

**ST. LANDRY PARISH COUNCIL
PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE MEETING
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 2nd, 2022
OLD CITY MARKET, 131 W. BELLEVUE ST.
OPELOUSAS, LOUISIANA**

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

1. Chairman Dexter Brown called this meeting of the Public Works Committee of the St. Landry Parish Council to order.
2. **Roll Call:**
Mildred Thierry, Gil Savoy, Dexter Brown, Jimmie Edwards, and Coby Clavier. Absent: Alvin Stelly. Ex-Officio Vivian Olivier.
3. Person to address the Committee:
No one to address the public works committee.
4. Public Works Report

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "Ditching is still going on. We still have not completed everything in the ARA program; we should be finish within the next couple of weeks. We are looking at some roads to do in like a Phase 6 of the Smooth Ride Home. We have a couple roads in mind but will look at several more for this year."

Councilman Coby Clavier, "The culvert crossing on Soileau Road, the new one, that they went back a few times, it is now like a high speed bump which you would have to really slow down to like 25mph to cross it. If someone does not know and hit that thing, they would go airborne a little bit.

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "They was supposed to go back and black top it and be finish with that."

Councilman Coby Clavier, "They black topped it but it's a hill now."

Parish President Jessie Bellard, "I will check with Barry Soileau in the morning."

Councilman Timmy Lejeune, "Mr. Bellard can you update me on those cul-de-sac."

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "I spoke with William Jarrell and the problem with that is we would have to take some private land. I think it will be a bigger issue than what we anticipated. I do not know if we want to get in the business in buying land to do a cul-de-sac but whenever he gets his final draft we will know more but right now with the way it is looking, we would have to purchase land to make that cul-de-sac happen.

Councilman Timmy Lejeune, "So the process is going on."

Parish Preside Jessie Bellard, "William is definitely working on it for us but I don't think the end results will be an easy answer."

A motion was made by Councilman Jimmie Edwards, seconded by Councilwoman Mildred Thierry to accept the Public Works Report.

On roll call vote: YEAS: Mildred Thierry, Gil Savoy, Jimmie Edwards, and Coby Clavier.
NAYS: ABSENT: Alvin Stelly. ABSTAINED: None.

Motion carried.

5. Forward all applications received for two appointments to Coulee Croche Fire Protection District No. 4 for a two-year term. (04-20-2022 – 04-20-2024).

A motion was made by Councilman Coby Clavier, seconded by Councilwoman Mildred Thierry to forward to Regular Meeting held on **Wednesday March 16th, 2022** all applications received for two appointments to Coulee Croche Fire Protection District No. 4 for a two year term. (04-20-2022 – 04-20-2024).

On roll call vote: YEAS: Mildred Thierry, Gil Savoy, Jimmie Edwards, and Coby Clavier.
NAYS: None. ABSENT: Alvin Stelly. ABSTAINED: None.

Motion forwarded.

6. Forward all applications received for five appointment to the St. Landry Parish Waterworks District No. 5 for a three-year term. (04-21-2022 – 04-21-2025.)

A motion was made by Councilwoman Mildred Thierry, seconded by Councilman Jimmie Edwards to forward to Regular Meeting held on **Wednesday March 16th, 2022** all applications received for five appointments to the St. Landry Parish Waterworks District No. 5 for a three year term. (04-21-2022 – 04-21-2025).

On roll call vote: YEAS: : Mildred Thierry, Gil Savoy, Jimmie Edwards, and Coby Clavier.
NAYS: None. ABSENT: Alvin Stelly. ABSTAINED: None

Motion forwarded.

7. Discuss abandoning the remaining portion of Jan Road. (Councilman Coby Clavier).
Councilman Coby Clavier stated, “Jan Road is currently a parish road but it’s a dead end road that goes nowhere with one person that lives on it named Jan. I will motion that we go through the process of abandoning this road; again, it does not benefit the parish at all.
Parish President Jessie Bellard. “On the west side of that road is already private, it’s called Jan Road but it’s already private, on the east side it is not. It was always the impression that is was a private road until we looked it up. It has no purpose for the parish at all and I am in favor of supporting that motion whenever yall bring it up.
Councilman Dexter Brown stated, “Are we going to abandon the road from where the lady lives.”
Councilman Coby Clavier, “Just the remaining portion of the road.”
Parish President Jessie Bellard, “We will abandon from her driveway going east.”

A motion was made by Councilwoman Coby Clavier, seconded by Councilman Jimmie Edwards to forward to Regular Meeting held on **Wednesday March 16th, 2022** a resolution abandoning the remaining portion of Jan Road.

On roll call vote: YEAS: : Mildred Thierry, Gil Savoy, Jimmie Edwards, and Coby Clavier.
NAYS: None. ABSENT: Alvin Stelly. ABSTAINED: None

Motion forwarded.

8. Update on Broadband in Rural Areas. Councilwoman Mildred Thierry).

Councilwoman Mildred Thierry stated, "I have been fighting trying to get some internet service since about five years ago for the rural areas. I been getting calls from Dupre Road, Bertinot, Texas Eastern, Grand Prairie, and Frilot area. Is there any chance when the funds start for broadband some of these areas will get covered.

Parish President Jessie Bellard, "The first grant we received from a National Telecommunications Network, it is coming in from the South, LUS is coming in on the West side of I49 and it will come up and go towards Church Point up into Eunice and into Evangeline Parish. Allen Cable will be on the East side of I49 taking care of Sunset, Grand Coteau, Leonville, Arnaudville, Port Barre, and Krotz Springs.

Councilwoman Mildred Thierry, "It seems like none of these roads that I named are none included in it.

Parish President Jessie Bellard, "They not going to be included in it the first round of money no. The reason why we had to do it this way, not because we picked or choose this way we partnered with Acadia Parish and Evangeline Parish. In order for us to get the money, they had to come through us to get to Evangeline Parish. There main objective was to get through us to get to Evangeline Parish. The first round of money will not affect that area but the next round of money, which is called the gumbo plan, awarded hopefully in the summer of this year. It will come and move farther North and start going wider with everything. The best thing about this program is that it was for the unserved or underserved which is why you do not see many municipalities included because they already served to a certain degree. This area is taking care of the areas that do not have anything or a very limited amount. That area will be done but the broadband initiative that is coming from the Federal Government specifies it is for the unserved or underserved. It will get done but it might not happen until next year. We have 51 different opportunities for Grant money and we are only on the second one right now. We feel very certain in the next two or three years our whole parish will be taken care of.

Councilwoman Mildred Thierry, "On that Bertinot Road and Texas Eastern they are underserved."

Parish President Jessie Bellard, "We had to start south because that's where LUS is coming from. I want everybody to understand one thing the big companies Att, Charter, Cox and everything else a lot of dark fiber already passing right there on the Grandigo Island Road. It is already there but they just choose not to give it. That is the sad part about this. They choose to go to a school, a store, or a big company. They can give it to the residential areas they choose not to, so I call them out on this every time I see them. I will be seeing them next week at our Police Jury Association Meeting. Att wants to meet about that but I don't really care, you have dark fiber in the ground now use what you have put in place and give it to the people."

Councilwoman Mildred Thierry, "Like the Bertinot area from Highway 3043, when I was communicating with them trying to get them to consider providing that service, I was told there wasn't enough homes for them to go through to provide service. I told them they can go across and tap in some kind of way with Northwest."

Parish President Jessie Bellard, "They want to use the Government funds to subsidize their investment. I understand from a business standpoint but right now there is dark fiber use the dark fiber to make it happen do not rely on the Government to do it. Everybody will get

broadband in our parish that is our goal and I do not see it stopping it is just unfortunate if they really looked at the big map and they were honest, it would show the dark fiber passing in front of a lot of people houses but they just choose not to give it.

9. Discuss any other business properly brought before this committee.
None.

10. Adjourn.

A motion was made by Councilman Coby Clavier, seconded by Councilwoman Mildred Thierry to adjourn the Public Works Committee Meeting.

On roll call vote: YEAS: Mildred Thierry, Gil Savoy, Jimmie Edwards, and Coby Clavier.

NAYS: None. ABSENT: Alvin Stelly. ABSTAINED: None.

Motion carried.

**I HEREBY CERTIFY THE FOREGOING TO BE EXACT AND TRUE
SHERELL JORDAN, COUNCIL CLERK**