Randolph Sheppard

Trust Fund Quarterly Meeting

December 8th, 2023

FRANK GAFFNEY: All right. That other meeting was adjourned. Call to order. Roll call.

SHELLY LEJEUNE: Shelly LeJeune, Baton Rouge.

DON ARABY: Don Araby, Alexandria.

EMMA PALMER: Emma Palmer, Shreveport.

FRANK GAFFNEY: Frank Gaffney.

BRIAN WHITE: Brian White, Baton Rouge.

FRANK GAFFNEY: All right. Review of agenda. Again, I've been through it. Anybody has any questions? If they've read it. Approval, we can't vote. New business. Trust fund monthly income.

ROBERT ELLINGTON: Okay. So I'm just going to go start from July. I know y'all probably reviewed some of this the last meeting. For July at the end of the month the balance was $651,813.95. Then it dropped to‑‑ actually the expenditures of 109,789.85 in August which was mostly the stipend. 98,500 of that was the stipend. $12,406 in collections and $112 in interest. In August the balance dropped to 554,542.22. And September the expenditures for the month was $30,735.37. Collections was $17,174.32 and interest of $113 brought the balance to $541,000. $541,094.17. October the expenditures were $30,297.08. Collections were $37,290.49. Interest was $81. The balance became $548,168.58. And then in November the expenditures that are recorded so far, and I'll tell y'all why that's the case, expenditures are $9,744.91. When I was talking to Steven yesterday about this, cause I was like why did it drop so low compared to the previous couple months. And he looked at the paperwork and looks like the money has not been moved over from the federal, the expenditures haven't been split yet. So that's the reason why it's so low. Probably going to add another $21,000 in expenditures for that month. So probably closer to 30,000, again, for this month that we're just finished. Collections were $21,635.97. Interest was 112. And the current balance is $560,171.64. So at the beginning 651,813.95. The current balance is $560,171.64.

SHELLY LEJEUNE: That's as of July 1?

ROBERT ELLINGTON: That's from July 1st all the way to now, yes. Any questions in regard to that?

FRANK GAFFNEY: Basically we run on a $1.25‑million budget, basically. And 600 something thousand of that is state payroll and vacations and sick leave and everything else is our biggest expense. Might be less than that now because we're down, we got one less employee we're paying. Or maybe two for a while.

ROBERT ELLINGTON: Well, just give you an idea. Through five months salaries is $121,000. Well, actually it's $122,000. The retirement contribution is $50,000. Post retirement benefits is another 32,000. So that's 204,000. And then once you add the insurances in about $226,000 through five months that we paid this year so far.

FRANK GAFFNEY: Any unfinished business? Blind vendors trust fund source of revenue. I think we talked about that. Try to get more state locations. Some more money into the trust fund. Open discussion. Anyone?

SHELLY LEJEUNE: Do you have anything, Frank?

FRANK GAFFNEY: No. They won't answer any of my questions.

ROBERT ELLINGTON: Just to make y'all aware there is two federal locations, really small locations, about $120 a month in income that goes in the trust fund right now will be moving over to a manager soon here in Baton Rouge. Not a lot of money for either the trust fund or for the manager, but something to help him out.

FRANK GAFFNEY: And we did one in Monroe, but we weren't getting it anyway.

ROBERT ELLINGTON: Yeah.

FRANK GAFFNEY: So we didn't lose anything. Because apparently something came up. It was a post office that somebody else was in and they weren't supposed to be, we were. So in the process of going through that and getting the contract, David is taking care of it, and we went ahead and assigned it to Joseph Davis in Monroe.

SHELLY LEJEUNE: Okay. Neil, those two federal buildings here in Baton Rouge, is that on Florida?

ROBERT ELLINGTON: Yes. The federal building courthouse and it's $120. I was shocked when I walked in there how there was only two vending machines. One drink machine, one snack machine in each location. There was barely any foot traffic, but the commissions on it that we received over the past three months averaged about $60 from Coke and $60 from Five Star Vending.

SHELLY LEJEUNE: Okay. That's the federal courthouse, right?

ROBERT ELLINGTON: Yes.

SHELLY LEJEUNE: Where's the other one at?

ROBERT ELLINGTON: They're right next door to each other. You have the Earl K. Long building right next door to the federal courthouse.

SHELLY LEJEUNE: Does that one face Florida or Ninth Street?

ROBERT ELLINGTON: The federal building, EK Long, faces the interstate. I don't know what road that is.

SHELLY LEJEUNE: That's ninth street.

ROBERT ELLINGTON: But it's right next door. Right behind it is where the courthouse is and it's right next door to it, basically. Literally, if you're at the post office across the street, you look directly across, you have the courthouse and to the right is where the Long building's at.

SHELLY LEJEUNE: I know where you're talking about. How about do we have anything, which is I want to say on Florida, just past the interstate on the left? I want to say Tenth Street. That's a parish building. I can't remember the exact name of the building.

ROBERT ELLINGTON: Are you talking about the Baton Rouge building, inspection building?

SHELLY LEJEUNE: Right before the Greyhound Bus Station.

KEVIN MONK: I think I know what you're talking about, Shelly. Parallel to the interstate. It's back in there. But I do think that is a parish.

SHELLY LEJEUNE: Yeah. That is parish.

ROBERT ELLINGTON: Are you talking about the Baton Rouge Youth Coalition and the Harmony Group Home right next door?

BRIAN WHITE: The health building.

SHELLY LEJEUNE: The mental health building right there.

ROBERT ELLINGTON: We're obviously not there. Something I did find out when looking at the SLABS report, which is a state report where they show locations that are currently insured by the state, which most cases that means that they own it. There is a building I need to go by, it's actually the Family Service Center. It's right there. It's close to there.

SHELLY LEJEUNE: The one I'm talking about is on the corner of Florida and Tenth Street.

BRIAN WHITE: That's a health building. I used to serve a lot of them. They come from down there.

ROBERT ELLINGTON: Right next door to that is the East Baton Rouge Planning Commission is right next to the health unit. Right behind it, basically.

SHELLY LEJEUNE: Just wondering because I've been there before. They got people there all the time.

BRIAN WHITE: You get your social security card from there and birth certificate.

ROBERT ELLINGTON: I guess the issue you run into is if it's a parish building. Which I don't recall seeing that on the SLABS report which means it's not state owned. That might be the issue. But if they have vending or we want vending that's obviously a location we could approach them about.

FRANK GAFFNEY: That little Randolph Sheppard Act. Some places have it and some places don't.

ROBERT ELLINGTON: The mini–Randolph Sheppard Act. But the mini–Randolph Sheppard Act applies only to state locations, right.

FRANK GAFFNEY: There's another one with the parishes.

ROBERT ELLINGTON: Oh, really?

FRANK GAFFNEY: Yeah. Especially around New Orleans I know.

ROBERT ELLINGTON: I was not aware of that.

DON ARABY: Frank, I'm heading out.

FRANK GAFFNEY: All right. Meeting adjourned.