**PUBLIC HEARING**

DRAFT

**July 7, 2021**

A public hearing will be held to consider levying increased millage rates after reassessment and rolling forward millage rates not to exceed the maximum authorized by law. Ms. Melanie Broden read the following:

Notice is hereby given pursuant to Article 7, Section 23(C) of the Louisiana Constitution and R.S. 47:1705(B) that a public hearing of Lafourche Basin Levee District in St. James Parish will be held at its regular meeting place located at 21380 Highway 20, Vacherie, LA on July 7, 2021, at 6:00 p.m. to consider levying additional or increased millage rates without further voter approval or adopting the adjusted millage rates after reassessment and rolling forward to rates not to exceed the prior year’s maximum. The estimated amount of tax revenues to be collected in the next year from the increased millage is $4,640,560.06, and the amount of increase in taxes attributable to the millage increase is $47,840.83.

There were no comments from the public. Commissioner Gary Watson made the motion to adjourn. Commissioner Michael McKinney, Sr. seconded his motion.

**REGULAR MEETING**

**July 7, 2021**

 The Board of Commissioners for the Lafourche Basin Levee District met this day in regular session at its official domicile at 21380 Highway 20 in Vacherie, Louisiana. The public was invited to attend via Teleconference and at the LBLD office in accordance with the Louisiana Governor’s Proclamation Number 117- JBE 2021 Renewal of State Emergency for COVID-19, Extension of Emergency Provisions, LBLD office will continue to require all individuals to wear a face covering over the nose and mouth, unless the person has been fully vaccinated with a Covid-19 vaccine. You can refer to gov.louisiana.gov for guideline exceptions. The meeting was called to order by its President, James P. Jasmin, at 6:15 P.M.

 Mr. Larry Buquoi, Board Attorney, explained that even though it was printed for the Regular meeting to start immediately after the Hearing, it would be safer, legally, to begin the meeting at its listed time of 6:15 PM.

 The meeting was called to order by President James P. Jasmin.

 The meeting opened with a prayer and the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

Present: Commissioners… Craig Carter, Assumption Parish; Larry Sorapuru, St. John the Baptist Parish; Russell Loupe, St. Charles Parish; Eric Matherne, St. Charles Parish; Michael McKinney, Sr., Ascension Parish; Arthur Bosworth IV, St. James Parish; Gary Watson, St. John the Baptist Parish; President James P. Jasmin, St. James Parish; Jeffery Henry, Ascension Parish; Marlin Rogers, St. Charles Parish and Kevin Hebert, St. Charles Parish were present.

 A quorum was present to conduct business.

Messrs. Larry Buquoi, Attorney; Donald Ray Henry, Executive Director; Ivy Chauvin, Sr., Assistant Executive Director; Mrs. Astrea Jupiter, Administrative Assistant 5 and Ms. Melanie Broden, Accounting Specialist, were present.

 Commissioner Michael McKinney, Sr. made the motion to adopt the agenda. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Larry Sorapuru. President Jasmin called for a roll call vote. Roll call vote thereon as follows:

YEAS:

* Michael McKinney, Sr.
* Arthur Bosworth IV
* Larry Sorapuru
* Russell Loupe
* Gary Watson
* Jeffery Henry
* Craig Carter
* Eric Matherne
* Marlin Rogers
* Kevin Hebert
* James P. Jasmin

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAINED: None

By a roll call vote of 11 yeas, 0 nay, 0 absent and 0 abstained. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

 On motion of Commissioner Michael McKinney, Sr., seconded by Commissioner Russel Loupe, the minutes of the Regular Meeting of June 2, 2021 be accepted and filed in the minutes of the Board.

There were no public comments. President Jasmin called for a roll call vote. Roll call vote thereon as follows:

YEAS:

* Michael McKinney, Sr.
* Arthur Bosworth IV
* Larry Sorapuru
* Russell Loupe
* Gary Watson
* Jeffery Henry
* Craig Carter
* Eric Matherne
* Marlin Rogers
* Kevin Hebert
* James P. Jasmin

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAINED: None

By a roll call vote of 11 yeas, 0 nay, 0 absent and 0 abstained. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

On motion of Commissioner Marlin Rogers, seconded by Commissioner Jeffery Henry, the minutes of the Special Call Meeting of May 25, 2021 be accepted and filed in the minutes of the Board.

There were no public comments. President Jasmin called for a roll call vote. Roll call vote thereon as follows:

YEAS:

* Michael McKinney, Sr.
* Arthur Bosworth IV
* Larry Sorapuru
* Russell Loupe
* Gary Watson
* Jeffery Henry
* Craig Carter
* Eric Matherne
* Marlin Rogers
* Kevin Hebert
* James P. Jasmin

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAINED: None

By a roll call vote of 11 yeas, 0 nay, 0 absent and 0 abstained. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

On motion of Commissioner Gary Watson, seconded by Commissioner Eric Matherne, the minutes of the Special Call Meeting of June 16, 2021 be accepted and filed in the minutes of the Board.

There were no public comments. President Jasmin called for a roll call vote. Roll call vote thereon as follows:

YEAS:

* Michael McKinney, Sr.
* Arthur Bosworth IV
* Larry Sorapuru
* Russell Loupe
* Gary Watson
* Jeffery Henry
* Craig Carter
* Eric Matherne
* Marlin Rogers
* Kevin Hebert
* James P. Jasmin

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAINED: None

By a roll call vote of 11 yeas, 0 nay, 0 absent and 0 abstained. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

On motion of Commissioner Eric Matherne, seconded by Commissioner Marlin Rogers, the following cash available for distribution of the month of April 30, 2021 be accepted and filed in the minutes of the Board.

**FIRST AMERICAN BANK:**

 **Checking account balance May 2021 $ 273,181.71**

 **Deposits/Transfer In – May**

**Revenues/Refund 164,447.87**

 **Interest on Checking 11.30**

 **Funds transferred in 0.00 Operating Expenses/Other 349,555.56**

 **Funds transferred out 0.00**

 **TOTAL ACCOUNT BALANCE MAY 31, 2021 $ 88,085.32**

**LAMP**

 **Account balance – Apr. 4,553,336.71**

 **Funds transferred in 0.00**

 **Funds transferred out 0.00**

 **Interest Income Earned 142.80**

 **TOTAL ENDING BALANCE MAY 31, 2021 $ 4,553,479.51**

**INVESTMENTS: BNY**

 **Discount Notes/T-Bills/Bonds 5,346,741.37**

**TOTAL CASH & INVESTMENTS AS OF MAY 31, 2021 $ 9,988,306.20**

 No public comments were made. President Jasmin called for a roll call vote. Roll call vote thereon as follows:

YEAS:

* Michael McKinney, Sr.
* Arthur Bosworth IV
* Larry Sorapuru
* Russell Loupe
* Gary Watson
* Jeffery Henry
* Craig Carter
* Eric Matherne
* Marlin Rogers
* Kevin Hebert
* James P. Jasmin

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAINED: None

By a roll call vote of 11 yeas, 0 nay, 0 absent and 0 abstained. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

 There was no Old Business to report.

New Business:

 On motion of Commissioner Eric Matherne, seconded by Commissioner Gary Watson, the following resolution was proposed and unanimously approved.

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Lafourche Basin Levee District of the Parishes of Ascension, Assumption, St. Charles, St. James, and St. John the Baptist, Louisiana, in a public meeting held on July 7th, 2021, which meeting was conducted in accordance with the Open Meetings Law and the additional requirements of Article VII, Section 23(C) of the Louisiana Constitution and R.S. 47:1705(B), that the following **adjusted** millage rates be and they are hereby levied upon the dollar of the assessed valuation of all property subject to ad valorem taxation within said Parishes for the year 2021, for the purpose of raising revenue:

 MILLAGE

Lafourche Basin Levee District Ad Valorem 3.84 mills

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Assessors of the Parishes of Ascension, Assumption, St. Charles, St. James, and St. John the Baptist, shall extend upon the assessment roll for the year 2021 the taxes herein levied, and the tax collector of said Parishes shall collect and remit the same to said taxing authority in accordance with law.

There were no public comments. President Jasmin called for a roll call vote. Roll call vote thereon as follows:

YEAS:

* Michael McKinney, Sr.
* Arthur Bosworth IV
* Larry Sorapuru
* Russell Loupe
* Gary Watson
* Jeffery Henry
* Craig Carter
* Eric Matherne
* Marlin Rogers
* Kevin Hebert
* James P. Jasmin

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAINED: None

By a roll call vote of 11 yeas, 0 nay, 0 absent and 0 abstained. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

 On motion of Commissioner Gary Watson, seconded by Commissioner Larry Sorapuru, the following resolution was proposed and unanimously approved.

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Lafourche Basin Levee District of the Parishes of Ascension, Assumption, St. Charles, St. James, and St. John the Baptist, Louisiana, in a public meeting held on July 7th, 2021, which meeting was conducted in accordance with the Open Meetings Law and the additional requirements of Article VII, Section 23(C) of the Louisiana Constitution and R.S. 47:1705(B), that the taxing district voted to increase the millage rate(s), but not in excess of the prior year’s maximum rate(s), on all taxable property shown on the official assessment roll for the year 2021, and when collected, the revenues from said taxes shall be used only for the specific purposes for which said taxes have been levied. Said millage rate(s) are: Adjusted Rate 2021 Levy

Lafourche Basin Levee District

 Ad Valorem 3.84 mills 3.88 mills

 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Assessors of the Parishes of Ascension, Assumption, St. Charles, St. James, and St. John the Baptist, shall extend upon the assessment roll for the year 2021 the taxes herein levied, and the tax collector of said Parishes shall collect and remit the same to said taxing authority in accordance with law.

There were no public comments. President Jasmin called for a roll call vote. Roll call vote thereon as follows:

YEAS:

* Michael McKinney, Sr.
* Arthur Bosworth IV
* Larry Sorapuru
* Russell Loupe
* Gary Watson
* Jeffery Henry
* Craig Carter
* Eric Matherne
* Marlin Rogers
* Kevin Hebert
* James P. Jasmin

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAINED: None

By a roll call vote of 11 yeas, 0 nay, 0 absent and 0 abstained. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

 On motion of Commissioner Jeffery Henry, seconded by Commissioner Arthur Bosworth IV, the following resolution was proposed and unanimously approved.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners approve the request from the US Corps of Engineers to conduct surveys, soil borings, hazardous, toxic and radiological waste, and environmental and cultural resources investigations in connection with the Mississippi River and Tributaries, Ama #2 Levee Enlargement, Baseline Station 3110+00 to 3180+00, St. Charles Parish, Louisiana.

There were no public comments. President Jasmin called for a roll call vote. Roll call vote thereon as follows:

YEAS:

* Michael McKinney, Sr.
* Arthur Bosworth IV
* Larry Sorapuru
* Russell Loupe
* Gary Watson
* Jeffery Henry
* Craig Carter
* Eric Matherne
* Marlin Rogers
* Kevin Hebert
* James P. Jasmin

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAINED: None

By a roll call vote of 11 yeas, 0 nay, 0 absent and 0 abstained. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

On motion of Commissioner Marlin Rogers, seconded by Commissioner Larry Sorapuru, the following resolution was proposed and unanimously approved.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners nominated and approved, by default, for Mr. Eric Matherne to become Board President on July 7, 2021.

There were no public comments.

On motion of Commissioner Marlin Rogers, seconded by Commissioner Kevin Hebert, the following resolution was proposed and unanimously approved.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners nominated and approved, by default, for Mr. Jeffery Henry to become Board Vice-President on July 7, 2021.

There were no public comments.

On motion of Commissioner Michael McKinney, Sr., seconded by Commissioner Jeffery Henry, the following resolution was proposed.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners approve a 1% cost of living raise and a 1% merit raise for the Executive Director, Donald Henry, as recommended by the Chairman of the Personnel Committee.

There were no public comments. President Jasmin called for a roll call vote. Roll call vote thereon as follows:

YEAS:

* Michael McKinney, Sr.
* Arthur Bosworth IV
* Larry Sorapuru
* Russell Loupe
* Gary Watson
* Jeffery Henry
* Craig Carter
* Eric Matherne
* James P. Jasmin

NAYS:

* Marlin Rogers
* Kevin Hebert

ABSENT: None

ABSTAINED: None

By a roll call vote of 9 yeas, 2 nay, 0 absent and 0 abstained. The motion passed.

On motion of Commissioner Michael McKinney, Sr., seconded by Commissioner Larry Sorapuru, the following resolution was proposed.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners approve a 1% cost of living raise and a 1% merit raise for the Assistant Executive Director, Ivy Chauvin, as recommended by the Chairman of the Personnel Committee.

There were no public comments. President Jasmin called for a roll call vote. Roll call vote thereon as follows:

YEAS:

* Michael McKinney, Sr.
* Arthur Bosworth IV
* Larry Sorapuru
* Russell Loupe
* Gary Watson
* Jeffery Henry
* Craig Carter
* Eric Matherne
* James P. Jasmin

NAYS:

* Marlin Rogers
* Kevin Hebert

ABSENT: None

ABSTAINED: None

By a roll call vote of 9 yeas, 2 nay, 0 absent and 0 abstained. The motion passed.

On motion of Commissioner Jeffery Henry, seconded by Commissioner Michael McKinney, Sr., the following resolution was proposed and unanimously approved.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners approve for the Board/staff to attend the Louisiana Emergency Management Conference in Lake Charles on October 24 – 27, 2021.

There were no public comments. President Jasmin called for a roll call vote. Roll call vote thereon as follows:

YEAS:

* Michael McKinney, Sr.
* Arthur Bosworth IV
* Larry Sorapuru
* Russell Loupe
* Gary Watson
* Jeffery Henry
* Craig Carter
* Eric Matherne
* Marlin Rogers
* Kevin Hebert
* James P. Jasmin

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAINED: None

By a roll call vote of 11 yeas, 0 nay, 0 absent and 0 abstained. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

 Mr. James Andermann with CSRS, Inc. gave the highlights on the Upper Barataria Project. 30 Day Accomplishments – Secured $2 million in Capital Outlay; CSRS introduction meeting with BKI, GIS, Greenup, CPRA & St. Charles Parish; BKI & GIS shared responses to CSRS regarding CPRA’s Sunset Levee Lift comments; meeting with LBLD & St. Charles Parish to discuss IGA. 45 Day Action Items – Work with USACE & CPRA to download the model for BKI’s H& H Modeling efforts; BKI to begin H&H Modeling; CSRS to review and submit Sunset Levee Lift comments and plan revisions to CPRA; BKI’s presentation of UBRR project to St. John Parish Council on July 13, 2021; Board consideration for Segment 3 Task Orders; meeting with CPRA Executive Director regarding funding on July 20, 2021; meeting with NLLD Executive Director, TBD; Master Plan Workshop and Site Tour, August 10, 2021; CSRS to review contracts, task orders and invoices. What’s Coming – Sunset Levee Lift Right-of-Way Coordination; Revenue Comparison Exercise Segment 3 Floodgate Design & Permitting; Board consideration of Segment 4 Design Task Order; MVFCA Fall Meeting, September 2021.

Commissioner Arthur Bosworth IV made a motion to adjourn and Commissioner Michael McKinney, Sr. seconded his motion.

 **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

 PRESIDENT

AJ

07/12/2021