

WEST BATON ROUGE PARISH COUNCIL
YEAR 2014 BUDGET MEETING – OCTOBER 21, 2013
WEST BATON ROUGE COUNCIL/GOVERNMENTAL BUILDING
880 NORTH ALEXANDER AVENUE, PORT ALLEN, LOUISIANA
6:00PM

The Year 2014 Budget Meeting of the West Baton Rouge Parish Council was held on Monday, October 21, 2013 and called to order. Council Chairman Gary Spillman requested that all electronic devices be silenced and recognized Chris Kershaw, who led everyone in the pledge of allegiance. Council Clerk and Finance Director confirmed that Ricky Loupe would be absent due to work schedule.

Roll call was taken with the following members being present:

Messrs. Phil Porto, Jr., Chris “Fish” Kershaw, Ms. Charlene Gordon, Messrs. Gary M. Spillman, Randal “Randy” Mouch, Edward G. “Bob” Robertson, Ms. Naomi Fair, Mr. Barry Huggins

Absent: Mr. Ricky Loupe

Parish President Riley Berthelot, Jr. was also present.

Finance Director Phillip Bourgoyne requested starting with the Museum budget, and thereafter the monitors should be functioning.

Museum Director Julie Rose was recognized and reviewed 2014 proposed budget of revenues and expenditures consistent with previous year as approved by Museum board. Ms. Rose confirmed budget included improvements (barn construction, handicapped access, and five per cent salary increase for full-time employees). There were no questions.

Monitors began functioning and Library Director Beth Vandersteen was recognized for review of said department’s 2014 proposed budget of revenues and expenditures as approved by the Library Board of Control 9/24/13. Mrs. Vandersteen provided brief overview including five per cent cost of living for employees, capital improvements and equipment purchases. There were not questions.

Public Utilities Office Supervisor Pam Keowen was recognized and reviewed 2014 proposed budget of revenues and expenditures for said department consisting of regular and sewer budgets. Mr. Spillman clarified questions may follow complete review as budgets had not been seen prior to tonight. Discussed priority determination date for Capital Outlay list, each district funding only project cost, and review budget following fire district consolidation. Also reviewed 5 Year Capital Improvements Budget items including small SUV for office, new truck and dual-cab truck. There were no further questions.

Mr. Bourgoyne reviewed the following budgets of revenues and expenditures:

Erwinville Loan Sinking Fund;

Tourist Commission Operating Budget, Tourist Center Sinking & Reserve (WBR Convention & Visitors Bureau);

Fire Sub-Districts No. 4 (Fire Chief Tim Crockett), No. 5 (Fire Chief Robbie Smith), and No. 6 (Fire Chief Chris Neusetzer). Discussion held mutual aid, complete list of proposed equipment and/or vehicle purchases, installation of hydrants and building maintenance, possibility of equipment sharing, fire ratings, and fire district consolidation.

Health Unit – briefly discussed additional employee and building improvements. Mr. Bourgoyne proposed no additional funding in 2014 to employee health savings accounts in order to decrease twenty per cent group insurance increase to twelve per cent. There were no questions.

Lengthy discussion held on Jail Operations, Correctional Facility Sinking and Debt Reserve with Sheriff Mike Cazes based on 85 per cent occupancy and proposition first and second priorities. Discussion included contracting jail out and/or cost sharing funding with Parish, filling obligation by law, number of employees and salaries, inmate housing and medical regulations, and fixed costs. Consensus was to schedule meeting between sheriff and administration to determine best solution.

Mr. Bourgoyne continued with review of the following budgets of revenues and expenditures:
Enhanced 911;

Central Communications – Director Deano Moran clarified number of consoles and employees;

Community Alert Network – funded by local industry;

Local Emergency Planning Committee Grant Fund;

Juvenile Detention – now handled through Assumption Parish;

Criminal Court Fund – Judges and District Attorney Office funded through fines and forfeitures;

Commodity Distribution Grant;

Section 8 Voucher Grant;

Low Income Energy Assistance Program Grant;

Food Pantry Grant - operating West Baton Rouge Parish, Council on Aging, and St. John the Baptist in Brusly. Clarified Erwinville Food Pantry is operated under separate grant.

Louisiana Recovery Act Grant – Executive Assistant Jason Manola clarified status and/or phase of current projects;

Erwinville Sewer Sinking & Reserve Funds 2006;

Westport Sewer Sinking & Reserve Funds 2008A;

Westport Roads Sinking & Reserve Funds 2008B;

Westport Sewer Loan Sinking & Reserve Funds 2011.

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by Ms. Charlene Gordon and approved by acclamation at 7:50PM.

/s/Gary M. Spillman

Gary M. Spillman, Council Chairman

/s/Sharon Zito

Sharon Zito, Council Clerk