

**ROAD COMMITTEE  
MINUTES OF MEETING  
April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2018  
5:45 P.M.**

Present: John Watley, Glenn Hutto, Mike Jones and Nathan Futch. Absent: None. Also present was Jerry W. Taylor, Derek Kennedy, Charles Sawyer, Lanny Parker, Stan Smith, Bruce Hampton and a host of spectators.

Mr. Watley called the meeting to order. Mr. Watley addressed the audience and said this is not a public meeting, but a committee meeting. Due to the fact that there is a large audience the meeting is being held in the Jury room. Mr. Watley led the group in prayer.

**Motion Mr. Jones, seconded by Mr. Hutto and declared adopted by unanimous roll call vote of the Committee to approve the agenda as written.**

**Motion Mr. Hutto, seconded by Mr. Jones and declared adopted by unanimous vote to approve the minutes of the March 6<sup>th</sup>, 2018 meeting. Motion carried unanimously.**

**Motion Mr. Hutto, seconded by Mr. Jones to recommend to the full jury to provide one load of winter coal mix to the Town of Marion with the Town of Marion paying for the mix. Motion carried unanimously.**

A brief discussion was held on the selection of an engineering firm. Proposals were received from (1) Lazenby & Associates, Inc., (2) Meyer, Meyer, LaCroix & Hixson and (3) Riley Company of Louisiana, Inc. All three companies are very good companies. Proposals have been provided to the jurors. Mr. Dumas would continue to work on jobs he is working on. Mr. Dumas would be given a 30-day notice that he would no longer be involved with roads and bridges. A contract for the landfill would be needed and Mr. Dumas will be asked to provide one. Mr. Taylor and Lane Rugg interviewed all three company representatives and Mr. Taylor recommends Riley Company of Louisiana. Riley Company would best fit the needs of the Parish. Mr. Taylor states that Riley Company will be involved as much or as little as needed.

**Motion Mr. Jones, seconded by Mr. Hutto to recommend to the full jury to hire Riley Company of Louisiana as the engineering firm for Union Parish. Motion carried unanimously.**

Mr. Watley addressed the committee and stated that a couple of months ago a heavy equipment ordinance was drafted by Mr. Hampton. The draft was a guideline for the jury to look at and in no way was it meant to be final. Mr. Hutto addressed the committee and audience and stated that the jury is not trying to make it hard on anybody. The permit system will be as convenient as possible but will not be implemented overnight. It will be at least June or July before the ordinance goes into effect. The jury does not want anybody put out of business. The surrounding parishes are doing a permit system. Mr. Hutto would like to see the parish roads stopped being used as cut through roads and maintain what roads we have left.

Mr. Futch states that he thought the jury was going to work together on the ordinance. Mr. Futch states that the ordinance was leaked and he had loggers calling him even before he received a copy. Mr. Futch states that if the jury represents the people then we need to be of one accord

where nothing is leaked out. Mr. Futch said he found out who got the first ordinance and how it got started. Mr. Futch states that if we do something as a jury we need to be unified and nothing should be leaked out.

Mr. Watley gave Mark Preaus the floor to speak. Mr. Preaus thanked Mr. Watley for allowing him to speak. Mr. Preaus says the proposed ordinance is vague and gives too much authority to the Police Jury and there are too many gray areas. It is vague as to the fact as to who is enforcing this ordinance. Most of the parish roads are already substandard. An 80,000 pound truck is going to find every spot of weakness it can. The ruts will be deeper than 4 inches. The acquisition of a permit should not hinder the logger's operation. The permit should be easy to obtain and able to get 7 days a week. Please take into consideration that if you are going after the out of state logger or out of parish logger Union Parish may be known as a problem and they won't come to our area. Mr. Preaus does not want to see competition taken away. He does not know how the ordinance will be enforced or how strict it will be. Will the next jurors be lenient or tough? The ordinance should be simple so the public knows what they are dealing with. There are too many variables associated with this ordinance. How is the ordinance going to be regulated and enforced? Mr. Preaus believes that this will stop commerce in our parish.

Buck Vandersteen, Executive Director with the Louisiana Forestry Association addressed the committee and audience. The proceeds from the sale of timber land in Union Parish provides scholarships for young people. The Louisiana Forestry Association has a vested interest in Union Parish. Mr. Vandersteen states that in all the discussions he has heard the thing he hears the most is communication. This ordinance does not just affect forestry, it affects every hauler. Communication is extremely important. We understand the parish does not want to harm the timber industry. The Louisiana Forestry Association wants to work with the parish and the logging industry so that when an issue arises everyone can work together. The benefit of better communication is the relationship between the logger, the land owner and the police jury. A huge concern is the actual permit process. Loggers work seven (7) days a week and odd hours. How will that logger obtain a permit after working hours? The permit should be per job and not the individual truck. Mr. Vandersteen says he has an issue with bonding. Bonding is extremely difficult with insurance companies. *Mr. Hutto interrupts and states that the bonding language has been removed.* Mr. Vandersteen suggests that the ordinance not be presented tomorrow and the jury work with a logging and forestry committee to develop a set of ordinances that are beneficial to the timber industry. Mr. Vandersteen states that he will provide his phone number and if a situation arises and the parish cannot identify who is logging on a particular rode he will guarantee he can have the issue resolved in a 24-hour period.

Mr. Watley says we want to know where the loggers are going, where they are set up and we want to keep track of them. The permit process will be simple – just a phone call.

**Motion Mr. Hutto, seconded by Mr. Jones to recommend to the full jury to adopt the proposed Heavy Duty Equipment Ordinance and form a committee to work with the Louisiana Forestry Association and a group of area loggers to review the new ordinance. Motion carried unanimously.**

**There being no further business to come before the committee, Mr. Watley declared the meeting adjourned upon motion by Mr. Hutto and duly seconded by Mr. Jones on this the 2<sup>nd</sup> day of April, 2018.**

**John Watley, Chairman  
Paula Strickland, Secretary-Treasurer**