**Special Meeting**

**February 12, 2020**

**The Special Meeting of the Lafourche Basin Levee District met at the official domicile of the Board in Vacherie, Louisiana and was called to order by President James P. Jasmin at 6:30 pm.**

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

**Adoption of the agenda was motioned by Commissioner Craig Carter and seconded by Commissioner Jeffery Henry.**

**The meeting was opened with a prayer and the pledge of allegiance to the flag.**

**There were no comments from the audience.**

**Commissioner Craig Carter moved to motion that the Board to go into Executive Session. It was seconded by Commissioner Michael McKinney, Sr.**

**President Jasmin called for a roll call vote. Roll call vote thereon as follows:**

**YEAS:**

* **Gary Watson**
* **Jeffery Henry**
* **Craig Carter**
* **Russell Loupe**
* **Eric Matherne**
* **Whitney Jasmin, Jr.**
* **Marlin Rogers**
* **Kevin Hebert**
* **Michael McKinney, Sr.**
* **James P. Jasmin**

**ABSENT: None**

**ABSTAINED: None**

**By a roll call vote of 10 yeas, 0 nays, 0 absent and 0 abstained. The motion passed by unanimous vote.**

**The Board of Commissioners may meet in Executive Session to discuss personnel matters under the provision of Louisiana Revised Statute 42:17. While in Executive Session, the Board may meet with its’ staff, attorneys or other persons it deems necessary. No votes or other actions may be taken while in Session.**

**The Personnel Committee met in Executive Session to discuss "Whitney Jasmin vs Lafourche Basin Levee District, Case # 00039198, Division E, 23rd Judicial District Court for St. James Parish”. Mike Coyle, Attorney representing the Insurance Company and will update the Board on progress of the suit.**

**While in Executive Session, no motions were made, nor votes taken.**

**Commissioner Jeffery Henry motioned to reconvene the meeting and was seconded by Commissioner Michael McKinney, Sr. The motion passed by majority vote.**

**The next item on the agenda was to discuss and take action on the Maintenance and Dredging of Bayou Verret. President Jasmin asked the Executive Director, Donald Henry, to explain. Mr. Henry stated that a problem has arisen with receiving the allocated funds that were set aside by the state for this project. The project has been stopped. There was a meeting with someone from Facility Planning and Control, where the allocated funds are stored, and he explained that the bid law will have to be followed because of the estimated price of the project is over one million dollars. As long as the levee board is doing the work, only certain items can be reimbursed. If we put the project up for bid, the funds will be able to be used to reimburse the levee district. Vice-President Eric Matherne stated that putting the project up for bid may be the best thing to do and bid it out in sections to be in the levee board’s best interest. Mr. Henry stated he will get the package done and present it to the Board for approval. Commissioner Marlin Rogers asked if there was a time frame for the stopped project and receiving funds. Mr. Henry stated the money will be there if we put it up for bid. Commissioner Kevin Hebert asked, for future purposes, if parishes ask the levee board for help on off-levee projects, shouldn’t the project already have funding before the Board agrees to help? Is it better to not act prematurely? Mr. Henry stated that we enter into some agreements without the scope of the work laid out and sometimes, for example, we do enter into an agreement such as the Sunset Project where everyone agreed to do it but the work won’t actually start until the funds come through. Vice-President Matherne asked who owns the property along the canal pertaining to the servitude for future maintenance. He feels that each parish should obtain permanent servitude if future maintenance is expected. It was decided that more specific information will be obtained. Vice-President Eric Matherne made the motion to put the Maintenance and Dredging of Bayou Verret on hold until the finances for the project are corrected. Commissioner Craig Carter asked Mr. Henry if it would be feasible for the levee board to complete the section that has already been started. He feels that the levee board spends millions of dollars on projects that has not been started when this project can be completed for less. Vice-President Matherne made his motion again. It was seconded by Commissioner Russell Loupe. It was passed by majority vote.**

**Commissioner Russell Loupe moved to adjourn and was seconded by Vice-President Eric Matherne.**

**President**