

July 26, 2011
Jonesboro, Louisiana
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The Jackson Parish Police Jury met in special session Tuesday, July 26, 2011, at 11:00 AM in the Police Jury Meeting Room of the Jackson Parish Courthouse in Jonesboro, Louisiana. Members present: Mr. Tom Goss, Mr. Eddie Langston, Mr. Kent Hightower, Mr. Nathaniel Zeno, Jr., Mr. Ray Duck and Mr. Troy Smith. Absent: Ms. Maxie Monroe. Also present: Mr. Douglas Stokes.

The meeting was called to order by the president, Mr. Langston. Mr. Smith gave the invocation and Mr. Hightower led the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

The president opened the floor for public comments.

Ms. Dean Rushing expressed concern over the excessive salary increases granted by the Library Board.

Ms. Renee Stringer stated that the library had made progress in the last year, but was opposed to the salary increases.

Mr. D. J. Allen expressed concern over the tax burden of parish citizens and businesses in the current economic climate and opposed the salary increases of the library.

Ms. Karen Louder opposed the salary increases of the library.

Ms. Wilda Smith opposed the salary increases approved by the library board.

The following amendments were offered:

Naming of a Liaison Officer for the Louisiana Ethics Training

Appointment to the Jackson Parish Watershed District

There were no comments from the public on the amendments.

Motion Mr. Smith seconded Mr. Zeno to amend the agenda to include:

Naming a Liaison Officer for the required Louisiana Ethics Board's Mandatory Training Program

Appointment to the Jackson Parish Watershed District

All voted in favor

Motion Mr. Zeno seconded Mr. Goss to authorize the president to sign the Delta Regional Authority Grant Application. Motion carried.

The president requested that legal counsel comment on issues involving actions taken by the Jackson Parish Library Board.

Mr. Stokes told the members that the Library Board's action to make salary increase effective back to July 1, 2011 was in violation of state law since the resolution was adopted July 13, 2011. He also warned them about allowing the purchase of alcoholic beverages as approved in their Personnel Policy.

The Jury expressed their opposition to the action taken by the Library Board of Directors during their meeting of July 13, 2011. No action was taken.

Motion Mr. Zeno seconded Mr. Duck to name the secretary-treasurer as the Ethics Training Liaison for Jackson Parish. Motion carried.

Motion Mr. Zeno seconded Mr. Goss to reappoint John McCarty to a full term on the Jackson Parish Watershed District Board. Motion carried.

The president called for final public comments.

Mr. Jerry Shankles opposed the excessive salary increases that were approved by the library board.

Mr. Grayson Allen stated that the use of economic percentiles as a basis for salary structure in Jackson Parish was not an accurate basis for determining and setting local salaries.

Motion Mr. Zeno seconded Mr. Smith to adjourn. Motion carried.