

PROCEEDINGS

CAMERON PARISH POLICE JURY
BUDGET MEETING

NOVEMBER 4, 2024

The Cameron Parish Police Jury met in regular session on Monday, November 4, 2024, in the Cameron Parish West Annex Board Room in the Village of Cameron, Louisiana at 2:00 o'clock P.M. for the review of the 2024 Budget and to hear budget request. The following members were present: Mr. Ronald Nunez, Jr., Mr. Mark Daigle, Mr. Magnus McGee, Mr. Danny Myers, Mr. Michael Fewell, and Mr. Johnny Watson. Mr. Sam Bordelon was absent.

Kayla Johnson, Treasurer, reviewed the 2024 Budget with the jury and answered any questions concerning the report.

Mr. Chaline Delaune with Tommy's Seafood was not here to address the jury.

Alyssa Portard with FISH (Fisherman Involved in Sustaining our Heritage) addressed the jury concerning industrial tax exemptions and property tax abatement pertaining to Venture Global. Mr. McGee and Mr. Fewell informed Ms. Portard this is a State not Parish exemption.

Mr. Nunez, President opened the floor for 2025 budget request.

Kara Bonsall, Coastal Zone Administrator, addressed the jury and requested a \$100,000.00 2025 budget allocation to execute a Professional Services Agreement needed to update the Cameron Master Plan which has not been updated since 2013.

It was moved by Mr. McGee, seconded by Mr. Watson, and carried, the board hereby grants authority to execute a professional services agreement and authorizes Katie Armentor, Parish Administrator to sign all documents pertaining to updating the Cameron Master Plan pending legal review.

Shane Manuel, Road & Bridge Superintendent gave an update on the Carl McCall Bridge replacement in Grand Chenier. The repair will cost approximately \$440,000.00. Jurors asked if any grants may be available to help with the cost, there are grants available and Ms. Armentor will be looking into grants. Kara and Shane explained that the permitting process will take time even if it is expediated, could the jury consider proceeding with the permitting process.

Mr. Nunez asked if allocation could wait until after the 1st of the year while grant funding is researched, without delaying the permitting process.

Mr. Daigle asked if the Grand Lake Recreation funds can be utilized to pay for the bridge, and the funds paid back when money is available.

Mr. Myers, asked how much interest has the Grand Lake Recreation funds earned thus far? Ms. Johnson stated it has only earned \$64,000.00.

It was moved by Mr. Fewell, seconded by Mr. Daigle, and carried, the board hereby grants authority to proceed with the permitting for the Carl McCall Bridge.

It was moved by Mr. Daigle, and seconded by Mr. McGee, to utilize the Grand Lake Recreation Funds to repair the Carl McCall Bridge and pay back the funds when allowed. The motion was then rescinded on a motion by Mr. Daigle and seconded by Mr. McGee.

It was moved by Mr. Fewell, seconded by Mr. Watson, and carried, the board hereby authorizes to reallocate LGAP grant funds to the Carl McCall Bridge.

Mr. Myers asked if South Cameron Consolidated Waterworks is going to pay the Police Jury back the money needed up front for the consolidation project, which is approximately \$700,000.00. Ms. Armentor stated the Waterworks will apply for reimbursement and repay the Police Jury when approved and received.

Katie Armentor, Administrator, answered questions from last month's meeting concerning the allocation to Jeff Davis Waterworks for the system upgrade. There are approximately 70 Cameron Parish residents, and approximately 425 Calcasieu Parish residents, out of approximately 3200 Jeff Davis Waterworks meters.

It was moved by Mr. Watson, seconded by Mr. Myers, and carried, the board hereby allocates \$50,000.00 to Jeff Davis Waterworks for system upgrade.

It was moved by Mr. McGee, seconded by Mr. Fewell, and carried, the board hereby allocates funds to survey Egret Street in Holly Beach to make sure the road was put back in the correct place by FEMA after Hurricane Rita which may be causing drainage issues.

Ms. Armentor's last item of discussion was implementing charging the parish entities for services that are done by the Police Jury employees, such as payroll, paying bills, grass cutting, and maintenance. One example is the average annual cost for the Road and Bridge Department to cut grass for the entities which is approximately \$64,000.00. This would be implemented after the 1st of the year, once all entities are notified.

It was moved by Mr. McGee, seconded by Mr. Myers, and carried, the board authorizes proceeding with charging entities for services performed by Police Jury employees.

With no other discussion or action needed, it was moved by Mr. McGee, seconded by Mr. Myers, and carried, the budget meeting was adjourned.

APPROVED:

RONALD NUNEZ JR., PRESIDENT

ATTEST:

MARY B CARROLL, SECRETARY