

OCTOBER 13, 2025

NEW IBERIA, LOUISIANA

IBERIA PARISH COUNCIL
SPECIAL FINANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES

The Special Finance Committee Meeting was called to order by Finance Chairman Scott Ransonet at 6:01 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Those members recorded as PRESENT were as follows:

Francis "Tommy" Pollard, Sr., Michael R. Landry, Marcus "Bruce" Broussard, Lloyd Brown, Warren P. Gachassin, Jr., Dustin Suire, James P. Trahan, Scott Ransonet, Brock Pellerin, Brian P. Napier, and Chad Maturin.

Those members recorded as ABSENT were as follows:

Natalie Broussard, Lady Fontenette Brown, and Caymen Crappell.

Others in Attendance:

Parish President M. Larry Richard, CAO Milton "Bo" Belanger, Finance Director Erica Duplechain, Fire Chief Guy Bonin, and Library Director Marjorie Hills.

BUSINESS TO BE DISCUSSED

1. Initial review and discussion of the 2026 Proposed Budgets, as follows:

a. Fire Protection District Fund Budget

Fire Chief Guy Bonin stated that no major changes were made to the 2026 Fire Protection District Fund Budget other than Capital Outlay expenditures for \$60,000 for the purchase of a new pickup truck, \$20,000 for piston intakes, \$15,000 for air bags, \$50,000 for extrication jaws for life equipment, \$10,000 for hose testing, \$12,000 for a commercial lawnmower for the training center, \$45,000 for nozzles and saws for the fire trucks, and \$18,000 for miscellaneous equipment, for total of \$230,000.

Fire Chief Bonin stated that Group Insurance increased from \$643,512 to \$734,706. He explained there is less liability with having their own Group Insurance.

Mr. Warren P. Gachassin, Jr. questioned Chief Bonin if the Repair and Maintenance - Building line item decreased by 45.5% due to the insurance claim made in 2025.

Chief Bonin confirmed that the decrease was due to the Repair and Maintenance - Building line item was due to the insurance monies placed into that line item.

Fire Protection District Program Fund balances for the 2026 Fiscal Year:

Beginning fund balance of \$4,372,096
Surplus projected in 2026 of \$268,082
Ending fund balance of \$4,640,178

b. Communications District Fund Budget

Communications District Director Lance Provost stated that no major changes were made to the 2026 Communications District Fund Budget.

Director Provost advised that the Repair and Maintenance - Buildings line increased from \$32,800 to \$60,000 for unplanned equipment failures, leak in vestibule, replacement of a window in the EOC, air conditioning repair and/or replacement.

Director Provost stated that a 5% cost of living increase was budgeted for employee pay increases for personnel and insurance.

Director Provost advised that the Personal Services line item for part-time employees has been removed.

Director Provost stated that the Repair and Maintenance - Equipment line item increased from \$20,000 to \$30,000 to replace cracked units for the server room.

Mr. Marcus "Bruce" Broussard enquired as to the age of the current building.

Director Provost stated that the current building is approximately five years old.

Mr. Marcus "Bruce" Broussard questioned if the window unit and air conditioners are still under warranty.

Director Provost confirmed that these items are no longer under warranty.

Mr. Marcus "Bruce" Broussard asked Director Provost to elaborate on the Group Insurance.

Director Provost stated that the projected Group Insurance costs for 2026 will be \$184,270.

Mr. Warren P. Gachassin, Jr. asked Director Provost to explain why two of the employees have opted out of the Group Insurance.

Director Provost stated that one employee is using military insurance and the other employee's spouse has better insurance.

Mr. Warren P. Gachassin, Jr. requested that Director Provost explain why Professional Services is budgeted \$15,000 and only \$579 was used in 2025.

Director Provost explained that Professional Services fluctuates for Communications District and it depends on the need to pay for CAD Services.

Mr. James P. Trahan asked Director Provost to explain what the problems are with water leaks and if they are major.

Director Provost stated that any time there is a hard whipping rain, water is coming into the vestibule.

Mr. James P. Trahan asked if the air conditioning units will be repaired or replaced.

Director Provost stated that at this time, they are attempting to repair the air conditioning units and that additional quotes will need to be obtained for the repairs.

Communications District Program Fund balances for the 2026 Fiscal Year:

Beginning fund balance of \$2,794,692

Surplus projected in 2026 of \$81,179

Ending fund balance of \$2,875,871

c. Public Library Fund Budget

Library Director Marjorie Hills stated there is an increase in the Personnel line item for new hires.

Director Hills advised that the Insurance line item increased from \$19,878 to \$63,000.

Director Hills stated that the Advertising and Dues line item increased from \$2,690 to \$4,500 for newspaper advertisements and electronic billboards.

Director Hills advised that there has been an increase for Utilities line items for all branches.

Director Hills further stated that there has been an increase in Repairs and Maintenance - Buildings line items for roof repairs.

Mr. Brian P. Napier questioned Director Hills to provide numbers on the Main Library Branch for roof repairs.

Director Hills explained that the contractor will be replacing the roof with a composite slate. There has been issues with asbestos and a drain that broke. The majority of the flat roof has been completed.

Mr. Brian P. Napier asked Director Hills to explain if there is a warranty on the roof.

Director Hills stated that she believes it is a 30-year warranty.

Mr. Brian P. Napier asked what the total amount of the roof project is.

Director Hills advised that the costs are approximately \$79,500 for the flat portion and the other portion will be approximately \$591,250. Due to inflation and tariffs, material costs have increased. The contractor is Mark Stiphler from MBSB Architects in Lafayette.

Mr. Warren P. Gachassin, Jr. questioned as to how expenses are generated for Indirect Cost Allocations.

Director Hills explained that those figures are based on expenses minus Capital Outlay for \$70,000 for renovations to the Jeanerette Branch, \$440,000 for windows, roof, and meeting room improvements at the Main Library, and \$27,000 for three entrance doors at the Parkview Branch, for a total amount of \$537,000.

Mr. Marcus "Bruce" Broussard requested Director Hills to explained why she is saying that it has been a mess to get answers or actions done.

Director Hills stated that because the original architect is no longer being used because no progress was being made.

Mr. Michael R. Landry commended Director Hills for the programs that she is bringing to the community and requested that everyone look at the programs that are available.

Mr. Warren P. Gachassin, Jr. urged Director Hills to look at various ways to focus on utilization of fund balances. He explained that with millages, we have to keep a certain number in reserves that are collected or we will have an audit finding.

Director Hills stated that they are looking at new ways to bring in new technology to the community.

Public Library Program Fund balances for the 2025 Fiscal Year:
Beginning fund balance of \$5,398,910
Deficit in 2026 of (\$930,186)
Ending fund balance of \$4,468,724

d. Rabies Control Fund Budget

Rabies Control Director Amanda Istre stated that not many changes have been made in Rabies Control Fund Budget, with the exception of the contract with the City of New Iberia.

Director Istre stated that they are in the process of developing a new building.

Mr. Warren P. Gachassin, Jr. confirmed there is a new facility coming with ARPA dollars to match.

Director Istre explained that the architectural drawings are 99% complete and we are currently waiting for engineering specifications to be completed. We are hoping to start bids in December and break ground next year.

Director Istre stated that Capital Outlay in the amount of \$70,000 is budgeted for Buildings.

Mr. Warren P. Gachassin, Jr. asked Parish President M. Larry Richard if the plans will be released so the community can review them.

Parish President M. Larry Richard stated he will release the architectural plans once received.

Mr. Warren P. Gachassin, Jr. confirmed with Parish President M. Larry Richard that he is still reviewing the contract with the City of New Iberia.

Parish President M. Larry Richard stated he will hold a meeting with Legal Counsel and the Mayor of the City of New Iberia. The current contract with the City of New Iberis does not expire until March 1, 2026.

Mr. Warren P. Gachassin, Jr. requested Director Istre to explain the \$70,000 allocated in the Furniture line item.

Finance Director Erica Duplechain clarified the \$70,000 is for upgrades in the project listed as A, B, and C.

Mr. Michael R. Landry asked Parish President M. Larry Richard if there is a deadline in which the contract will need to be agreed upon and signed.

Parish President M. Larry Richard stated that he has negotiations to offer.

Mr. Marcus "Bruce" Broussard confirmed that the new building will be completed at the beginning of next year and asked if Iberia Parish plans to continue to use the old building.

Parish President M. Larry Richard stated that the existing building will be utilized for several months.

Parish President M. Larry Richard explained that in 2018, the City of New Iberia had just implemented the Police Department and since then, the Mayor has been trying to get his department together, asked for help. In 2022, we sent a letter in an attempt to cancel the contract. In 2025, we sent the same letter to the City of New Iberia in an attempt to cancel the contract. Parish President stated that he would like to help the City of New Iberia and do have a plan for negotiations.

Mr. Dustin Suire asked President Richard if he had intentions to continue the relationship if the City of New Iberia cannot, and if so, will additional kennels be added?

President Richard confirmed that thirty-three (33) additional kennels will be added in the new facility in addition to what is there now. The current contract with the City of New Iberia is fifteen (15) kennels for dogs and five (5) kennels for cats. A total of fifty-six (56) for dogs and twenty (20) for cats and roughly 56% of those kennels are being used by the City of New Iberia. He also confirmed there has been no communication since the letter has been sent to the City of New Iberia.

Mr. Brock Pellerin asked Director Istre if there is an estimated costs for each dog or cat that is brought in.

Director Istre stated that each animal has to be vaccinated and may need medication and could cost up to \$1,200, at a cost of approximately \$40.00 per day, with an average of sixty-three days spent in the facility.

Rabies Control Program Fund balances for the 2026 Fiscal Year:
Beginning fund balance of \$241,522
Deficit in 2026 of (\$136,210)
Ending fund balance of \$105,313

e. Health Unit Maintenance Fund Budget

Finance Director Erica Duplechain stated that \$400,000 is being moved to support Rabies Control Fund Budget and \$1,000,000 is being moved to support the Criminal Justice Facility Fund Budget.

Director Duplechain stated that a request was made to hire a registered nurse. This will increase Personnel Services line item from \$38,987 to \$140,686.

Director Duplechain advised that Repair and Maintenance - Building line increased from \$25,000 to \$50,000.

Mr. Warren P. Gachassin, Jr. asked if Repair and Maintenance funds could be taken from the Public Building Maintenance Fund Budget.

Director Duplechain advised that Public Buildings Maintenance Fund Budget has a lot of deferred maintenance, however, it does have \$25,000 that could be utilized for this need.

Mr. Warren P. Gachassin, Jr. suggested that \$50,000 be taken from Public Buildings Maintenance Fund Budget to accommodate their need.

Director Duplechain agreed to review the Public Buildings Maintenance Fund Budget for that purpose. There are a lot of FP&C Projects that the Parish is starting, with hefty local shares and explained they are attempting to obtain funds from Federal sources.

Mr. Warren P. Gachassin, Jr. asked if the FP&C funds could come from the Economic Development District #1 Fund Budget.

Director Duplechain stated that some of those projects may be able to come from Economic Development District #1 Fund Budget.

Health Unit Maintenance Fund balances for the 2026 Fiscal Year:
Beginning fund balance of \$2,134,406
Deficit in 2026 of (\$731,102)
Ending fund balance of \$1,403,304

f. Criminal Justice Facility Fund Budget

Finance Director Erica Duplechain stated that \$1,000,000 is being moved from Health Unit Maintenance Fund Budget to support this budget.

Director Duplechain advised that the Sheriff's expenses have been broken up to allow better tracking of those expenses separately.

Director Duplechain explained that the juvenile detentions have increased.

Parish President M. Larry Richard stated that the cost to house one juvenile is \$7,500 per month and there really is no way to plan for this because the costs increase each year.

Director Duplechain stated that Capital Outlay expenses for the Jail Administration Building include \$45,000 for chiller coils, \$12,000 for cameras, \$50,000 for CSI roof replacement, and \$10,000 for CSI generator rebuild, for a total of \$117,000 for Criminal Justice Facility Jail Administration Building repairs.

Director Duplechain stated that additional Capital Outlay expenses for the Sheriff's Building include \$8,000 for elevator plunger, \$20,000 for roof repair, and \$20,000 for HVAC repairs, for a total of \$48,000 for the Sheriff's Building repairs.

Mr. Warren P. Gachassin, Jr. questioned Director Duplechain how much longer will the Royalty Fund be able to support this transfer. We are expecting to received \$400,000 this year and it is in worse shape than it was last year.

Director Duplechain acknowledged that the Royalty Fund is getting low.

Mr. Warren P. Gachassin, Jr. stated that he thought the chillers were addressed a year or two ago at the Jail .

Director Duplechain stated that she believes that this is something different and would defer to Chief Operating Officer Michael Broussard.

Criminal Justice Facility Fund balances for the 2026 Fiscal Year:

Beginning fund balance of \$256,152

Surplus in 2026 of \$898

Ending fund balance of \$257,049

g. Economic Development District #1 Fund

Finance Director Erica Duplechain stated there has already been some adjustments made in the amount of \$1,300,000 to support the Port of Iberia Road Project and \$180,000 for the Highway 90 East Waterline Project.

Mr. Warren P. Gachassin, Jr. advised that the Port Commission should need approximately \$750,000 in funds next year.

Mr. Warren P. Gachassin, Jr. asked Director Duplechain if the Lewis Street Project will be completed in this fiscal budget.

Director Duplechain confirmed that the Lewis Street Project will be completed this year.

Parish President M. Larry Richard advised that the totals will change due to the number of projects that are ongoing. He stated that we will be requesting funds for street lights at Innovation Boulevard.

Mr. Warren P. Gachassin, Jr. stated that the infrastructure is there and that all we will need to place the lights on the poles.

Parish President M. Larry Richard suggested that we get the electrical company to tie in and go all the way to the roundabout because the first building construction will begin at the end of this year and will be placed for bids at that time.

Mr. Marcus "Bruce" Broussard confirmed that the plans are for water, sewerage and gas infrastructure.

Parish President M. Larry Richard confirmed that there are plans for water, sewerage and gas infrastructure.

Mr. Warren P. Gachassin, Jr. asked if we could access some of the Gumbo funds previously allocated for Broadband.

Director Duplechain stated that it could be a part of the strategic plan.

Economic Development District #1 Fund balances for the 2026
Fiscal Year:
Beginning fund balance of \$16,264,402
Projected deficit in 2026 of (\$2,328,745)
Ending fund balance of \$13,935,656

A motion was made by Mr. Michael R. Landry, seconded by Mr. Marcus
"Bruce" Broussard, that the Finance Committee adjourn.

This motion having been submitted to a vote, the vote thereon
was as follows:

YEAS: Francis "Tommy" Pollard, Sr., Michael R. Landry, Marcus
"Bruce" Broussard, Lloyd Brown, Warren P. Gachassin, Jr.,
Dustin Suire, James P. Trahan, Scott Ransonet, Brock
Pellerin, Brian P. Napier, and Chad Maturin.

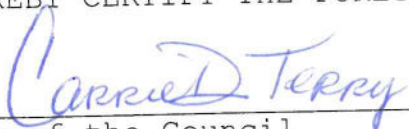
NAYS: None.

ABSENT: Natalie Broussard, Lady Fontenette Brown, and Caymen
Crappell.

And the motion was declared adopted this 13th day of October,
2025.

Finance Chairman Scott Ransonet declared the Special Finance
Committee Meeting adjourned at 7:16 p.m.

I HEREBY CERTIFY THE FOREGOING TO BE EXACT AND TRUE:



Clerk of the Council