

COURTHOUSE COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF MEETING
March 3rd, 2020
5:00 P.M.

Present: John Watley, Curtis Moses, L.W. Nolan and Brenda Abercrombie. Also present, Nathan Pilgreen, Greg Gossler, Ben Bridges and Johnny Buckley

Mr. Watley called the meeting to order. Mr. Watley led the group in prayer.

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

Motion Mrs. Abercrombie, seconded by Mr. Nolan and declared adopted by unanimous vote to approve the minutes of the February 3rd, 2020 meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Greg Gossler, Union Parish Homeland Security Director, addressed the committee regarding a grant he has received. Mr. Gossler has received a grant to upgrade the EOC (Emergency Operations Center) which would require the use of the conference room at the Annex and taking in the adjoining office. In order to facilitate the needs of the jury this enhancement is needed. Mr. Gossler has secured funding in the amount of approximately \$13,000. There are no matching funds required to purchase the equipment. The money would be used to purchase one desktop computer, two large screen monitors, sound bars, wall capable mounts, modesty tables with chairs, a smart board and audio/video podium capability. Mr. Gossler said each year we can add to the equipment. The acquisition of the office next door allows enhancement to the capabilities of the emergency operation center.

Mr. Gossler explained that by having this equipment he will have the capability to have every jurors' district showing on a screen, all polling stations, houses of worship and any floodplain areas that exist. If we can tie in with the CAD system that 911 is working on we can show all of the 911 residences. In the event of an emergency having all this information at our fingertips will be very useful.

Mr. Gossler said we could also have the capability to identify dumpster sites and how many sites are in each area and identify political subdivisions within each jurors' district. There would also be an option to identify if a power grid is Claiborne or Entergy. Water districts, dirt roads, paved roads and district boundaries could be shown. Mr. Gossler said the capabilities are endless.

In addition to using as a conference room we can use this room as a training room for new employees. Mr. Gossler said there is no reason why Union Parish shouldn't be able to compete with other parishes.

Mr. Gossler reminded the members that all of his funding comes from state funds. The jury does not contribute anything to his salary. All funding for his office is 100% reimbursable.

In closing Mr. Gossler said that an Emergency Operations Center would be very beneficial to the jury. It would enhance our abilities to be in line with our adjacent parishes and it would help with any future disasters the jury might be facing.

The Secretary/Treasurer clarified that in order to complete this project the conference room will be expanded into the adjacent office. The adjacent office is currently being occupied by the HUD Director. There is an office available next door, an office at the courthouse or an office in the Annex that could be utilized. Mr. Watley said he would like to move forward with the expansion and the new equipment so Union Parish could be in line with other parishes.

Motion Mrs. Abercrombie, seconded by Mr. Nolan to recommend to the full jury to authorize Greg Gossler, Union Parish Homeland Security Director to move forward with a grant for the Operations Command Center and expand the conference room into the adjacent office. Motion carried unanimously.

There being no further business to come before the committee, Mr. Watley declared the meeting adjourned upon motion by Mr. Nolan and duly seconded by Mrs. Abercrombie on this the 3rd day of March, 2020.

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