

**ST. LANDRY PARISH COUNCIL
PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE MEETING
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 6th, 2023
OLD CITY MARKET, 131 W. BELLEVUE ST.
OPELOUSAS, LOUISIANA**

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

1. Public Works Chairman Wayne Ardoin called this meeting of the Public Works Committee of the St. Landry Parish Council to order.
2. **Roll Call:** Nancy Carriere, Mildred Thierry, Gil Savoy, Wayne Ardoin and Jimmie Edwards. **Ex-Officio Jerry Red Jr. ABSENT:** Alvin Stelly.
3. **Person to address the Committee:**

4. **Public Works Report:**

Public Works Director Barry Soileau stated, “For August our department Boom Axe 20 roads, culvert cleaned 16 roads, culvert insulation to 16 roads, ditching on 7 roads, flushed culverts to 11 roads and graded 35 roads. Spread material on 9 roads, patched 30 roads, shoulder repair on one (Country Ridge) will come back and fill smaller parts, sign installation 56 roads, shredding 34 roads, and 9 washouts.”

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

On roll call vote: YEAS: Nancy Carriere, Mildred Thierry, Gil Savoy, and Jimmie Edwards.

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

Motion carried.

5. **Forward to Regular Meeting all applications received for one appointment for a five-year term to St. Landry Parish Housing Authority. (10-17-2023 – 10-17-2028).**

A motion was made by Councilman Jimmie Edwards, seconded by Councilwoman Mildred Thierry to forward to Regular Meeting held on **Wednesday September 20th, 2023** all applications received for one appointment for a five year term to St. Landry Parish Housing Authority. (10-1-2023 – 10-17-2028).

On roll call vote: YEAS: Nancy Carriere, Mildred Thierry, Gil Savoy, and Jimmie Edwards.

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

Motion forwarded.

6. **Authorize the approval of the Newly Proposed 285’ Telecommunication Cell Tower located near US HWY 167, Opelousas, LA Parcel #0500868500**

Chip Lions (201 St. Charles Ave. New Orleans, La) addressed the council, “I’m here on behalf of vertical bridge which is the applicant for the tower permit. I can provide you quickly with some information with the need of the tower and answer any questions committee members may have at this time. The tower is located off Hwy 49 near the intersection of Hwy 157; it sits back about 700 ft. from the road. No structures near the tower so we believe it is in a safe location and will provide additional cell phone coverage for the area. The tower is indicated as 285 ft. high, it is referred to as a soft support 3-sided tower to have necessary structure for tower of that height. It meets all local standards and code requirements we do not need any waivers. In the unlikely event of some type of structural issue, the tower is designed to essentially collapse on itself so it would not affect any adjoining properties. The applicant Vertical Bridge is a contraction company and they work similar to a landlord. The anchor tenant on this tower is T-Mobile but it will have room for two additional tenants on it. It meets all the criteria in the Ordinance we do not need any waiver or variances.

Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated, “I have two questions one is jobs. Locally will you be employing any people to participate in building this tower?”

Chip Lions stated, “The contractors that builds it would have to be licensed in Louisiana. If we get zoning approval then it would get bid out to different contractors within Louisiana.

Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated, “My second question is as far as the parish benefiting as for as finances how would that help the parish.”

Chip Lions stated, “The tower is being built near I-49 but it’s on private property. It is a lease from a private landowner. If another carrier come on then they would apply for a permit from the parish and pay permit fees. The value of the tower is taxed because that is a property tax once the assessor does tax roll.”

Councilwoman Lynn Lejeune stated, “I didn’t see in the package an ANS was that done.”

Chip Lions stated, “Termination of no hazard to navigation issued by the FAA because of the tower height which is 285. FAA height limit requiring tower lighting is 200. The tower would have dual function lights so during the day it would have white lights and at night it would be red lights which creates less potential disturbance to others so yes FAA has reviewed this and they don’t have any issues with it.”

Councilman Harold Taylor stated, “Do you have a decommissioning clause in the lease with the landowner.”

Chip Lions stated, “There is a decommissioning requirement in the parish Ordinance saying if you haven’t used it in a certain amount of time the tower has to come down or the parish has the right to bring it down. Generally speaking, the leases with the landowners would require removal of the tower upon the expiration of the lease because the tower company does not want to leave it there because it is a liability.

A motion was made by Councilman Jimmie Edward, seconded by Councilwoman Mildred Thierry to forward to Regular Meeting held on **Wednesday, September 20th, 2023** to authorize the approval of the Newly Proposed 285’ Telecommunication Cell Tower located near US HWY 167, Opelousas, LA Parcel #0500868500.

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

Motion forwarded.

7. Discuss Handicap Parking on the Courthouse Square. (Chairman Jerry Red Jr.)

Chairman Jerry Red Jr., stated, “I brought this on the agenda because I have a constituent in my district that is handicap and when she’s doing business at the courthouse they can’t find a place to park. I know we just newly renovated the courthouse and have some areas to go in the back area.”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “That’s not for the public. Those spots are for employees that are handicap. The front of the courthouse has handicap parking on Court Street. The handicap ramp is in front on the side.”

8. Status on Bayou Carron and Bayou Mallet. (Councilwoman Mildred Thierry).

Councilwoman Mildred Thierry stated, “Mr. Bellard, I would just like an update on that I know the funds supposed to be in do you know if they have actually started the cleaning of these bayous.”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “No mam the core engineers are holding up the project. They are worried about birds and trees but we are in the process of getting a plan together with the engineers,”

9. Update on Broadband. (Councilwoman Mildred Thierry).

Councilwoman Mildred Thierry stated, “Can you bring us up to date on that.”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “They are laying down lines throughout the parish right now. Different companies that are through the MTIA, Gumbo, and other grants that came through the state. Ride down the roads you will see companies that are subcontractors putting lines down you will not see Charter or LUS. I was told people around the Eunice area another six months before it’s actually completed.”

Councilwoman Mildred Thierry stated, “What about the rural area the Plaisance, Grand Prairie, and Frilot Cove area.”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “They all should be the same time. Its different companies doing the work now but the money did come down from the state and MTIA.”

Councilman Jerry Red Jr. stated, “So Mr. Bellard you are stating by the beginning of year 2024 the whole parish.”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “Not the whole parish but everything that was included in the MTIA grant and the Gumbo grant with the state which is a lot of it but not the entire parish.”

Councilman Jerry Red Jr. stated, “My reason for asking that is because I understand that the Covid numbers have started rising back again and I’m concerned about that in case the kids go back to at home learning. Working from home, we want to make sure everyone have excess to the internet.”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “What I am being told by contractors it will be first of the year before they start seeing the live streaming.”

10. Update on the Smooth Ride Home Project. (Councilwoman Mildred Thierry).

Councilwoman Mildred Thierry stated, “I thought it was necessary to bring this up because I been hearing a lot of conversation about the Smooth Ride Home. Some saying as if when the previous administration came they said every public road in the parish would be paved. I try to explain to them this is a 15 year plan and we still have about 4 or 5 years left in the plan.”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “We still have until year 2029.”

Councilwoman Mildred Thierry stated, “I just thought that maybe it needed to be mentioned.”

11. Update stripping and Reflectors on Jules Lagrange and Oscar Rivette Road. (Councilman Alvin Stelly).

Barry Soileau stated, “I was contacted by a lady who lives there so I took the liberty of contacting a company who does it and for one mile of just stripping it will cost \$15,000.00 and that’s without the reflectors. Another issue is the width of the road; I do not think we can. We can possibly put strip on the side but not in the middle of the road.”

12. Readdress the Shoulders of Country Ridge Road. (Councilman Wayne Ardoin).

Councilman Wayne Ardoin stated, “Thank you it was addressed in Mr. Barry Soileau report for what you have did and try to get the rest of it done.”

13. Request Tori Logan Road be put on the list to dig ditches. (Councilman Wayne Ardoin).

Barry Soileau stated, “When we went to dig ditches the contractor had got there prior to us. Now we have to wait for that road to cure in order to put excavators on that road and destroy it.”

Councilman Wayne Ardoin stated, “Tori Logan been overlaid about 3 years now.”

Barry Soileau stated, “I stand corrected I will check on it in the morning.”

14. Discuss letters that were sent out by Mr. Bellard to all Council Members of their duties. (Councilman Wayne Ardoin).

Councilman Wayne Ardoin stated, “I am here to get something straight. I know sometimes I come on pretty strong but I been here a long time and out of all due respect to you Mr. Jessie Bellard that letter that was sent to me on August 22, 2023 and sent to every one of the Council members a copy of the letter. Mrs. Vivian you did not get a copy of it. Mr. Shelvin you stated to me you did not get a copy of it. It goes back to what I look at as a Council member. We have a Judiciary responsibility when a constituent calls us with a complaint that we go and see about their complaint and turn it over to the public works department or to your office Mr. Bellard. On the evening of the 21st we had a meeting here and I told you that I received a complaint from Representative Dustin Miller about a gentleman having his issues on 113 Helen Garland Drive, Opelousas, Louisiana where his patio was caving into the lateral that comes off Grant Road. This gentleman is Mr. Ernest Brooks that bought that house and been living there about ten years. The drainage board was contacted some years back and they stated it would cost too much money to fix that lateral in reference to his problem. Dustin spoke to that gentleman over the weekend and he called me and asked that I would go look at that gentleman problem and I stated to you that evening Mr. Bellard that I would go look at that problem. I did meet up with Mr. Brooks that evening and gave him a contact of Mr. Mitch Wyble who is on the drainage board in that area. Mitch stated he would be glad to go over there and look at the situation but if they do any work there they would have to address everybody situation over there because you have some neighbors over there Dale Vidrine, Greg Ardoin, Larry Quebedeaux, Scott Ploxy they all have issues. Mr. Bellard you took photos with that same drainage board where we put some rocks along Tillou Andrus Drive to keep some caving in from going on with that road way. I have no ill feelings towards you on this matter right here, it’s just that when a constituent going to call me in District 9 or in this parish I will try to put them in the right direction whether it be with your office, Mr. Soileau, or if it’s to deal with the State. The other day I had a lady call me about a tree that was leaning on Highway 182 where two people got killed some years back a tree fell on their car and killed them. A lady by the name of Ms. Carol stated can you look at those trees on Hwy 182 one of them are leaning and ready to fall on the road. Mr. Soileau got a call from me that same day because why that tree would have fallen and my duty was to help someone that tree would have fallen on their car and killed them. When people call me I will go see about them and turn it over to whomever it needs to be turned over to. I just think as a leader you could have said Wayne let’s go look at this situation. I’m finished with that but like I said when people call me I will go look at it because I have a duty to turn it over to you but I will go look at it cause I live in that area. Thank you.”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “This is the issue. It is not the issue of any Councilman going look at an issue or doing anything with the constituent. What I am saying is nobody speaks for Parish Government but me or my employees. The Council do not have the authority to tell anyone that we will do something or not do something with certain situations such as that one. We will take care of that problem right there. It is more than just a canal and I promise you do not want to get involved in that conversation in this meeting. We will take care of that problem and make sure that man is made whole for the problems that put in place. You can rest assure it will be handled. It will be handled by Parish Government, if the drainage board if they do not want to deal with it that is up to them but my issue is nobody speaks for Parish Government besides the people that works here. Whether we do something or not do something that is a decision made by Parish Government not by the Parish Council that is what the letter is about. You can go see about your constituents all you want and turn it in to Public Works that’s perfect but all I’m saying is don’t speak on our behalf because we decide that.”

Councilman Wayne Ardoin stated, “If you going to take care of that gentlemen than the rest will want to be taken care of too.”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “I will take care of the issue at hand I can promise you that.”

Councilman Jerry Red Jr. stated, “Mr. Bellard I agree with you I called Mr. Barry this past week on a couple of issues and he took care of it. I had a constituent at a place I went to on Saturday complaining and I had to tell him it is the responsibility of the parish president or

designee and then after it was taken care of this week he was appreciative. I think sometime the people just have to understand it is no longer a police juror system. It is a home rule charter and when I say home rule charter, it is taken care of by the parish president or his people in that place but at the same time, we have to have a working relationship. Parish Government and Parish Council getting things done for the people of the parish.”

Councilwoman Vivian Olivier stated, “I have called Mr. Soileau many times and he have gotten out done more than what he was supposed to do and I thank him. He have answered every call that I have ever asked him about.”

Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated, “I don’t know what happened with all of your conversation but I will say this I too am very involved in my district and have people that call me and I go out and see it. I too refer them to the proper agency. Again, thank you Mr. Barry for all that you do but I do refer and go because they calling me first because they have a complaint and want me to see it. I never say I am going to take care of it or you going to take care of it. I say let me get the proper person. I don’t know what all happen but I do go out and I do go see what the problem is if it’s something simple then I do it if not I will refer it.”

15. Further discuss Private Roads and Private Subdivisions. (Councilman Wayne Ardoin).

Councilman Wayne Ardoin stated, “I ask that this be placed back on the agenda in reference to Fleur Des Coteau.

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “We had an attorney look at it to see what would be our best route to take. Everybody knows here that it becomes an issue of public safety. With that approach I will send you all a copy of the opinion that I received from the attorney. At that point we can send it to our attorney for them to draft ordinances to make this happen. To put everything in context if the road and Fleur Des Coteau is the road that I gave them, if it is impassable because of the condition and an ambulance or a firetruck or a police cannot get down there then we can go and fix the road. Like we had talked about with the people who are living down there to pay for the material or whatever it may take. We can do it. We just got that opinion last week. What I will do is send it to you all. I will give it to Garrett and let them look at it and see if they agree with it then I think we will be on the right track.”

Councilman Wayne Ardoin stated, “At this time Mr. Bellard, I want to tell you that road is in better shape than it has been in a long time. They have a couple of gentlemen that have taken it upon themselves to go with a tractor and a blade and they sort of turtle-backed it. It is in better shape. You don’t have to go with a four-wheel drive truck anymore. At least it has come a little ways. I am trying to get them to sign over where they can get garbage collection. It is in better shape than it has ever been yet it is still considered a private road. They just need all the help that they can get. The garbage collection is really bad because they all have to come to the front.”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “That was one of the questions that was raised for the betterment of the parish to pick up the trash at the resident instead of at the end of the road.”

Councilman Wayne Ardoin stated, “And get mail delivery at their house. When they brought that property and they signed over that property and received their title for that property it was not explained that they were considered as a private road and we could not give them any help at that time and no services at all. Like you stated before when we had a meeting there for the health and the welfare of those people and that is what that Home Rule Charter says.”

Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated, “Mr. Bellard, what is the status if a road comes up to par can we consider adopting it? If they all get together and get it all up to par can we consider adopting a private road?”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “If they bring it up to the specifications that is required I don’t have a problem with that.”

Councilwoman Nancy Carrier stated, “Can I get a copy of that, I have also spoken to people on that road and that would be a good idea if they are willing to get it up to par. I would make it better being a public road.”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “We will get you a copy.”

Councilman Wayne Ardoin stated, “While we are n Fleur Des Coteau, Mr. Bellard how about that easement that is in the back. What is the status on that?”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “The last we talked they did not want to dig it because it was not going to relief enough pressure because it would not connect to the road in front. They never did anything from that.”

Councilman Wayne Ardoin stated, “They are all concerned. There is a lateral that is between the two areas.”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “We have somebody that will go and dig it and they won’t charge them anything but they did not see where it will get enough relief. I will get back with them.”

Councilman Wayne Ardoin stated, “Will you continue looking at it?”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “I definitely will. I will call them tomorrow.”

Chairman Jerry Red Jr. stated, “Mr. Bellard, while we are on that subject, private roads and private subdivisions and I believe everyone may have private roads and private subdivisions in their district and it is a major topic. When you don’t have a school bus going down a road to pick up kids to go to school you can’t receive your mail, the mail carrier can’t travel down the road and your trash can be picked up because it is a private road and yet we have to realize that trash truck have several tons traveling down that road. In inclement weather the road will become a whole lot worse. We have to look at this because in order to get better we have to do better. I think the first step is the people the is living on that road regardless how we look at it they are living there and regardless of what they pay for the lot that they live on they may have paid a whole lot less than other but they would have to bring the roar up to par first before the parish can start assuming to take care of it. If the parish goes on that road and assume one thing it will become our responsibility.”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “I will send you all the opinion that we asked far.”

Councilman Timmy Lejeune questioned, “Mr. Bellard, if we service a road three times does it automatically become a parish road?”

Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated, “No, it becomes a public road when the parish government takes it in. If the parish government does not take it in it is a private road. That is how it can go from private to public or public to private.”

Chairman Jerry Red stated, “can you explain to us this: If we go and do work on a private road, whose responsibility is it then?”

Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated, “If you do work on a private road it is your responsibility.”

Chairman Jerry Red Jr., stated, “Hold on Mr. Duplechain. You just said if we work on it three times it is not our responsibility. Now you said if we do work on it one time it becomes our responsibility. Which one is it?”

Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated, “It is the first one where it is not your responsibility. If it is taken in by the parish then it is a public road but if it is not taken in it is a private road. There is no way around that where it can become your responsibility.”

Chairman Jerry Red Jr., stated, “So it is best that we don’t do anything on it until it becomes our responsibility?”

Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated, “The only thing is that I will look at that opinion and I will see if it leads where if that road becomes threatening of life, health or property that

could open the door where work can be done. It is not going to transform it into a public road but it can be a way where for a public purpose to protect property, life or health. Parish Government may be able to go into that private property and do some work on it. It does not transform it into a public road but that opinion which we will look at and we will have to go over and look at it and it may be a way for parish government to go in and perform the work on a private road.”

Chairman Jerry Red Jr., stated, “That is a vague statement Mr. Duplechain.”

Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated, “We have an intergovernmental agreement with the city. Would this be like that they are footing the bill.

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “It is my understanding that there is some type of agreement between the parish and the landowners who own the land and it would be their expense like we are doing with the city.”

**16. Discuss appointing members for the removal of the Statue.
(Councilwoman Nancy Carriere).**

Mr. Tommy Dejean addressed the council. He stated, “My two cents on the roads is this; go and see what Acadia Parish or St. Tammany Parish does. They have a big rural parish that is having phenomenal growth. They have encountered the same problem time and time again. Getting back to the issue at hand. I was told to get three members from the organization I represent, which I did. They selected me, David Richard and Link Savoie. Another issue has come up about the monument. I want you all to be mindful about this. That monument was built in 1920. From 1917 to 1919 the United States was involved in World War 1, a very horrendous war and none of us has ever look at the purpose that is behind that monument. On two or three sides, it has some names but on the front, it has the purpose and I will read it. The principal of our forefathers and the hero’s in gray consummated by our young hero’s in grey consummated by our young hero is 1917 to 1919. So that monument went up there for two reasons. It went up for the confederate soldiers but it also went up there for the World War 1 soldiers. Someone from that group needs to have a say on that. I can ask Link Savoie who is an eminent veteran to take that task. I do not want to give up my three positions on this committee. That is all I have to say.”

Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated, “The only reason why I have it on the agenda is because Mr. Ardoin made a motion to select three councilmembers. I wanted to have that suggestion changed. I wanted to select three people that are not councilmembers. That was the main thing. I know it will be very hard for them to give an opinion and be involved. This is where we have been having problems. I have three public people that are involved and they are interested in serving on this.”

Chairman Jerry Red Jr, stated, “Mr. Dejean, can you give her the names of three members that you have selected.”

Mr. Tommy Dejean stated, “Mr. David Richard, Mr. Link Savoie and myself. My concern is that someone needs to represent the World War 1 Veterans on this thing.”

Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated, “I will give him the names but I have to confer again with my three. I wanted to get it straight first that I can do three people.”

Mr. Tommy Dejean stated, “Can I ask how this committee is supposed to operate? Are these 6 people suppose to meet and come up with an opinion?”

Chairman Jerry Red Jr., stated, “Once she has her three names then you all will have six people and you all will form a meeting and that will start the process.”

Councilman Wayne Ardoin stated, “Mr. Dejean has a good point. Do you have anybody that will represent the VFW?”

Mr. Tommy Dejean stated, “I can ask Link to do it. He would be the perfect guy. I would ask someone from the VFW to represent the World War 1 Veterans. Link is already one of the three that we have selected.”

Councilman Wayne Ardoin stated, “Are you satisfied with that Mr. Dejean?”

Mr. Tommy Dejean stated, “Whatever we are supposed to do with six of us having to make that decision.

Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated, “Actually it should be seven people. You will always end up in a tie with six people.”

Councilman Wayne Ardoin stated, “Ms. Nancy are you in agreeance with that? They get someone from the VFW to represent the World War 1 people and bring his three people on board and then we will have seven people. We will have a 7-member committee. It is time to move on with this. I will offer it as a motion that Mr. Dejean find someone from the VFW.”

Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated, “I will find someone from the VFW. I know plenty of people. It will be a seven-member board. The ball is in my court. I will find four people. He has his three and it is done.”

Mr. Tommy Dejean stated, “I will look for a veteran too.”

Chairman Jerry Red Jr., stated, “You have Mr. Link Savoie. That is one of your choices and he is a veteran.”

Mr. Tommy Dejean stated, “That is correct, he is a veteran. Let him represent me and I will pick three from my group.”

Chairman Jerry Red Jr., stated, “That is your choice.”

Mr. Tommy Dejean stated, “If you want Link Savoie to be it. I think everybody here would agree that Link Savoie is the most renowned veteran that we have in the parish. I can allow him. He can be the Veteran for the World War Group and let me pick my three.”

Chairman Jerry Red Jr., stated, “Mr. Dejean, we are being cordial. You asked for Mr. Link Savoie. You have Mr. David Richard. You have great people there and Ms. Nancy have three people. If she chooses one more that will be seven people. Let’s come to a common ground and move forward.”

Councilman Wayne Ardoin stated, “I will offer a motion that we have seven people. You will have an odd number where they will be able to come and they will be able to vote. It is time to move own. If Mr. Dejean wants to use Mr. Link Savoie as World War representative and Mr. Dejean comes up with three names and Ms. Nancy has her three names.”

Chairman Jerry Red Jr., stated, “Mr. Ardoin, this is fine what you are saying. Leave his three, leave her three, and let the council select one more. Then there will be seven people. Let the council select a VFW Member. Then that will make the seven.”

A motion was made by Councilman Wayne Ardoin, seconded by Councilman Jimmie Edwards to forward to Regular Meeting held on **Wednesday, September 20th, 2023** to authorize Councilwoman Nancy Carriere to select three people and authorize Mr. Tommy Dejean select three people and the council select one person to form a committee to discuss the faith of the statue.

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

Motion forwarded.

17. Discuss any other business brought before this committee.

Councilman Wayne Ardoin stated, “Mr. Bellard, you had stated about 3 or 4 months ago that you were going to look at overlaying Suzanne Dejean Dr. Can you still possibly move on that?”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “I have made this comment before and I will make it again in the public meeting. We have gravel roads that is in district 9 that have never been done. I went and ride on Suzanne Dejean Road and that road is passable. It is great and there is nothing wrong with it. I do not see where we are going to do this right now. People are paying taxes the same as everyone else. We are going to do it but I am not going to submit to doing it right now. We still have roads that needs to be done that have never been blacktopped in that same district and I stand by that. If people on Suzanne Dejean Road have a question, they can call me and I will be more than glad to go and sit with them. They have to understand and I don’t think that there are too many people on Suzanne Dejean Road that is asking that question.”

Councilman Wayne Ardoin stated, “You have a group of them that are asking where those old speed bumps are it is sinking.”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “We can cut those out and put some new asphalt. But to re-do the whole road again is expensive.”

Councilman Wayne Ardoin stated, “Yes, I totally agree, you are looking at a big price tag. That is one of their biggest complaints. The other complaint is this: Why do they have gravel in their driveways, I am talking about the old ground up asphalt, and in Magnolia Ridge, and they do not have that. I told them it is because all of the heat that we have been having, that is why that asphalt is starting to peel off of that concrete because it is so hot. Can you please try to address those old speed bumps?”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “We can look at that and cut those out and put some new asphalt but the road is in good shape. The people in that district that have a gravel road is paying that same millage. We have two roads left with gravel roads in District 9.

Councilman Wayne Ardoin stated, “You did Tom Schexnayder, you did Lane Drive and you did Fusilier Road. That is all that you really have.”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “There is a couple of more roads.”

Councilman Wayne Ardoin stated, “Tatman Lane is gravel but it is not in the road district.”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “There are a couple of roads that Precious gave us about two months ago. As soon as everything gets done I promise you we are going to do it. We did Aspen Lane the other day because it is going to save that road. It was an asphalt road. But to do Suzanne Dejean Road will cost a fortune.”

Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated, “I have 4 questions. Mr. Bellard a while back I spoke to you about money to fix houses. There were some other parishes that had gotten money to help the landowners to fix their houses so they won’t become adjudicated. Do you have any information on that?”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “That was in Iberia Parish. The program from what I remember was not what it seemed to be, not as easy. St. Mary Parish have a program that we are trying to bring back here to our parish that is kind of the same.”

Councilwoman Nancy Carriere questioned, “We talk about Broadband a lot. I am just curious to know what percentage have been done because in my area a lot have been done.”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “There is a website. I will get you that information. It will not be up to date as of this week or nothing but it will give you a good broad look at what has been done and what is in the process of being done. We will get that to you all.”

Councilwoman Nancy Carriere questioned, “I know that we have a burn ban here in St. Landry Parish but in Lafayette Parish they started a watering thing. Do we have that here? Does the burn ban include any open fire pits because I see people barbecuing.”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “The burn ban is no open fire. It is not recommended that you barbecue and it is not that you cannot. All we are saying, and that is coming from the State Fire Marshal is that if you do barbecue and it gets out of hand you will be liable for any damage that it may cause and you may be cited. We are not saying that you cannot barbecue. As long as it is not on the ground.”

Councilwoman Nancy Carriere questioned, “On Hwy 31 they did a lot of cleaning up on the left side coming across from Fleur Des Coteau. Can you give me updates on that area? I was concerned about construction.

Councilman Wayne Ardoin stated, “It will be the drainage board. They installed a culvert, which was purchased by Mr. Ken Fakori. They had removed his culvert out of that canal because it was too small and he was blocking the water. That is the project that is going on.”

Councilwoman Nancy Carriere questioned. On the Creswell Lane Extension which is in my district. I see they have one camper that is next to the camper site that is already up there before you get to the caution light. I was just curious to know if that is going to be another camp area or camp ground.”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “I am not aware of anyone getting a permit for another camp ground but I can find out in the morning.”

Councilwoman Nancy Carrier stated, “On Ranch Road, you and I spoke about that before Mr. Barry. At the end of Ranch Road, we talked about the sewage. We did not know if they had a permit because it seems like they added some more campers. I just want to make sure that it is properly done.”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “I will find out in the morning. I do not think anybody pulled a permit for that for another campground or anything. I will find out.”

Councilman Timmy Lejeune stated, “I asked Ms. Sherell and Ms. Karen if they had any information on Shawnee Farms. Was it done by Resolution or Ordinance?”

Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated, “It was not done by either. It as an act of dedication restrictive conversance, which I have here. It has to be signed and this copy was not signed, maybe it was. It has to be recorded with Clerk of Court. Maybe it was but it is this subdivision responsibility to enforce their dedication for restrictive conversance. There are 37 of them. They range from not putting a basketball goal near your driveway to your yard being too big and not parking a car in your front yard, your garage have to be facing the right direction. Maybe they have a HOA, maybe it is not funded which is why they are asking local government to enforce it which is really not what local government does. Local Government is exactly tuned and built for drainage, sewage, water, fire stations, and road. They are not built to make you move your basketball goal somewhere else. That is why we cannot be the HOA. It is perfectly a niece subdivision in St. Landry Parish but maybe they cannot fund a HOA to file lawsuits. It is really not what local government does. If you have 20 people violating the HOA in this subdivision and you try to force them to file a lawsuit then you will have all the other subdivisions. Do you pick out the special subdivisions where you enforce their restrictions or do you do it for every subdivision in St. Landry Parish? What Parish Government can do: We can do sewerage and water and roads and fire district things like that. We have a special taxing district that is what we do. That is really, what parish government looks at. They don't really look at whether your garage is facing the right direction.”

Councilwoman Mildred Thierry thanked Ms. Cynthia Fontenot and Mr. Barry Soileau for all that they do to assist her and her constituents.”

Chairman Jerry Red Jr., questioned the Truancy Program. He questioned if there is anything that will be toward the parish on this issue?”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “Once the School Board does everything that it can and they get to the end of what they can do administratively then they will ask us to step in and help on the criminal side and push the issue so we won’t have these kids skipping school. On our part basically the investigators that we have, one of them is certified to do everything and that is Mr. Spencer Cornet. Whenever he gets the call, he will go and do his part and do the reports. Hopefully he will not have to arrest anyone but if need be that is as far as we will go with it. He will be working with the school board only on cases that are brought to our attention. The school system will do everything that it has to do. We don’t get involved until they have done everything that they can.”

Chairman Jerry Red Jr., questioned, “Do we need to put something toward the budget on that matter?”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “No, we are good.”

Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated, “Usually the sheriff handle the truancy. Will you go before the sheriff or will you go in conjunction with the sheriff Department and isn’t Mr. Cornett handling the animals?”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “They are both handling animals and our ordinances that we have in place now. That is who is giving out citations for the burn ban. They are doing all of the enforcements side of our ordinances. The problem in the parish now is that everybody is short of manpower. The city of Eunice is short. Opelousas has a person that takes care of truancy but that is the only one. The rest of the parish is left with nobody. The Sheriff and I talked about it and we will use Spencer. He is already trained to do that and help us with that problem.”

Councilwoman Nancy Carrier stated, “Will he help in line after the School Board and after the Sheriff? I am just trying to understand.”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated. Spencer will be the next person to address the issue from the School Board. It will not go to the Sheriff’s Office it will come to our office.”

Councilwoman Nancy Carriere questioned if Spencer will give out citations to the parents or will he pick up children.”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “He will do the investigation and whatever determine the cause. The end result if that we don’t want to put nobody in jail. We want to try to get them in school. The last resort is to put someone in jail. When they get to a dead end that is when they will call us.”

18. Adjourn.

A motion was made by Councilman Wayne Ardoin, seconded by Councilwoman Mildred Thierry to adjourn the Public Works Committee.

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

Motion carried.

I HEREBY CERTIFY THE FOREGOING TO BE EXACT AND TRUE
SHERELL JORDAN, COUNCIL CLERK
KAREN BARLOW, ASSISTANT COUNCIL CLERK