

Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of the Lafayette Parish Bayou Vermilion District
Held at Vermilionville, 300 Fisher Road Lafayette Louisiana
4:30 pm, April 27, 2016

Call to Order was given by President Barry called the meeting at 4:30. **Roll Call:** Given by the Secretary, Commissioners David Barry, Rodney Richard, Benjamin Richard, John Broussard, Kristie Cornell and Don McConnell were present. Commissioner Derek Landry was absent. There was a quorum.

Approval of Minutes: **MOTION:** (D. McConnell/R. Richard) to approve the minutes as submitted for the March 23, 2016 regular meeting. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Commissioner T. Michot joined the meeting at 4:32.

Introduction of Guest(s): Staff: CEO Cherie, Anne Mahoney, Millicent Norbert, Brady McKellar, Charissa Helluin Curtis Willingham and Kim Fournet.

Public Comment(s): There were no public comments.

President's Report: President Barry thanked the staff for all the time and effort they put into making the election campaign successful. The bond and the millage both passed with only 2.5% of registered voters voting. President especially wanted to congratulate Erin Segura, Greg Guidroz and Right Angle for bringing the case to the public. The bond issue was closer than BVD would have liked but considering the economic environment it fared better than others in surrounding parishes. This vote insures the continued viability of BVD and the Commission over the next 10-20 years.

CEO's Report: A copy of CEO Cherie's report and coordinators reports (on file) were e-mailed and are in each Commissioner's binder. CEO Cherie reviewed his written report. CEO also complimented the staff on a job well done with informing and educating the public about what BVD does and continuing their daily responsibilities. Earth Day was very successful, thanks to Greg Guidroz, Chris Holland, Chief Mayeux, all BVD staff, and Caitlyn Sonnier, blog originator of Eco Cajun. BALFA week went well. BVD's numbers are still good even with the turn down in the oil and gas industry. Commissioner J. Broussard asked CEO his opinion as to the overall success of Vermilionville. In CEO's opinion, it has to do with the many interesting items and events that are at Vermilionville and the involvement from the Education Department with the local schools both with tours of the village and BVD staff going to the schools.

Marketing/Public Relations: The committee did not meet but will do so in May.

Finance/Capital: The committee did meet to discuss the plan going forward with the bond issuance. There is an agency in Baton Rouge that will sell the bonds for BVD. The Finance Committee discussed the bonds, the money and the projects to be entertained. The bonds are issued for 20 years and the money needs to be spent wisely. Four million dollars over 20 years needs to be managed carefully. Many projects, such as Rotary Point need to happen quickly. Many projects will take place over the next 5-10 years. BVD was fortunate over the last bond cycle to retire the bonds early but with the current interest rate environment it is not as hopeful that BVD will retire this bond cycle early. The Board needs to look at the 20 year life of the bond. The Capital projects and items will change during the next two decades because life changes and so will the board members. All committees should look and plan for the next twenty years. The

Commission should try to bond for the entire four million dollars. The money from the bonds will go into the bank and will earn interest to pay off the bonds. Many of the proposed projects are fairly expensive and will cost all of the four million dollars. The bonds are sold to a bank or banks and they give the money to BVD. The interest earned on the bond money in the bank and the millage payments to BVD go to paying back the bank(s).

Commissioner John Troutman joined the meeting at 4:54.

MOTION: (D. Barry/D. McConnell) to recommend that the board move forward with the issuance of the bonds for Four Million Dollars (\$4,000,000) at the best interest rate. All were in favor. Motion carried. CEO Cheramie will contact Jerry Osbourne tomorrow about the selling of the bonds.

Operations/Bayou/Maintenance: The committee did meet to discuss the capital projects and improvements. Commissioner Richard asked if there were any other monies for capital projects besides the bond monies. CEO explained that every year approximately \$10,000-\$20,000, is set aside for capital improvements in the budget. Rotary Point is the only project that has been approved and can be put out to bid whenever the bond money is in the bank. Other issues are a tent with the BVD logo on it, possibly a new pickup truck and a multipurpose building. BVD could use the AAM (American Association of Museums) to help Vermilionville with its accreditation process. Commissioner Troutman suggested an outside consultant to study BVD and give recommendations for improvement and help with the accreditation. President Barry mentioned that during his tenure, outside consultants have been brought in but the end results were expensive with impractical suggestions. The Executive Committee will review the aforementioned recommendations.

Environmental: The committee did not meet but have a meeting scheduled with HDR Thursday.

Education/Programming: The committee did not meet.

Curatorial/Acquisitions: The committee did not meet. President Barry complimented Anne Mahoney on her thorough and concise report.

New Business: Commissioner Michot ask that the ethics board link be sent to the commissioners. The report has to be filed by May 15th.

Adjournment: **MOTION:** (T. Michot/R. Richard) Motion to adjourn. All were in favor. Motion carried.

/s/ David Barry
David Barry, President

John Troutman, Secretary