

December 1, 2022

On Thursday, December 1, 2022, at 9:00 a.m., the Police Jury of Sabine Parish, State of Louisiana met in open and special called session.

AGENDA

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Prayer
4. Pledge of Allegiance
5. Amend the Agenda
6. Adopt the Agenda
7. Public Comments
8. District Attorney Don Burkett -Discuss Sabine Parish Library Board Operations
9. Review and Approve 2023 Library Board Budget
10. Consider Requesting Attorney General Opinion on the Police Jury's Budgetary Control of the Sabine Parish Library Board
11. Consider Allowing Employees of the Sabine Parish Tourist & Recreation Commission to Participate in the Police Jury Group Health Insurance Plan
12. Adjournment

1. Call to Order

President Ricky L. Sepulvado called the meeting to order.

2. Roll Call

The roll was called by the Secretary Treasurer. The following jurors were present: "Bo" Stewart, Mike McCormic, William E. Ruffin, Stephen Steinke, "Jeff" Davidson, Eric Garcie, Ricky "K-Wall" Sepulvado, Kenneth M. Ebarb, and "Randy" Byrd.

3. Prayer

Prayer was led by Mr. William E. Ruffin.

4. Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mr. Mike McCormic.

5. Amend the Agenda

The agenda may be amended only by a unanimous vote of the Jurors present at the meeting.

A motion was made by McCormic and seconded by Davidson to amend the agenda to remove Item No. 9, Review and Approve 2023 Library Board Budget, from the agenda.

Public comments on the motion to amend the agenda were allowed prior to any vote. There were no public comments.

This motion having been submitted to a vote; the vote thereon was as follows:

Yeas: 7 - McCormic, Ruffin, Davidson, Garcie, Sepulvado, Ebarb, and Byrd

Nays: 2 – Stewart and Steinke

Abstain: 0

Absent: 0

Since there were two votes against amending the agenda, the motion failed.

6. Adopt the Agenda

Resolution No. 9163

Motion by Steinke and seconded by Stewart to adopt the agenda.

This resolution having been submitted to a vote; the vote thereon was as follows:

Yeas: 7 - Stewart, Ruffin, Steinke, Davidson, Garcie, Sepulvado, and Byrd

Nays: 2 – McCormic and Ebarb

Abstain: 0

Absent: 0

7. Public Comments

Police Jury President, Ricky L. Sepulvado, allowed a period of public comment on any item on the agenda.

Mr. Jamey Johnson, Mr. Pat Scarborough, Mrs. Joy Scarborough, and Mr. Pat Gandy made comments concerning the Sabine Parish Library Board.

8. District Attorney Don Burkett -Discuss Sabine Parish Library Board Operations

District Attorney Don Burkett addressed the Police Jury concerning the operations of the Sabine Parish Library Board. He has done extensive research into the proper operation of the Library Board.

Mr. Burkett first explained that money held by the Sabine Parish Library Board cannot be used to repair parish roads. The funds were derived through a tax dedicated to the operation of the parish library system and can only be used for that purpose unless a proposition reallocating the money is passed in a parish-wide election.

Mr. Burkett expressed his legal opinion that the Sabine Parish Library Board does not have authority to enter a contractual agreement. He opined that the Police Jury is the proper authority for the acquisition of land and for entering a contract for the erection of a building. The ultimate decision to build a building lies with the Police Jury not with the Library Board.

Mr. Burkett also noted that the Police Jury could abolish the parish library by ordinance at any time.

He encouraged the Police Jury to request an Attorney General's Opinion on these issues to obtain further clarification.

9. Review and Approve 2023 Library Board Budget

The jurors have previously been provided copies of the proposed Library Budget for the year 2023. The proposed budget presents Total Operating Income & Fund Balance of \$4,382,039 and Total Operating Expenditures of \$4,382,039.

Resolution No. 9164

Motion by McCormic and seconded by Steinke to table review and approval of the 2023 operating budget for the Sabine Parish Library.

This resolution having been submitted to a vote; the vote thereon was as follows:

Yeas: 9 - Stewart, McCormic, Ruffin, Steinke, Davidson, Garcie, Sepulvado, Ebarb, and Byrd

Nays: 0

Abstain: 0

Absent: 0

10. Consider Requesting Attorney General Opinion on the Police Jury's Budgetary Control of the Sabine Parish Library Board

There is a question as to the authority of the police jury to control the administrative and budgetary actions of the Sabine Parish Library Board. There has been a request for an opinion from the attorney general's office to clarify the authority of the police jury. A supporting resolution from the police jury is required to obtain an opinion.

Resolution No. 9165

Motion by McCormic and seconded by Steinke to authorize the Secretary Treasurer of the Sabine Parish Police Jury to request an Attorney General Opinion concerning the administrative and budgetary control that the Jury can exercise over the Sabine Parish Library Board.

This resolution having been submitted to a vote; the vote thereon was as follows:

Yeas: 8 - McCormic, Ruffin, Steinke, Davidson, Garcie, Sepulvado, Ebarb, and Byrd

Nays: 1 - Stewart

Abstain: 0

Absent: 0

11. Consider Allowing Employees of the Sabine Parish Tourist & Recreation Commission to Participate in the Police Jury Group Health Insurance Plan

The Sabine Parish Tourist and Recreation Commission has requested the Sabine Parish Police Jury to allow Commission employees to participate in the Police Jury's group health insurance plan.

Resolution No. 9166

Motion by McCormic and seconded by Steinke:

WHEREAS, the Sabine Parish Tourist and Recreation Commission will not be able to continue to provide health insurance coverage to its employees through Blue Cross Blue Shield after December 31, 2022, and

WHEREAS, the Sabine Parish Tourist and Recreation Commission approved joining the Police Jury's group health insurance plan during its October 18, 2022 meeting, and

WHEREAS, the Tourist Commission has agreed to reimburse the Police Jury, on a monthly basis, all costs incurred to allow Commission employees to participate in the Jury's group health insurance plan, including but not limited to the employee's and employer's portion of the insurance premium,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Sabine Parish Police Jury hereby approves allowing employees of the Sabine Parish Tourist and Recreation Commission to participate in the Sabine Parish Police Jury's group health insurance plan.

This resolution having been submitted to a vote; the vote thereon was as follows:

Yeas: 7 - McCormic, Ruffin, Steinke, Davidson, Garcie, Sepulvado, and Byrd

Nays: 2 – Stewart and Ebarb

Abstain: 0

Absent: 0

12. Adjournment

Resolution No. 9167

Motion by Stewart and seconded by Ruffin to adjourn.

This resolution having been submitted to a vote; the vote thereon was as follows:

Yeas: 9 - Stewart, McCormic, Ruffin, Steinke, Davidson, Garcie, Sepulvado, Ebarb, and Byrd

Nays: 0

Abstain: 0

Absent: 0

s/William E. Weatherford
William E. Weatherford
Secretary Treasurer

s/Ricky L. Sepulvado
Ricky L. Sepulvado
President