

**FINANCE COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF MEETING**

February 7th, 2023

4:15 P.M.

Present: DeWayne Ramsey, Curtis Moses, Johnny Buckley and L.W. Nolan. Also present, Ben Bridges, Ceis Nyegaard, Nathan Pilgreen, A.J. Ford, Brenda Abercrombie, Tommy Durrett, Paul Riley, Johnny Creed, Shannon Futch, Fred Carr, Julio Haulcy (via phone), Tammy Ramsey and Lynn Ramsey.

Mr. Ramsey called the meeting to order. Mr. Nolan led the group in prayer.

Motion Mr. Buckley, seconded by Mr. Moses and declared adopted by unanimous Roll Call vote to approve the agenda as written.

Motion Mr. Nolan, seconded by Mr. Moses to approve the minutes of the December 29th, 2022 meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

The Secretary/Treasurer presented a quote from MoeBiz in the amount of \$19,965.96 for the purchase of audio and video equipment for the jury room. The quote included new mics for the jurors, speakers, audio recording system with network capabilities, LCD monitors, ceiling mounts, etc. The quote also included a separate amount for Open Meeting Software. The committee asked the Secretary/Treasurer to check with Webster Parish to see who did their audio/visual. **No action taken.**

A lengthy discussion was held regarding the property located at 605 Betty Street and the surrounding property. Mrs. Abercrombie addressed the Committee regarding a need for a consolidated Homeland Security site. Currently Homeland Security has a warehouse on Betty Street and an office at the courthouse.

Mrs. Abercrombie has recently been made aware of Facebook posts referencing the Betty Street Community Center and activities that are taking place. The activities that are referenced on Facebook include having parties and shootings.

Mrs. Abercrombie and Mr. Futch have been talking about how to eliminate the issue with the lack of space and the activities at the Betty Street community center. The Betty Street Community Center issues can be eliminated by selling the property. Mr. Futch has spoken with Representative Chris Turner regarding grants for a Homeland Security facility. The police jury purchased four (4) acres of land on Holder Road in 2014 for \$200,000. The land was paid for out of the Health Unit Fund. The Homeland Security operations could relocate there if the Health Unit Fund was reimbursed. The land was purchased with restricted funds.

Mrs. Abercrombie proposed selling the Betty Street Community Center. Those funds could then be transferred to the Health Unit Fund. The police jury offices would also be relocated to the Homeland Security facility. The offices at the Annex could be leased out and that would be an added source of revenue for the Police Jury.

Fred Carr addressed the committee. He is on the Board of Directors for the Betty Street Community Center. Mr. Carr stated that several individuals helped clean up the center and contributed money to the facility. Mr. Carr stated that there is a little league program for the children and they provided functions for the youth in the community.

Julio Haulcy (via phone) addressed the committee regarding the Facebook posts. Mr. Haulcy said the flyers were from 2021. Mr. Haulcy said there were limited functions for the youth in 2022 because of the violence from the juveniles.

Mr. Bridges expressed his concern regarding the Police Jury paying back the Health Unit Fund in the amount of \$200,000 to build a new building. He stated that the police jury has issues with roads and trash. It might not look good to build something at this point that is not necessary.
No action taken.

There being no more business to come before the committee, Mr. Ramsey declared the meeting adjourned upon motion by Mr. Nolan and duly seconded by Mr. Buckley on this the 7th day of February, 2023.

DeWayne Ramsey, Chairman
Paula Strickland, Secretary/Treasurer