

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
CADDO PARISH COMMISSION
HELD ON THE 18TH DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2010

The Caddo Parish Commission met in legal and regular session on the above date at 3:30 p.m. in the Government Chamber with Mr. John Escude, President, presiding, and the following members in attendance, constituting a quorum: Commissioners Baker, Cox, Dominick, Epperson, Escude, Jenkins, Linn, Lynch, McCulloch, Pierson, Smith and Thibodeaux (12). ABSENT: None.

The invocation was given by Mr. Dustin Rockwell, member of Boy Scout Troop 5, who also led the Commission in the Pledge of Allegiance. .

It was **moved by Mr. Pierson**, seconded by Mr. Epperson, *that the Minutes of the Regular Meeting held on February 4, 2010, be adopted.* Motion carried.

SPECIAL RESOLUTIONS

**RESOLUTION HONORING BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA
on their 100TH ANNIVERSARY**

WHEREAS, the Caddo Parish Commission is always desirous of acknowledging and recognizing those venerable organizations and institutions which have made immeasurable contributions to the moral and social heritage of this country, and particularly when those entities serve the youth of this nation; and

WHEREAS, the Boy Scouts of America, incorporated on February 8, 1910, is observing its 100th anniversary of providing to young men a wholesome and enjoyable program in which they develop invaluable life skills, learn to make ethical choices, and grow into responsible and productive adults; and

WHEREAS, the local Norwela Council of the Boy Scouts also is celebrating 87 years of enriching the lives of boys and shaping their growth into honorable manhood, having served that role for more than half a million youth in Northwest Louisiana. It currently serves 3,500 youth in units chartered by more than 130 churches, schools and civic organizations throughout the nine parishes of Norwela Council; and

WHEREAS, the Norwela Scouts serve their communities through such efforts as "Good Turn Day", in which they collect food and clothing for the Food Bank and for Goodwill Industries. They heighten their scouting experience through troop activities and through the camping program held at Garland Scout Ranch in DeSoto Parish. The Norwela Council is proud of the fact that 3,000 area young men have achieved Eagle Scout rank, including the 34 members of the 2010 Eagle Scout Class who have completed more than 3,000 hours of community service.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Caddo Parish Commission, in legal and regular session this 18th day of February, 2010, that it does hereby congratulate and commend the Boy Scouts of America on the occasion of Scouting's 100th anniversary.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Commission does also extend much appreciation to the Norwela Council Executive Board, Scout Executive Bobby Madison and all the Scout troops and members for continuing to exemplify the highest and noblest traits and values; and it prays that their aspirations and energies will continue to be focused on ideas and activities that reflect good citizenship and an innate sense of caring and concern for others.

It was **moved by Mr. Jenkins**, seconded by Mr. Pierson, *that the foregoing resolution be adopted.*

Mr. Bobby Madison, Scout Executive, came forward along with several scouts from Norwela Council. He expressed his appreciation for the Commission's recognition and support of Scouting, and for the sentiments expressed in its resolution. Norwela Council is strong, he said, and it is going to be stronger.

Mr. Thibodeaux commented that when he was involved in Scouting, the organization was celebrating its 50th anniversary. He said that it was one of the most rewarding activities of his young life, and he would like to see the Commission get more involved in its support.

COMMUNIQUES AND REPORTS

- Letter from Mr. Jimmy Couvillion advising of his resignation from the Board of Fire District No. 6
- Letter from Communications District No. 1 advising of the term expiration for Mr. Archer Frierson, who is the Sheriff's appointee, and requesting replacement for Mr. Marty Wooldridge, who has resigned
- Letter from State Treasurer John Kennedy advising that the latest population estimate for Caddo Parish, as submitted by the Research Division, College of Administration and Business, Louisiana Tech University, is 258,463

President Escude reported that on Monday the Commission had assembled as a committee of the whole to consider a Property Standards case, that being the property of Mr. Mark Yawn at 609 Robert Travis Drive, Shreveport. He said that after hearing and seeing information relative to this case, the Commission had unanimously voted to allow Mr. Yawn 90 days to bring the house up to Parish health and safety standards. The Commission also authorized unannounced inspections of the property by members of the Parish Property Standards Office, he said.

President Escude said that Mr. Yawn was further advised that if he fails to satisfy the Parish's requirements within the specified 90-day period, the house is subject to immediate demolition. He said that with the Commission's consent he would establish day-one of the 90-day period to be this date, February 18, 2010.

At this time Commissioner Cox came forward and stated that he wished to make a special presentation. He stated that at the Police Jury Association of Louisiana's annual convention in Lake Charles the following week Commissioner Carl Pierson will be sworn in as that organization's president for 2010.

Mr. Cox then presented Mr. Pierson a plaque commemorating that event and noting that Mr. Pierson is only the third person from Caddo Parish to serve as president of PJA:L.

CITIZENS COMMENTS

Mr. Jim Adams came forward and identified himself as the assistant administrator of the Northwest Louisiana War Veterans' Home in Bossier City. Noting that the Commission has on its agenda a resolution in opposition to reductions in staff positions at the Northwest Louisiana War Veterans' Home in Bossier City, Mr. Adams said that Mr. Lane Carson, Secretary of the Louisiana Department of Veterans' Affairs, had wished to appear before the Commission but was unable to do so. Instead, the Secretary had asked that Mr. Adams read his prepared statement:

"Dear members of the Caddo Parish Commission:

As Secretary of the Louisiana Department of Veterans' Affairs I am responding to the concerns of some local residents as well as some recent media coverage in your area regarding a new service delivery system at our veterans' homes.

First and foremost, please note that the service delivery plan LDVA is implementing at its veterans' homes does not involve cuts in services to our resident veterans. This new plan simply involves the re-delivery of the way those services are provided.

To provide you with some context, here is a summary of how and why LDVA developed this new service delivery plan:

Because of the State's impending budget deficit, LDVA committed to identifying areas for greater efficiency and effectiveness within LDVA war veterans' homes. Research shows that approximately two-thirds of all veterans' homes across the country have contract physicians and pharmacists. LDVA has a five-year successful history with contract physicians at its Southwest Louisiana Veterans' Home in Jennings. For many years two of LDVA's veterans' homes in Jackson (28 years) and Monroe (14 years) have accessed prescription medications from the VA at virtually no cost to LDVA or our residents.

My staff and I have met with concerned residents and their families at the Bossier City facility in January 2010. They had two main concerns, two of which have been met. First LDVA agreed to retain the full-time chief medical director at the Bossier City location to care for those local residents and also to provide quality control for the contract physicians at the other LDVA homes.

Second, LDVA addressed their concerns regarding nurse practitioners. The decision was made, upon recommendation by the chief medical director, to retain a registered nurse rather than a nurse practitioner. It was determined that this would not negatively impact the care to resident veterans and would satisfy the concerns providing physicians for services.

The third issue raised in Bossier City is regard to pharmacy services. In the new LDVA plan, 80 percent of prescription medications are provided by VA at no charge to resident veterans. LDVA determined it is not cost-justified to continue to employ full-time pharmacists at all five locations when all but 20 percent of prescription needs are met at no charge through VA.

Therefore, LDVA elected to have one centralized pharmacy located at the Southeast Louisiana Veterans' Home in Reserve to handle the 20 percent prescription needs. LDVA has contracted with a pharmacy consultant who will oversee and guarantee security and delivery of medications. The pharmacy consultant is supported by a medications specialist and administrative support in all five homes. Cost savings through the centralized pharmacy will be passed on directly to resident veterans. LDVA staff is

researching ways to reduce or eliminate co-pays for medications and medical care where co-pays apply.

The potential savings realized through the new plan are intended to be used to offer competitive wages and align with hospitals and other similar facilities in the area for certified nursing assistants (CNAs), as LDVA wages are below market rate. These CNAs are responsible for the majority of the direct daily care given to our resident veterans.

In closing, due to the State deficit and the need to be more efficient and effective LDVA, with approval from the Streamlining Commission and the Civil Service Commission, has developed a plan that is based on successes realized in other states where similar delivery systems are used and the successes seen at our own LDVA facilities. I feel it is prudent and good management to extend this service delivery system throughout all of our veterans facilities.

Please note that I have and will continue to keep an open dialogue with concerned residents and their families to ensure a smooth transition through the process. As a combat-disabled Viet Nam veteran I can assure you that I would never do anything to jeopardize the quality of care for our veterans.

Lane A. Carson, Secretary
Louisiana Department of Veterans' Affairs"

Mr. Escude said that earlier in the day he had spoken by telephone with Secretary Carson, who spoke to Commissioner Epperson as well. Mr. Carson expressed his intention to come before the Commission at its first meeting in March to further explain the actions of his department and address local concerns. He had asked that the Commission delay action on its resolution until after that presentation, Mr. Escude said.

Mr. Escude asked, in view of the comprehensive statement read by Mr. Adams, if it is still the intention of Secretary Carson to appear at the March 4 Commission meeting. Mr. Adams said that it is his intention if the Commission agrees to delay action on the resolution; he would like to present his case in person.

Mr. Escude asked if the Secretary will propose anything different, or be amenable to recommendations, when he comes before the Commission. Mr. Adams said he is not privy to Secretary Carson's intentions.

The President thanked Mr. Adams for his presentation.

PUBLIC HEARING ON ORDINANCES

- Ordinance No. 4963 of 2010, amending the Budget of Estimated Revenues and Expenditures for the Health Tax Fund for a donation for Animal Services in the amount of \$2,500 for the year 2010
- Ordinance No. 4964 of 2010 amending the Budget of Estimated Revenues and Expenditures for the Public Works Fund for FEMA Grant proceeds in the amount of \$1,068,076 for the year 2010
- Ordinance No. 4965 of 2010, amending the Budget of Estimated Revenues and Expenditures for the Riverboat Fund for the Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse in the amount of \$32, 280 for the year 2010
- Ordinance No. 4966 of 2010, amending the Budget of Estimated Revenues and Expenditures for the Juvenile Justice Fund for a probation program titled " Facts of Life", in the amount of \$50,000 for the year 2010

The President asked if there was anyone present to speak in support of or in opposition to any of the above ordinances.

Mr. Bill Handorf, executive director of the Council on Alcohol and Drug Abuse of Northwest Louisiana, came forward. He said that this organization has been serving this area for 51 continuous years, providing treatment services to residents suffering from addictions to alcohol and/or drugs. He asked the Commission's favorable consideration of the agency's request for a \$33,000 grant to fund its STEPS Detox Program, as represented in Ordinance No. 4965.

There being no other speakers, the President declared the public hearing to be concluded.

ORDINANCES FOR FINAL PASSAGE

ORDINANCE NO. 4963 OF 2010

BY CADDO PARISH COMMISSION:

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE BUDGET OF ESTIMATED REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES FOR THE HEALTH TAX FUND FOR THE YEAR 2010 TO APPROPRIATE A DONATION IN THE AMOUNT OF \$2,500 FOR ANIMAL SERVICES AND TO OTHERWISE PROVIDE WITH RESPECT THERETO

WHEREAS, the Caddo Parish Department of Animal Services and Mosquito Control received a \$2,500 donation from the Baton Rouge Area Foundation to recognize the progress that Caddo Parish has made with humane treatment, becoming more transparent, and decreasing the number of healthy and treatable animals euthanized; and

WHEREAS, the donation will be used to provide training for Kennel Workers to receive additional information on how to properly sanitize cages and kennels, how to deal with the public, and how to identify sick animals and prevent disease; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary to amend the 2010 Budget in order to appropriate said donation.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED, by the Caddo Parish Commission in due, legal and regular session convened, that the Budget of Estimated Revenues and Expenditures for the Public Works Fund for the year 2010 is hereby amended as follows:

| <u>Line Item</u> | <u>Budget Increase (Decrease)</u> |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Revenues: | |
| Private Donations | \$2,500 |
| Expenditures: | |
| Animal Services | |
| Education, Training, and Travel | \$2,500 |

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that if any provision or item of this ordinance or the application thereof is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions, items or applications which can be given effect without the invalid provisions, items or applications, and to this end the provisions of this ordinance are hereby declared severable.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that this ordinance shall take effect upon adoption.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that all ordinances or parts thereof in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

It was **moved by Ms. Lynch**, seconded by Mr. Dominick, *that Ordinance No. 4963 of 2010, amending the Health Tax Fund Budget to accept a donation for Animal Services in the amount of \$2,500, be adopted.* That motion carried, as shown by the following roll call vote: AYES: Commissioners Baker, Cox, Dominick, Epperson, Escude, Jenkins, Linn, Lynch, McCulloch, Pierson, Smith and Thibodeaux (12). NAYS: None. ABSTAINING: None. ABSENT: None.

ORDINANCE NO. 4964 OF 2010

BY CADDO PARISH COMMISSION:

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE BUDGET OF ESTIMATED REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES FOR THE PUBLIC WORKS FUND FOR THE YEAR 2010 TO APPROPRIATE FEMA GRANT PROCEEDS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,068,076, AND TO OTHERWISE PROVIDE WITH RESPECT THERETO

WHEREAS, the Caddo Parish Department of Public Works received a FEMA Grant under the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program through the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness; and

WHEREAS, the grant will be used to acquire flood-prone properties in the Wallace Lake area; and

WHEREAS, the Parish of Caddo must use the grant funds in accordance with the grant requirements; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary to amend the 2010 Budget in order to appropriate said grant proceeds.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED, by the Caddo Parish Commission in due, legal and regular session convened, that the Budget of Estimated Revenues and Expenditures for the Public Works Fund for the year 2010 is hereby amended as follows:

| <u>Line Item</u> | <u>Budget Increase (Decrease)</u> |
|---|-----------------------------------|
| Revenues: | |
| FEMA Grant | \$1,068,076 |
| Expenditures: | |
| Public Works Administration Grant Programs | \$1,068,076 |

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that if any provision or item of this ordinance or the application thereof is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions, items or applications which can be given effect without the invalid provisions, items or applications, and to this end the provisions of this ordinance are hereby declared severable.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that this ordinance shall take effect upon adoption.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that all ordinances or parts thereof in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

It was **moved by Ms. Lynch**, seconded by Mr. Dominick, *that Ordinance No. 4964 of 2010, amending the Public Works Fund Budget to accept FEMA Grant proceeds in the amount of \$1,068,076, be adopted.* That motion carried, as shown by the following roll call vote: AYES: Commissioners Baker, Cox, Dominick, Epperson, Escude, Jenkins, Linn, Lynch, McCulloch, Pierson, Smith and Thibodeaux (12). NAYS: None. ABSTAINING: None. ABSENT: None.

ORDINANCE NO. 4965 OF 2010

BY CADDO PARISH COMMISSION:

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE BUDGET OF ESTIMATED REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES FOR THE RIVERBOAT FUND FOR THE YEAR 2010 TO PROVIDE AN APPROPRIATION OF \$32,280 FOR THE COUNCIL ON ALCOHOLISM AND DRUG ABUSE, AND TO OTHERWISE PROVIDE WITH RESPECT THERETO

WHEREAS, the Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse of Northwest Louisiana, Inc. operates 16 programs in the Caddo Parish area to provide treatment to those suffering from addiction to alcohol and other drugs, and to educate individuals, community agencies, and healthcare professionals on issues related to the prevention and treatment of addictive diseases; and

WHEREAS, the Council is seeking an appropriation from the Commission to fund two beds at the STEPS detoxification program; and

WHEREAS, the STEPS program is a seven day residential program designed to assist persons in the very difficult first days of withdrawal from alcohol and/or other drugs; and

WHEREAS, these beds are not funded through any other source and the Council's state funding has been reduced by nine percent; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary to amend the 2010 Budget to provide an appropriation in the amount \$32,280 for the Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED, by the Caddo Parish Commission in due, legal and regular session convened, that the Budget of Estimated Revenues and Expenditures for the Riverboat Fund for the year 2010 is hereby amended as follows:

| <u>Line Item</u> | <u>Budget Increase (Decrease)</u> |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse | \$ 32,280 |

Fund Balance \$ (32,280)

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that if any provision or item of this ordinance or the application thereof is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions, items or applications which can be given effect without the invalid provisions, items or applications, and to this end the provisions of this ordinance are hereby declared severable.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that this ordinance shall take effect upon adoption.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that all ordinances or parts thereof in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

It was **moved by Mr. Linn**, seconded by Mr. Cox, *that Ordinance No. 4965 of 2010, amending the Riverboat Fund Budget to allocate \$32,280 for the Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse, be adopted.* That motion carried, as shown by the following roll call vote: AYES: Commissioners Baker, Cox, Dominick, Epperson, Escude, Jenkins, Linn, Lynch, McCulloch, Pierson, Smith and Thibodeaux (12). NAYS: None. ABSTAINING: None. ABSENT: None.

ORDINANCE NO. 4966 OF 2010

BY THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSION:

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE BUDGET OF ESTIMATED REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES FOR THE JUVENILE JUSTICE FUND FOR THE YEAR 2010 TO PROVIDE AN APPROPRIATION OF \$50,000 FOR A PROBATION PROGRAM TITLED "FACTS OF LIFE", AND TO OTHERWISE PROVIDE WITH RESPECT THERETO

WHEREAS, the Department of Juvenile Services would like to expand their services for the juveniles on probation; and

WHEREAS, the probation program, "Facts of Life," is a 8-week program which has a curriculum to provide juvenile offenders with a method of decision making that will maximize their potential to make positive, pro-social contributions to the community and refrain from reoffending; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Juvenile Services needs an appropriation of \$50,000 to fund the cost of the probation program; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED, by the Caddo Parish Commission in due, legal and regular session convened, that Budget of Estimated Revenues and Expenditures for the Juvenile Justice Fund for the year 2010 is hereby amended as follows:

Budget Increase (Decrease)

Juvenile Justice Fund

Special Programs \$50,000

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that if any provision or item of this ordinance or the application thereof is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions, items or applications which can be given effect without the invalid provisions, items or applications, and to this end the provisions of this ordinance are hereby declared severable.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that this ordinance shall take effect upon adoption.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that all ordinances or parts thereof in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

It was **moved by Mr. Linn**, seconded by Mrs. Baker, *that Ordinance No. 4966 of 2010, amending the Juvenile Justice Fund Budget to allocate \$50,000 for a juvenile probation program titled "Facts of Life", be adopted.* That motion carried, as shown by the following roll call vote: AYES: Commissioners Baker, Cox, Dominick, Epperson, Escude, Jenkins, Linn, Lynch, McCulloch, Pierson, Smith and Thibodeaux (12). NAYS: None. ABSTAINING: None. ABSENT: None.

ORDINANCES: (For introduction, by title)

Ordinance No. 4967 of 2010 amending Chapter 14 of the Code of Ordinances by adding Article V comprising of Section 14-111 -14-125 "Commercial Vehicle Enforcement", and providing for the establishment of reasonable and uniform supplemental road and bridge use regulations for the Parish of Caddo; fines and penalties for violation thereof

Ordinance No. 4968 of 2010 to relocate the polling place for Precinct No. 126 (District 10) from Caddo Fire District No. 6. 10377 Linwood Avenue, Shreveport, Louisiana 71106 to the Faith Baptist Church, 10525 Linwood Avenue, Shreveport, Louisiana 71106

Ordinance No. 4969 of 2010 to amend and re-enact Ordinance No. 4851 of 2008, authorizing the acceptance of an irrevocable donation of certain property located within Caddo Parish from OSL Properties, LLP

WORK SESSION MINUTES

It was **moved by Mr. Pierson**, seconded by Mr. Thibodeaux, *that the Work Session Minutes of February 1, 2010, be ratified.* Motion carried.

RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION NO. 15 OF 2010

BY THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSION:

A RESOLUTION TO URGE AND REQUEST THE LOUISIANA LEGISLATURE TO TERMINATE THE CADDO PARISH JAIL SITE FUND IN ARTICLE XIV, SECTION 32 OF THE LOUISIANA CONSTITUTION OF 1921 MADE STATUTORY PURSUANT ARTICLE XIV, SECTION 16 (A)(10) OF LOUISIANA CONSTITUTION OF 1974 AND TO AUTHORIZE CADDO PARISH TO USE ANY FUNDS NOW IN THE CADDO PARISH JAIL SITE FUND FOR ANY AUTHORIZED PURPOSE, AND TO OTHERWISE PROVIDE WITH RESPECT THERETO.

WHEREAS, in 1938 Caddo Parish received legislative and voter approval to sell a jail that at that time was located in Downtown Shreveport through the adoption of Article XIV, Section 32 of the 1921 Louisiana Constitution, made statutory when the 1974 Constitution was enacted; and

WHEREAS, the same law authorizing the aforesaid sale established the "Caddo Parish Jail Site Fund" and required that the proceeds of the sale of the jail site be deposited into that Fund to be used by the Parish only as a source of funds to borrow annually until the property taxes were collected at the end of the year, after which the Fund would be repaid; and

WHEREAS, there is currently approximately 1.2 million dollars in the said Fund; and

WHEREAS, the Parish no longer has a need to borrow funds in anticipation of the collection of its property taxes at the end of the year; and

WHEREAS, as a result of this the money in the Fund all belonging to the taxpayers of Caddo Parish, serves no useful purpose; and

WHEREAS, the taxpayers of Caddo Parish would be better served if the Jail Site Fund was closed and the money in it transferred to the Parish's General Fund were it could be used in some manner that benefits the taxpayers of Caddo Parish.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Caddo Parish Commission in due, regular and legal session convened, that it does hereby urge and request the Louisiana Legislature to support at its forthcoming regular session to be convened on March 29, 2010, a bill or bills to repeal subsection (b)(c)(d)(e)(f) of Section 32 of Article XIV of the Louisiana Constitution of 1921, made statutory pursuant Article XIV, Section 16 (A)(10) of Louisiana Constitution of 1974, to eliminate the Caddo Parish Jail Site Fund and to authorize Caddo Parish to use any funds now in the Caddo Parish Jail Site Fund for any authorized purpose.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that if any provision or item of this resolution or the application thereof is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions, items or applications which can be given effect without the invalid provisions, items or applications, and to this end, the provisions of this resolution are hereby declared severable.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all resolutions or parts thereof in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

It was **moved by Ms. Lynch**, seconded by Mr. Jenkins, *that Resolution No. 15 of 2010, to urge and request the Louisiana Legislature to terminate the Caddo Parish Jail Site Fund in Article XIV, Section 32 of the Louisiana Constitution of 1921, made statutory pursuant Article XIV, Section 16 (A)(10) of Louisiana Constitution of 1974, and to authorize Caddo Parish to use any funds now in the Caddo Parish Jail Site Fund for any authorized purpose, be adopted.*

Mr. Dominick made a substitute motion, seconded by Mr. Cox, that action on this resolution be delayed until the Commission's meeting on March 4.

Mr. Dominick said that he had had a conversation with Sheriff Steve Prator, who expressed a desire to address the Commission in relation to this issue. Mr. Dominick said that he too has some concerns about the proposed termination of this fund, which contains more than \$1 million.

Mr. Dominick said that the Commission has hired a consultant to perform a study on a possible expansion of the Parish's current jail capacity. As he understands, he said, the money now in the Jail Site Fund, if terminated, would go back into the Parish's General Fund. If the Parish is considering an expansion of jail facilities, he said, it might be prudent to dedicate those funds to that purpose. He said he would at least like to hear what the Sheriff might have to say.

Answering a question from Ms. Lynch, Mr. Charles Grubb, Parish Attorney, stated that the Jail Site Fund was established by the Legislature in 1938 as a receptacle for the proceeds of the sale of a former Parish jail site at the southeast corner of Milam and McNeill Streets. The legislation provided that the Caddo Parish Police Jury could not spend the principal of the Fund, but that it could only borrow from the Fund each year in anticipation of the collection of ad valorem taxes. The Parish has since that time been borrowing from the Fund each spring and repaying the loan with interest in the fall.

Mr. Grubb said that the Fund has through the years served as a valuable cash-flow tool for the Parish. In recent years, however, the financial condition of the Parish has been such that it has not been necessary to use those funds to alleviate cash-flow concerns, he said. As a practical matter, no purpose is now being served by having that \$1.2 million sitting idle, he said.

Answering another question from Ms. Lynch, Mr. Grubb said that the Jail Site Fund has no relationship whatsoever with current jail operations or facilities. The only association is the historical origin reflected in its title, he said.

Ms. Lynch said that she was somewhat "blind-sided" at the revelation that the Sheriff has expressed an interest in this Fund and the use of its contents. She asked Administrator Woodrow Wilson if he was aware of the Sheriff's concerns about where this money would go.

Mr. Wilson said that the Administration has met with the Sheriff on a couple of occasions when the matter was discussed, and the Sheriff raised his questions when learned that the Commission was considering asking the Legislature to remove the constraints on the Fund. They tried to explain to the Sheriff, he said, that the money in the Fund is not obligated or dedicated to jail purposes in any way. The Sheriff was under the impression that it should be used for expansion of jail facilities.

Mr. Grubb stated that the Sheriff is correct that the money could be used for a jail-related purpose after the Legislature approves the termination of the Fund. They are dollars that at this time are serving no useful purpose.

Answering a question from Mr. Epperson, Mr. Grubb pointed out that the resolution before the Commission takes no legal action in regard to this Fund; it merely requests that the Legislature amend State law, which now restricts the Commission to using the Fund only for cash-flow borrowing. He said that a legislator has agreed to handle the bill in the Legislature, but she has asked that the Commission provide a tangible expression of its will, as this resolution provides.

Mr. Pierson asked if the Commission has reached a point where it is entertaining the notion of expanding the jail, or is it waiting for the results of the study being conducted. Mr. Wilson said that the study is only in its second week, so no plans have been formulated.

Mr. Pierson said that if the Commission should determine that a jail expansion is in order, it can allocate the funds for that purpose from any of several sources that it already has. Jail expansion holds no particular claim to the Jail Site Fund money, he said.

He said he would like to see the Commission move forward with this resolution. After it runs its course in the legislative process, the Commission can at that time make further decisions about the use of this money, but its availability or non-availability will have no bearing on the matter of jail expansion, he said. Decisions relative to the question of jail expansion will be driven only by the results of the study now underway, and the Commission can then use whatever funds at its disposal to effect the expansion, if one is deemed necessary.

Mr. Escude said the confusing thing about this issue is why it should even be a concern of any other Parish governmental entity. Just because the Fund has "Jail" in its title does not mean that it has anything at all to do with the Sheriff's Office, the Coroner's Office, the Clerk of Court or any other entity. The money belongs to the people of Caddo Parish, he said. The Commission is simply trying to countermand an archaic law to unencumber the money so it can be put to a better use.

As Mr. Pierson pointed out, he said, when the time comes that the Commission feels a need to provide additional or adequate jail space, it can decide the matter at that time based on the needs and the available resources at that time.

Mr. Dominick said he believes it would be good for the Sheriff to address the

Commission. The Commission is doing a jail study, and it might be a good idea to set these funds aside as start-up money for possible jail construction, he said. A two-week delay to allow the Sheriff to come before the Commission would not affect the outcome of this proposal, he said.

Mr. Escude said that this proposal will probably receive some opposition in the Legislature. It would be good if the Legislature approved the termination of this fund, but if not, the Parish can continue to utilize it as it has since 1938. It is not a good idea to dedicate or set-aside those funds for a jail project at this time, he said.

At this time Mr. Dominick's motion to delay failed, as shown by the following roll call vote: AYES: Commissioners Dominick, Smith, Linn and Cox (4). NAYS: Commissioners Jenkins, McCulloch, Lynch, Thibodeaux, Escude, Epperson, Baker and Pierson (8). ABSTAINING: None. ABSENT: None.

Ms. Lynch's motion to adopt Resolution No. 15 of 2010 then carried, as shown by the following roll call vote: AYES: Commissioners McCulloch, Pierson, Linn, Jenkins, Baker, Lynch, Escude, Thibodeaux, Cox, Smith and Epperson (11). NAYS: Commissioners Dominick (1). ABSTAINING: None. ABSENT: None.

It was **moved by Mr. Epperson**, seconded by Mr. Cox, *that action on Resolution No. 16 of 2010, opposing the LA Department of Veterans Affairs removal of the positions of physician assistant and pharmacist from the budget of the Northwest LA War Veterans Home, be delayed until the Mr. Lane Carson, Secretary of the Louisiana Department of Veterans' Affairs, can come and address the Commission at its first Work Session on March 1.*

Mr. Epperson said that is an issue that concerns him and other current and former Commissioners who helped work for development of the Veterans' Cemetery in Caddo Parish, as well as the Northwest Louisiana War Veterans' Home in Bossier City. He said he would hope the Secretary will come forward with some meaningful recommendations during his visit.

Mr. Cox said he too would expect something meaningful from Secretary Carson's visit. Louisiana's veterans should not be penalized because of the State's shortcomings. He said he hopes to talk to the Governor about this issue at the Police Jury Association convention the following week.

Mr. Epperson's motion then carried.

NEW BUSINESS

It was **moved by Mr. Epperson**, seconded by Mrs. McCulloch, *that the sale of any property or any potential sales or negotiations for such property in the area known as Caddo Industrial Park be immediately terminated.*

Mr. Epperson said that he is still researching various matters relative to this tract, and he desires to have further conversations with his constituents on the matter.

Mr. Pierson said that the original motion proposed by Mr. Epperson on Monday referred to with development of a recreation area. He asked if that discussion is part of Mr. Epperson's current motion. Mr. Epperson said his motion refers only to restricting commercial use of the property, indefinitely.

Mr. Linn asked if this motion intends to restrict any future commercial or industrial use of that property. Mr. Epperson said that it does.

Mr. Linn said he understands Mr. Epperson's motives, and they are commendable, but he would like to see a study of all Parish industrial parks and other undesignated lands to outline possible future uses of them all. In 1984 designating the Shirley Francis Road property as a future recreational site seemed to be a good idea; it is now 2010, it is not yet a recreational site and does not appear to be a good idea. If circumstances have changed for that site, there are probably others within the Parish system that need to be re-evaluated as well in order to avoid issues such as this, he said.

Mr. Thibodeaux said he believes the only effect of Mr. Epperson's motion would be to send a message to the Administration to refrain from any efforts to market that property. To effect a permanent and legal change of the site's zoning status would require an ordinance, he said. An ordinance would also be required to amend or repeal any previously-adopted ordinances relative to this site.

Answering a question from Mr. Thibodeaux, Mr. Grubb said that the Shirley Francis property is currently zoned I-1 industrial, so it can now be used for industrial purposes without any further zoning. An interesting point he only learned earlier in the day, he said, is that the property is now located inside the City of Shreveport. Any zoning change would have to be approved by the City Council.

If the property should again be designated as a recreational site, Mr. Grubb continued, 'recreational park' is not a use-by-right in I-1. A new zoning ordinance would be required. He pointed out that there are restrictive covenants on this tract that define the use of the property as for industrial purposes only. However, a clause in the covenant says that the Parish can also put non-industrial uses on the property. That means that the Parish is free to do so, subject to the zoning ordinances. The only thing the Parish would have to do to develop this tract as a recreational park would be to apply to have it re-zoned, he said.

Answering another question from Mr. Thibodeaux, Mr. Grubb said that Ordinance No. 4155 adopted by the Commission in 2003 named this tract "the Caddo Industrial Park" and authorized the execution of restrictive covenants that had been previously negotiated with the Whelan Corporation, which had bought a portion of the tract. Because the covenants have a provision that says "The Parish is authorized to approve uses other than industrial uses not otherwise prohibited by these covenants", it appears that the Commission could, if it desired to do so, could develop the property as a recreational park or put any other non-industrial use on it, so long as whatever was done would not diminish the value or adversely affect the other property owner, he said.

In summary, Mr. Grubb said, if the Commission should decide upon an alternate use for the property, such as a recreational park, it could effect that decision by re-zoning the property and appropriating funds for development of it. That would, however, create a peculiar situation because it would place a recreational park in the middle of an area designated as an industrial park, he said.

He said that the Commission has in a prior term named this area as the "Caddo Industrial Park", which was obviously a legislative expression of the Commission's will at that time that the tract would be used for industrial purposes. However, the same ordinance that so named the property contained restrictive covenants that authorizes uses other than industrial uses not otherwise prohibited in the covenants.

For "housekeeping" purposes, he said, he believes it would be advisable to amend the ordinance, but he does not think it is legally necessary.

Mr. Thibodeaux said that he would like to leave the Commission's options open, so he cannot support this motion. He said that he would like to request that if this motion should pass, and the Administration should subsequently receive an inquiry from a business or industry relative to this property, knowledge of that request should be submitted to the full Commission. Until the Commission has formally and legally changed the classification for this property, all options should remain open, he said.

Mr. Cox said this issue concerns jobs for Caddo Parish. A trucking company wanted to buy this property from the Parish and establish a terminal on this site that would have brought some 100 jobs. The Commission denied that company's request. He asked if the Commission also intends to ask the commercial entity that is already there to leave. The Commission's action on Monday, and as formalized by this motion, is basically telling businesses that they are not welcome.

Mrs. McCulloch said that she was excited to second Mr. Epperson's motion because she is talking to Chancellor Ray Belton at Southern University about possibly utilizing a portion of the North Shreveport Industrial Park. She asked if Mr. Epperson's motion would also open the door to allow Southern University to utilize NSIP property, even though their use of it would be non-industrial.

Mr. Epperson said that his motion did not encompass North Shreveport Industrial Park.

Answering a question from Mr. Jenkins, Mr. Epperson said that his motion would have effect until the Commission can develop further information about this tract and its future use. It will also allow time for constituents to provide input.

Mr. Pierson said he had understood the motion to mean that the Commission would never again consider an industrial or commercial use for this property.

Mr. Jenkins said that he too had that understanding. He said he would not wish to close doors permanently on potential future opportunities at this point. He said that he wants this moratorium to be temporary.

Mr. Smith said that "temporary" is an open-ended definition. He asked Mr. Epperson if he could provide a more precise timetable. He also pointed out that during the 10 years he sat as a member of the Metropolitan Planning Commission he did not see one instance where the MPC down-zoned an industrial site. Industrial zoning is a valuable commodity, wherever it is, he said.

Mr. Epperson said he believes most questions can be resolved by the Commission's second meeting in April.

Mrs. Baker moved, seconded by Mr. Cox, *that Mr. Epperson's motion be amended to state that the moratorium will continue until the Commission's second meeting in April.* Mr. Epperson concurred.

Mr. Escude said that he understands that all Commissioners have constituents who have concerns about various matters. However, he said, the Commission must decide whether those constituents are correct in their concerns, and if their concerns override the greater concerns of all citizens of the Parish. Sometimes constituents are right, and sometimes they are wrong, he said.

The churches and the day cares are the ones that protest most vehemently, and they get the most attention, Mr. Escude continued. However, he said, it should be considered that another industrial client might approach the Commission next week or next month, wishing to purchase the

Shirley Francis Road property for \$30,000 per acre and proposing to bring 500 jobs to Caddo Parish. Would the commission reject that offer as well, he asked. The Parish may be in good financial condition, he said, but many of its citizens are not.

When the Commission voted on Monday to reject the offer of Quality Transport, Inc., to purchase the Shirley Francis Road property, it effectively sent out a notice that Caddo is closed for business, Mr. Escude said. Not only will those people take their jobs elsewhere, they will probably voice their discontent, and they cannot be blamed for doing so.

Mr. Escude said that he cannot support a moratorium. He said he would support Mr. Linn's suggestion that the Commission review all of its property holdings and evaluate their future use. There might be better places for industrial parks than the sites now designated. In the meantime, however, he is not willing to shut everything down and send a message that Caddo Parish is not interested in industrial or commercial growth. He said he hopes all the churches in the area of this property are going to be able to care for all of the unemployed and hungry in the Shirley Francis Road area.

At this time Mrs. Baker's amendment to Mr. Epperson's motion carried, with Commissioners Baker, Epperson, Jenkins, Linn, McCulloch, Pierson, Smith and voting "Yea" (7). Commissioners Escude Cox, Lynch, Dominick and Thibodeaux (5), voted 'NAY.'

There being no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 4:50 p.m.

John Escude
President

Jerry C. Spears
Commission Clerk