, seconded by Vice-Chairman Gene Harrell to approve the accounts payable for January. Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Commissioner Ron Animashaun, seconded by Commissioner Greg Nolan to approve the finance report for January. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Ben Malbrough reported that everything is working normal with the pump station, and the bayou.

Mr. Malbrough advised that we closed out all the projects, and we have received all invoices. We are waiting on the clear lien certificate from Sea Level Construction for the Pedestrian Bridge project. He stated that after tallying the payments from the State and Assumption Parish, we are going to expend is \$30,448,000.

Mr. Malbrough reported that as the projects closed out there was a surplus of \$500,000, and we will be able to get reimbursed some of the work that we had done and funded ourselves as part of the reintroduction project. We will be able to reimburse that money back to the general fund.

Mr. Malbrough advised that we are still vetting alternatives on the new pump station. They had a site visit to Teche-Vermilion pump station, and also plan to visit existing stations along the river. They have a meeting with the Corps of Engineers March 1st to air out issues, and hear their concerns. The ultimate goal is to present the Board with the different alternatives of what it will cost to build the pump station, and the long term operations and maintenance so that the Board can make an informed decision on how to proceed.

Chairman Hugh Caffery advised that the ribbon cutting for the Union Pacific Railroad project is tomorrow at 11:30 on the LA 1 side of the project site. There will be a reception at the VFW Hall after the ribbon cutting ceremony.

Mr. Malbrough advised that Congressman Garret Graves will be the keynote speaker, along with the executive director from CPRA, and Hugh Caffery.

Mr. Malbrough advised that he received the final report on the weir removal analysis, and he will meet with them to go through it. He will report on it at the next meeting.

Mr. Malbrough stated that they have identified all potential disposal and access locations for the permitting of Phase 3, which is the section from Napoleonville to the weir in Thibodaux. They are submitting that to the Corps of Engineers sometime in the middle of March for the jurisdictional determination.

Mr. Malbrough reported that the Board had previously approved to sign an agreement with the American Legion to purchase the property. He advised that the asbestos inspection came back with no findings. He wanted to present it back to the Board before Mr. Barry Marionneaux and he schedule it to go to closing.

Moved by Commissioner Jake Giardina, seconded by Commissioner Donald Schwab and unanimously approved to authorize Mr. Malbrough to sign any and all documents relative to the purchase of the American Legion building and property at a price of \$150,000.

Mr. Barry Marionneaux advised that he heard from Sid Marchand today, and he wanted to know whether or not the District wanted title insurance. Mr. Marionneaux advised that there is one issue in which it seems like part of the original bed of Bayou Lafourche is within the description of property of what the District is purchasing. Chairman Hugh Caffery stated yes we do want title insurance. Commissioner Jake Giardina asked how much title insurance would coast, and Mr. Marionneaux answered that it cost around \$1,000 to \$1,500.

Mr. Ben Malbrough advised that we need to amend the agenda by two-thirds vote to include in executive session Eric Sanchez's compensation discussion.

Moved by Commissioner Francis Richard, seconded by Commissioner Donald Schwab and unanimously approved to amend the agenda by two-thirds vote to include in executive session Eric Sanchez's compensation discussion.

Ms. Cyndi Guion, Friends of Bayou Lafourche, advised that she is helping with the ribbon cutting ceremony tomorrow. She stated that the summit will be scheduled in the fall. She also informed the Board that Jeanne Murphy, a Board member of Friends of Bayou Lafourche, will be resigning. Ms. Guion advised that Ms. Murphy is such a wonderful connection, but she is extremely busy. They are in the process of finding someone to replace Ms. Murphy.

Chairman Hugh Caffery asked for any public comments, and there were none.

Moved by Commissioner Francis Richard, seconded by Commissioner Donald Schwab and unanimously approved to go into executive session at 5:25 p.m.

Moved by Vice-Chairman Gene Harrell, seconded by Commissioner Jake Giardina and unanimously approved to return to regular session.

Moved by Commissioner Eli Miles, Jr., seconded by Commissioner Francis Richard and unanimously approved to raise Ben Malbrough's salary from \$135,000 to \$160,000 per year effective February 20, 2017.

Moved by Vice-Chairman Gene Harrell, seconded by Commissioner Chris Domangue and unanimously approved to promote Eric Sanchez to pump station foreman, and raise Eric Sanchez's salary to \$50,000 per year effective February 20, 2017.

Moved by Vice-Chairman Gene Harrell, seconded by Commissioner Jake Giardina and unanimously approved the meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Hugh Caffery, Chairman

Greg Nolan, Secretary/Treasurer