**Committee Meeting**

**October 14, 2020**

**The Board of Commissioners for the Lafourche Basin Levee District met on Wednesday, October 14, 2020. The public is invited to attend via Teleconference and at the LBLD office. In accordance with the Louisiana Governor’s Proclamation Number 117-JBE 2020 Renewal of State Emergency for COVID-19, Extension of Emergency Provisions, LBLD office access is limited to 50% of the total occupancy as determined by the State Fire Marshal, which is 44 individuals at one time, including our employees. Every individual SHALL wear a face covering over the nose and mouth when entering the building. You can refer to gov.louisiana.gov for guideline exceptions. Guidelines on public meeting participation for the LBLD during the additional Phase 2 Mitigation Measures of Reopening can be found at COVID19 office notice 08-17-2020 and was called to order by its President, James P. Jasmin, at 6:00 P.M.**

**The following Commissioners were in attendance: Craig Carter, Assumption Parish; Whitney Jasmin, Jr., St. John the Baptist Parish; Eric Matherne, St. Charles Parish; Marlin Rogers, St. Charles Parish; Michael McKinney, Sr., Ascension Parish; Gary Watson, St. John the Baptist Parish; J** **Russell Loupe, St. Charles Parish; James Jasmin, St. James Parish; Jeffery Henry, Ascension Parish and Kevin Hebert, St. Charles Parish. Donald Henry, Executive Director and Ivy Chauvin, Assistant Executive Director were present. Larry Buquoi, Attorney was absent.**

**Adoption of the agenda was motioned by Commissioner Michael McKinney, Sr. and seconded by Commissioner Jeffery Henry. President Jasmin called for a roll call vote. Roll call vote thereon as follows:**

**YEAS:**

* **Michael McKinney, Sr.**
* **Arthur Bosworth IV**
* **Larry Sorapuru**
* **Russell Loupe**
* **Gary Watson**
* **Jeffery Henry**
* **Craig Carter**
* **Eric Matherne**
* **Marlin Rogers**
* **Kevin Hebert**
* **James P. Jasmin**

**NAYS: None**

**ABSENT: None**

**ABSTAINED: None**

**By a roll call vote of 11 yeas, 0 nays, 0 absent and 0 abstained. The motion passed by unanimous vote.**

**Comments from the Public regarding any/all of the agenda items listed below will be accepted at this point in the meeting. The meeting chairperson may also allow further comments from the Public as and when each agenda item is considered during the meeting process. There were no public comments.**

**Building Committee Report: Larry Sorapuru, Chairman**

**The design of the new board room is moving forward. We have engaged the services of the electrical and mechanical engineers to begin the design of the electrical and HVAC systems. A site visit for next week will be scheduled to assess the existing electrical service. The soil test for Greenup Industries is under review to layout the foundation design. C. J. Savoie Engineers, Inc. will request a meeting once preliminary plans are completed to review with the board.**

**Commissioner Kevin Hebert asked if Mr. Joseph Savoie contacted anyone pertaining to cutting cost of the project. commissioner Larry Sorapuru said he spoke with him and said that Mr. Savoie will be able to the Board plans. Mr. Donald Henry stated that Mr. Savoie will come one day to check on a few things and set a meeting to discuss cost saving items with the Board. Commissioner Hebert stated that the Board put $698, 000 in the budget, added another $50,000 for furnishing and another $100,000 for piling. That’s $850, 000, so realistically we are looking at one million dollars building at its current design. When it comes back to the Building Committee, are we going to approve $1,000,000? He asked the Board where are they comfortable price wise. There should be a number for everyone to agree on that we are comfortable with. The Committee is not just himself, it’s all 11 commissioners and he would like to hear their opinions. He states that he knows the Board cannot give a hard number and stick to it but there can be a bottom-line number the cost can’t go over and stick to it. Commissioner Sorapuru stated he agrees and understand with Commissioner Hebert, but he feels the Board should give C. J. Savoie Engineers, Inc. a chance to give the Board numbers to view so that they can see what can be done. Commissioner Gary Watson agreed that once the numbers come in, the Board can consider where to go from there. President James Jasmin stated that the Board have to give the engineers a chance to turn in the information instead of going back and forth and that they need to realize they said preliminary cost, not final.**

**Safety Committee Report: Arthur Bosworth IV, Chairman**

**Commissioner Rogers reported that there were no lost time accidents. The Safety Meeting for the Maintenance Department was held on October 12th for the Vacherie location and sunset locations. It started at 6:00 am.**

**Covid safety and precautions were discussed along with three films from the national safety council at the Vacherie location and three films were shown at the sunset location. They were as follows:**

**Snake and Wasp Cautions (Vacherie)**

**Heat Stress (Vacherie)**

**Proper Safety Equipment (Vacherie)**

**Hurricanes, Tornadoes and Floods (Sunset)**

**Back Safety (Sunset)**

**Power Tool Safety (Sunset)**

**The next safety meeting is scheduled for Monday, November 9, 2020 at 6:00 a.m.**

**Equipment Committee Report: Jeffery Henry, Chairman**

**Commissioner Henry reported that all of the district’s light and heavy-duty equipment is presently operational. All equipment is located on their respective job sites or here at the maintenance shop.**

**Commissioner Eric Matherne stated that while on the Annul Levee Inspection that day, he spoke to Mr. Ivy Chauvin about the new equipment. According to Mr. Chauvin’s comments, the new equipment has and will be cost saving for the District. Commissioner Matherne wanted to thank him for thinking out of the box and not just about money since the recommended equipment paid off in the long run. Mr. Donald Henry stated to Commissioner Hebert, reiterating the cost savings towards the new building project, that there have been cost savings to the whole yearly budget. He was just informing the President that we have been having savings throughout the year by not being able to attend the annual conferences. That’s savings along with cutting equipment cost, and that day they had savings by not spending money on the meal after the inspection because another company picked up the tab. He wanted to let the Board know that there will be extremely good news in the future for cost savings as well. Commissioner Gary Watson stated that he rode with Mr. Sean Webre for the inspection and Mr. Webre explained how there were big cost savings on the zero turns that were purchased.**

**Upper Barataria Project Committee Report: Eric Matherne, Chairman**

**Commissioner Matherne reported that he has the study for anyone who did not receive a copy at the Regular Meeting on a jump drive. Mr. Donald Henry asked if he could email it out to everyone.**

**Bayou Napoleon/Bayou Verret Committee Report: Craig Carter, Chairman**

**Commissioner Carter reported that the project started on November 19, 2019. We send two operators daily, when the weather permits, and operators are available. We are about two miles away from getting to all the pipelines. Lafourche basin levee district has cleared and dug bayou Verret up to the 2-mile mark. We have 4.7 miles left to clear and dig. Work has restarted after the threat of the storm. The new shredder is currently in use. After about a week in use, the workers will start dredging again.**

**There were no additional committee matters to discuss, Commissioner Michael McKinney, Sr. moved to adjourn and was seconded by Commissioner Jeffery Henry.**

**Executive Director**