

December 20, 2018

The regular monthly meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the Bayou Lafourche Fresh Water District was held on Thursday, December 20, 2018 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
Donald Schwab
Jake Giardina
Francis Richard
Eli Miles, Jr.
Chris Domangue
Ray Mayet
Lance Authement
Scott LeBlanc

Absent: None

Also present were: David Boudreaux, Jason Kennedy, Delta Coast; Eric Dallimore, Stantec; Mike Sobert Loney Grabert, Terrebonne Parish Assessor; Ryan Allen, Louisiana Companies; Mrs. Miles Ryan Perque, FOBL; Mike Sobert; Henry Templet; Josh Bordelon; Robert Mire; Doodie Mire Barry Marionneaux, Attorney; Ben Malbrough, Executive Director
Jana Langley, Administrative Assistant

Moved by Commissioner Francis Richard, seconded by Commissioner Scott LeBlanc to dispense with the reading of the minutes, and approve the minutes of November 19, 2018. Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Commissioner Ray Mayet, seconded by Commissioner Jake Giardina to approve the accounts payable for November. Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Commissioner Eli Miles, Jr., seconded by Commissioner Scott LeBlanc to approve the finance report for November. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Malbrough advised that everything is operating as normal at the pump station, and in the bayou.

Mr. Eric Dallimore, Stantec, reported that they are finalizing the 90% design for the pump station project. They submitted the 408 permit to the Corps, and are waiting on responses back from them. They got a preliminary review from the fire marshal, and are addressing their concerns. They should be finished by February.

Mr. Malbrough advised that we have identified a potential funding source for the pump station project, which could move the project towards construction a lot quicker than anyone anticipated.

Mr. David Boudreaux, Delta Coast, reported that they are currently working on the water control structure project on the flow modeling to determine the loads that will be inserted on the gate when it will be opened. They are 25% complete at this time, and the 90% should be complete by the first quarter of next year. The permit has been submitted, and we are currently answering comments. Construction should begin by the middle of next year.

Mr. Loney Grabert, Terrebonne Parish Assessor, advised that with homestead exemption you are currently exempt from up to the first \$75,000 of the home that you live in, and the law provides that you only have one homestead per person or persons but can have only one per state. You are not allowed to have one here and one in Texas, etc. Currently they do not have any way or tracking the homestead. They go by the honor system.

Mr. Grabert stated that they contracted with Assessure Systems, who did a test study of five hundred subjects, and there were twenty-seven findings. Most of the findings were when someone's parents pass they do not realize they have to call the assessor's office and cancel their homestead. That is what they are seeing in the study. He advised that Assessure will do a review for 2018 and 2019. Mr. Grabert stated that he will have Assessure's software so that all the new homesteads that the assessor's office applies can be researched prior to granting the homestead. The Cooperative Endeavor Agreement with the Terrebonne Parish assessor will be adopted at the January meeting.

Mr. Malbrough reviewed the insurance proposal renewal for January 1, 2019 presented by Louisiana Companies. Mr. Malbrough reviewed the two options proposed. He advised that we have increased coverages and reduced premiums. He reviewed the two proposals for workers' compensation. Mr. Malbrough advised that we have added a cyber risk policy. Mr. Ryan Allen, Louisiana Companies, explained the cyber risk policy in detail.

Moved by Commissioner Chris Domangue, seconded by Vice-Chairman Gene Harrell and unanimously approved to accept Option 2 proposal presented by Louisiana Companies for the insurance renewal effective January 1, 2019 for a total of \$ 148,504.94.

Mr. Ben Malbrough advised that we revised our Standard Operating Procedures (SOP's). We have discussed this over the past several years. We also had to update five of our financial policies per legislative auditor requirements for our annual audits. We incorporated all the office and field policies into one document to give to all employees. The SOP's will be reviewed every year or every other year to see if any revisions need to be made.

Moved by Commissioner Francis Richard, seconded by Commissioner Scott LeBlanc to approve the revised Standard Operating Procedures (SOP's) as of December 20, 2018. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Ryan Perque introduced Mr. Mike Sobert as the new president of the Friends of Bayou Lafourche. Mr. Perque stated that Mr. Justin Tenney is Vice-President, Mr. Ben Caillouet is Secretary, and Mr. Henry Templet is Treasurer. We also have Mr. Lee Melancon and Dr. Ken Chadwick on the board. He advised that they currently have a Terrebonne parish position open, and the other position open is nominated by the chairman of the Bayou Lafourche Fresh Water District. We would like to see someone from the central area of Lafourche parish to represent that area.

Moved by Vice-Chairman Gene Harrell, seconded by Commissioner Ray Mayet and unanimously approved to amend the Cooperative Endeavor Agreement with Friends of Bayou Lafourche to extend the agreement through December 31, 2019.

The Chairman stated that the January board meeting will be moved to Tuesday, January 22, 2019 due to a holiday on the regularly scheduled meeting on January 21, 2019.

Moved by Commissioner Jake Giardina, seconded by Commissioner Eli Miles, Jr. and unanimously approved to grant a permit application to Rovig Minerals, 2812 1st Ave N., Suite 510, Billings, MT for 2 – 6" pipelines for the Cheryl Boudreaux No. 1 Well in Sections 3, 67, and 68, T15S - R17E in Lafourche Parish, approximately 2.7 miles southwesterly of Thibodaux, LA.

Moved by Commissioner Francis Richard, seconded by Commissioner Greg Nolan and unanimously approved to grant a permit application to Eric John Gravois, 4470 Hwy. 1, Napoleonville construct a retaining wall with backfill of dirt halfway down levee slope > 15 feet from normal mean water level of bayou. Retaining wall will be the entire length of property. This is an after-the-fact permit.

Moved by Commissioner Lance Authement, seconded by Commissioner Greg Nolan and unanimously approved to grant a permit application to Atmos Energy, 101 Apple Street, Norco, LA for a crossing that will be done by directionally boring 6' High Density Polyethylene (HDPE) gas pipe from the east side of LA 308; across and underneath Bayou Lafourche and exiting on the west side of LA Hwy 1. Total length of the bore is approximately 400 linear feet and the depth below the bayou will be at least 15 feet below the proposed channel bottom.

Mr. Ryan Perque stated that the St. Patrick's Day on the Bayou will be held Saturday, March 16, 2019. He advised that BTNEP's Paddle Bayou Lafourche event will be held April 11th and 12th, 2019.

Mr. Malbrough reported that the Donaldsonville Drainage Project is ready to go out for bid for construction.

Mr. Malbrough stated that we got the payment for the lawsuit settlement we discussed in executive session at last month's meeting. We are waiting for the river to drop so the contractor can go out and install the new pile.

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

Moved by Commissioner Jake Giardina, seconded by Commissioner Francis Richard and unanimously approved to go into executive session at 6:30 p.m. to discuss employee performance evaluations, and pay increases for employees effective January 1, 2019.

Moved by Commissioner Donald Schwab, seconded by Commissioner Eli Miles, Jr. and unanimously approved to return to regular session.

Moved by Commissioner Francis Richard, seconded by Commissioner Ray Mayet and unanimously approved to implement the employees pay increases effective January 1, 2019 according to the proposal that Mr. Malbrough provided per performance evaluations.

Moved by Commissioner Chris Domangue, seconded by Commissioner Scott LeBlanc and unanimously approved to increase the executive director pay by the cost of living increase of 2% plus 3½% performance based increase for a total of 5½%.

Moved by Commissioner Jake Giardina, seconded by Commissioner Donald Schwab and unanimously approved the meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Hugh Caffery, Chairman

Greg Nolan, Secretary/Treasurer