

June 24, 2011

A committee meeting of the Bayou Lafourche Fresh Water District was held on Friday, June 24, 2011 at 9:00 a.m. at Napoleonville Town Hall, 123 Jefferson Street, Napoleonville, LA

Present were: Hugh Caffery, Chairman
Gene Harrell, Vice-Chairman
Ron Animashaun
Jake Giardina
Archie Chaisson, Jr., Director

Chairman Hugh Caffery advised that the purpose of the committee meeting is to discuss the executive director position, particularly the contract which expires in December.

Commissioner Jake Giardina asked why do we need a contract. Mr. Chaisson answered it is because he is an unclassified civil service employee. Commissioner Giardina asked if there is some legal entity that says we have to have a contract. He said a contract does not protect us at all. It protects the employee. Mr. Chaisson stated that he will check with civil service to make sure a contract is required for an unclassified civil service employee.

Vice-Chairman Gene Harrell stated that the purpose of a contract is to protect the employee and not us. He stated it gives that employee some assurance that he will not be terminated at the wishes of a Board that comes and goes. Chairman Caffery stated that he does not see that happening often because this Board's history has not changed very much.

Chairman Caffery advised that he does not see that there has to be a contract. He asked what are the requirements going to be of this Bayou Lafourche Fresh Water District going forward. He asked what the position is going to require if we get \$30 million to do something else after the dredge project. Whatever we take on is going to require something of this District, and the requirements are going to be carried out through the director. He wants to know what the \$30 million will be used for so we can determine whether the director qualifies for that or not.

Commissioner Giardina asked if there is a job description for the director position. Mr. Chaisson answered no it is only what is written into this last contract. Commissioner Giardina asked if the job description specifically requires an engineering degree or legal degree. Mr. Chaisson answered no basically he was hired with the intention of running day to day operations, administrative, Civil Service, community representation, and public outreach.

Commissioner Giardina stated that he feels we really need to come up with some long range thinking. He feels that the guy that would be running this would have a technical knowledge that can stand there toe to toe and start talking and explaining to people, and have a fair amount of not only administrative abilities but being able to get along with people and not create any problems.

Commissioner Giardina stated that we should consider the salary and he looks at the other levee districts and their salaries range from \$120,000 to \$130,000.

Chairman Caffery stated that if we want to get an executive director he should be a reflection of what we are all about.

Chairman Caffery advised that we really need a Bayou Lafourche summit to bring together all the parties who are affected, and have them tell us what it is they think we should be doing. We can have somebody coordinate this so they can document it and develop our long range plan.

Chairman Caffery stated that the North Lafourche Levee District split their program up in seven geographical areas, and they came up with projects in each area. They were very proactive.

Vice-Chairman Gene Harrell stated that the Board needs to sit down first because it is pretty hard to go into a community and listen to people and taking input without being able to assess some parameters about what we can and cannot do as a Board.

Commissioner Giardina stated that a joint legislative committee on Bayou Lafourche would be a starting point. We could bring in the political spokesmen in Baton Rouge because they are the ones that should be a part of it.

Mr. Chaisson asked Commissioner Giardina if the hospital has revised statutes that they operate under because he stated this is what he sees as our limiting factor.

Mr. Chaisson stated that this leads to the ultimate question of where he fits in all that. Chairman Caffery stated that he doesn't see what we could do as far as the job description without some kind of program of what your position is going to be required of. Chairman Caffery stated that we need to know whether you are legally required to have a contract or not, and what are the requirements of that contract.

Mr. Chaisson stated that he is looking for long term stability in his life, whether it is as director or as a field supervisor. Mr. Chaisson stated that he doesn't feel that the director's job they are talking about will have time to deal with the field and actual grunt work.

Chairman Caffery stated to Mr. Chaisson that they do need to give him some direction and they don't want to leave him hanging. Chairman Caffery stated that he wants to know the law regarding whether he has to have a contract by law before we can go back to the full Board.

The meeting adjourned at 10:15 a.m.

Hugh Caffery, Chairman

Robert Thibodaux, Secretary/Treasurer

