

Minutes of 19th District Levee Board

August 14, 2024

Grant Parish Police Jury Meeting Room

Present: Members Gordon Smith, Bill Dean, Fren Allen
Guests Logan Monk - DOTD, Fran Demers,
Grant Parish Sheriff Steven McCain

Gordon Smith called the meeting to order, Roll call with all members present

Gordon Smith reported the levees have been mowed by sheriff's department, leaks were found and avoided by mowers. He requested that workers notify board whenever leaks are detected.

Logan Monk -DOTD reported that the inspection needs to be redone and closer attention paid to fiber optic crews who are digging and laying cables without getting necessary permits.

Regarding the building the Sheriff is purchasing from the levee board, Sheriff McCain said the \$300 amount is a discount from the appraiser and he wasn't sure why the bill presented was in the sheriff's name.

Gordon Smith said he didn't feel like the appraisal was high enough but the sheriff pointed out there were a number of empty buildings in Colfax. Bill Dean said the appraisal was less than \$24.30 per square foot. Gordon Smith and Fren Allen agreed to check the legality of the purchase. Later Fren Allen said that since the board was not using the building, why keep it. The sheriff said they had owned the building for more than seven years and according to former board members Richard Crain and Todd Vallee, it could be sold. Members agreed to check with USDA to see if building could be sold and they would call the Alexandria office of USDA.

Fren Allen suggested a compromise price of \$84,000. Gordon Smith said they would check with the Attorney. The sheriff then requested to be allowed to purchase in two installments, 50% now and 50% on July 21, 2025. Smith, Dean and Allen agreed. Sheriff McCain said he would wait until the agreement is fulfilled and rent from July forward would be applied to selling cost. Gordon Smith said to make it in one transaction and hopefully by next month they would have the answers needed to make the sale.

It was requested that CD rates be checked to determine current rates.

Bill Dean asked if a cooperative agreement had been made with the Grant Parish Police Jury regarding repairing levee roads, and Gordon Smith replied that the police jury hauled dirt and gravel to fill the holes on the levee road. Dean requested Fren Allen ask Police Juror Cephas Bowie about the status of the cooperative agreement.

In other business Secretary Kim Vallee advised the board she had found a replacement to take her position as she was resigning effective immediately. The board voted 3-0 for Fran Demers to be the new Secretary.

Bill Dean asked about the agreement the levee board has with the sheriff regarding mowing of the levee “ why did they skip around with their mowing?” Gordon Smith responded that he didn’t know they did.

Members also agreed to purchase a new printer/fax machine.
Gordon Smith made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Bill Dean.