

OCTOBER 20, 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 6:10 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Those members recorded as PRESENT were as follows:

Francis "Tommy" Pollard, Sr., Michael R. Landry, Lloyd Brown, Warren P. Gachassin, Jr., James P. Trahan, Scott Ransonet, Brock Pellerin, Lady Fontenette Brown, Caymen Crappell, and Chad Maturin.

Those members recorded as ABSENT were as follows:

Marcus "Bruce" Broussard, Natalie Broussard, Dustin Suire, and Brian P. Napier.

Others in Attendance:

Parish President M. Larry Richard, Finance Director Erica Duplechain, CAO Milton "Bo" Belanger, Recreation and Playground Director Tammy Trahan, Sewerage District No. 1 and Waterworks District No. 3 Director Brad Cradeur, Acadiana Regional Airport Director Maurice "Moe" Songy, Mosquito Control Director Herff Jones, Acadiana Fairgrounds Arena Manager Courtney Boudreaux, and Public Building Maintenance Director Bill Hulin.

BUSINESS TO BE DISCUSSED

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

a. Recreation and Playground Fund Budget

Iberia Parish Recreation and Playground Director Tammy Trahan presented a recap of the 2026 Recreation and Playground Fund Budget which included amendments to said budget.

Director Trahan stated that the Sales Tax line item was increased for 2026, based on \$200,000 per month received, with a total of \$2.4 Million expected revenue.

Director Trahan stated that the interest collected on investments were increased to \$85,000.

Director Trahan also advised that according to the Recreation and Playground Fund Budget, a total of \$872,721 will be taken from Fund Balance, which includes \$660,000 for Capital Improvements to purchase of a new truck, and a \$60,000 bond for the RV Park.

Director Trahan stated that the Lydia Veterans and Iberia City Park Buildings are being returned to Iberia Parish.

Director Trahan advised that the Administration line item was increased from \$460,079 to \$465,177, to add a full-time Office Assistance, which includes benefits.

Director Trahan explained that the Group Retiree Insurance has been moved from Administration to Maintenance to purchase a new fleet vehicle, increasing this line item from \$607,487 to \$908,410.

Director Trahan advised that the Coteau Park line item increased for lawn care from \$65,680 to \$75,205.

Director Trahan stated that the Lydia Park line item increased for lawn care and utilities from \$101,930 to \$129,600.

Director Trahan advised that the Olivier/Morbihan Park line item increased for lawn care from \$37,700 to \$40,600.

Director Trahan stated that the Rynella Park line item increased for lawn care from \$54,000 to \$63,360.

Director Trahan advised that the Grand Marais Park line item increased for lawn care from \$21,700 to \$26,760.

Director Trahan stated that the Delcambre Park line item increased for lawn care, LED ball field lighting, and equipment repair from \$62,100 to \$97,700.

Director Trahan advised that the Jeanerette Park line item increased for lawn care and utilities from \$36,100 to \$38,750.

Director Trahan stated that the Loreauville Park line item decreased from \$845,407 to \$660,000 for lawn care, LED ball field lighting, equipment repairs, and utilities.

Director Trahan advised that the Capital Improvements line item decreased from \$845,407 to \$660,000 for air conditioning repairs and replacements, and playground equipment.

Director Trahan stated that the Day Camp line item increased from \$124,686 to \$132,062 due to continued increase in expenses.

Director Trahan advised that the Willow Wood line item increased from \$94,653 to \$103,640 for lawn care, utilities, interior painting and repairs.

Director Trahan stated that the Burleigh line item increased from \$39,600 to \$48,310 for lawn care and utilities.

Director Trahan explained that the King Joseph line item increased from \$199,267 to \$215,734 for lawn care and utilities.

Director Trahan stated that the Ward 8 line item increased from \$57,220 to \$60,550 for lawn care and utilities.

Director Trahan stated that the Jeanerette Museum line item increased from \$47,101 to \$52,670 for new employment, lawn care, and utilities.

Director Trahan advised that the RV Facility line item increased from \$706,455 to \$762,053 for expenses which includes a \$60,000 bond and utilities.

Recreation and Playground Fund balances for the 2026 Fiscal Year:

Beginning fund balance of \$4.9 million
Deficit projected in 2026 of (\$872,721)
Ending fund balance of \$4.1 million

b. Sewerage District No. 1 Fund Budget

Sewerage District No. 1 Director Brad Cradeur stated that the main revenue for Sewerage District No. 1, are user fees anticipated for the 2026 Fiscal Year in the amount of \$3.4 Million which funds this department along with Capital Outlay funds approved by the Iberia Parish Council.

Director Cradeur explained that he has budgeted for 500,000 gallons of discharge per day for 362 days at \$3.37 per thousand gallons to be received from First Solar. There is approximately \$600,000 of revenue expected to be received from First Solar.

Director Cradeur stated that the Personnel Services line item increased from \$200,503 to \$221,420 for additional expenses. He explained that there are a few employees in his department performing inter-departmental duties for Louisiana One-Call Services for both departments. In an effort to off-set the costs for those departments, the actual salaries for four employees are split 50/50 between Sewerage District No. 1 and Waterworks District No. 3. He further stated that there is a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement that allows for the inter-departmental duties.

Director Cradeur advised that the Group Insurance line item increased from \$93,953 to \$130,869.

Director Cradeur stated that the Repair & Maintenance line item increased from \$750,000 to \$1.6 Million for the Sucrose Drive Project.

Director Cradeur explained they no longer have to rent generators for the primary and secondary stations.

Mr. Warren P. Gachassin, Jr. asked if the Parish mobilized on the Orange Grove site.

Director Cradeur confirmed that mobilization, camera and smoke testing have been done. He is hoping for the relining of the manholes to be completed within the next month. Once completed, the new lift station at Orange Grove will be installed.

Sewerage District No. 1 Fund balances for the 2026 Fiscal Year:

Beginning fund balance of \$601,733
Deficit projected in 2026 of (\$507,636)
Ending fund balance of \$94,096

c. Sewerage District No. 1 - Port of Iberia Fund Budget

Sewerage District No. 1 - Port of Iberia Director Brad Cradeur stated that there were no major changes to this budget other than the Utilities line item increasing from \$19,265 to \$25,000.

Sewerage District No. 1 - Port of Iberia Fund balances for the 2026 Fiscal Year:

Beginning fund balance of \$58,960
Deficit projected in 2026 of (\$15,988)
Ending fund balance of \$42,972

d. Waterworks District No. 3 Fund Budget

Waterworks District No. 3 Director Brad Cradeur explained that this facility is currently operating on \$1.8 Million in water sales. It is projected they will receive \$1.1 Million in water sales for the Fiscal Year of 2026.

Director Cradeur stated that Personnel Services line item will increase from \$235,000 to \$305,000 for salaries only for the four employees that are split 50/50 between Sewerage District No. 1 and Waterworks District No. 3.

Director Cradeur stated that Group Insurance line item will increase from \$14,000 to \$16,800.

Director Cradeur advised that they were awarded the Water Sector Grant in 2022 in which \$5 Million in funding was received from the State. The last project, Water Treatment Plant Upgrades will be underway soon.

Director Cradeur stated that the Water Well No. 5 Project and Ground Storage Project will be substantially completed this year.

Director Cradeur explained that the third project will be commencing soon. This project was not directly in the scope of work to be performed, however, it is part of the systems that are being overhauled and would typically cost \$500,000 to \$600,000. He projects the costs to be \$300,000 to \$400,000. This would include changing all of the actuators, valves and airlines in the Water Plant to all electrical. A new Tri-Plex System will be installed to increase water pressure.

Mr. Warren P. Gachassin, Jr. asked Director Cradeur if \$400,000 is enough to complete this project as he may be able to obtain funds from Economic Development District #1 to assist, if needed.

Director Cradeur stated he thinks that the \$400,000 currently projected will be enough. He explained there will be a need for funds for the waterline expansion portion of this project.

Mr. Chad Maturin asked Director Cradeur if there has been any thoughts to install a filtration system off-site out of the current building.

Director Cradeur stated there is currently 500,000 gallons of potable water on the Ground Storage Tank Project with another Tri-Plex System. In the event that an emergency occurs at a Water Plant, he can quickly shut down operations and switch to the Water Well site. There will be one day worth of water provided by the Water Well site.

Waterworks District No. 3 Fund balances for the 2026 Fiscal Year:

Beginning fund balance deficit of (\$969,923)
Deficit projected in 2026 of (\$173,627)
Ending fund balance deficit of (\$1,143,550)

e. ARA Water Plant Fund Budget

ARA Water Plant Director Brad Cradeur explained that this is a new budget recap from last year. When we were in negotiations for First Solar to come to our Parish, they agreed to a flat rate for water services for two years to fund and build up cash for the long-term operation of the Water Plant. The projections for the Fiscal Year of 2025 are approximately \$70,000 per month in water sales, being 775,000 gallons per day for 362 days per year. He explained that currently, First Solar has not exceeded 400,000 gallons per day. They are paying Iberia Parish over double since March of this year.

Director Cradeur advised that the ARA Water Plant Budget is completely independent from Coteau Water. The residents of Coteau Water on Highway 88 do not pay anything to the ARA Water Plant and First Solar funds everything.

Director Cradeur stated that Repair and Maintenance is budgeted for the 2026 Fiscal Year, however, there is a one-year warranty so these funds are not expected to be spent.

Mr. Brock Pellerin asked how many acres does the ARA Water Plant sit on.

Director Cradeur confirmed that the ARA Water Plant sits on 10 acres of land.

Mr. Pellerin asked why is there a substantial increase in the Lawn Care line item from \$8,400 to \$21,000?

Director Cradeur stated that it is difficult to find a Lawn Care Company that actually has insurance.

ARA Water Plant Fund balances for the 2026 Fiscal Year:
Beginning fund balance of \$202,347
Surplus projected in 2026 of \$175,045
Ending fund balance of \$377,392

f. Airport Authority Fund Budget

Airport Authority Director Maurice "Moe" Songy opened by stating they are in the process of Substantial Completion of the Hangar Project. The Fire Marshall will be coming next week to inspect the Hangar. They have three verbal commitments to lease those hangars.

Director Songy advised there is a substantial increase of \$2.3 Million in revenue from last year due to First Solar lease. In the first two years, it was \$150,000 per year, and in the third year, it will increase to \$1.013 Million, and will increase 5% every three years. When the lease approaches the fifth year, it will increase by \$50,000 per year for five years.

Director Songy stated the Air Traffic Control Tower is being re-bid due to not having any responsive bidders. This Project is fully funded by the FAA at no cost to the Airport.

Director Songy explained that Aviation Exteriors is the \$4 Million Hangar currently being built. It has six different funding sources, including three State funding sources, Capital Outlay, LED and DOTD Aviation, as well as Federal

sources to match the Capital Outlay.

Director Songy stated that the DOTD Corporate Hangar is a 90'X100' hangar currently under construction and will be built in three phases due to funding. This is approximately a \$2.5 Million project. The Parish will be required to pay some of this construction due to the Hangar having a restroom and the FAA does not cover the costs associated with having a restroom. There is a letter of intent from Aviation Academy to lease this hangar once it is completed.

Director Songy explained the DOTD Lemaire Runway Overlay Project is to overlay the runway in Jeanerette. There is a 90/10 split for these costs, 90% will be paid by DOTD Aviation and 10% will be paid by the Parish. The design is estimated at \$100,000 and construction will cost approximately \$900,000, for a total estimated cost of \$1.1 Million.

Director Songy stated that Professional Services line item will increase from \$200,000 to \$300,000. The expense is to hire lobbyist, non-project consultants and project management for design projects.

Director Songy stated there is a substantial increase in the Publicity line item from \$2,000 to \$105,000, specially, \$5,000 for publicity and \$100,000 for new signage around the Airport on Admiral Doyle and the intersection of Hangar Drive.

Director Songy advised there is an increase to the Professional Services line item to \$50,000 for renting a bulldozer and fill oxidation ponds.

Director Songy stated there is an increase to the Maintenance Non-Project Equipment and Furniture line item from \$55,000 to \$150,000 to replace a tractor and bush hog.

Director Songy advised there will be an increase to the Equipment and Furniture line item to \$350,000 to purchase a rebuilt rapid response fire truck. It holds 500 gallons of water and meets the FAA Index. The current truck is a 2010 and is very expensive to maintain, however, it can still be used for FedEx.

Director Songy stated there is an increase to the Contract Payments line item to \$100,000 to obtain a contractor to push the levees in and grate to ensure drainage. This will also open that side of the Airport for development.

Director Songy advised there is an increase to \$100,000 for Repair and Maintenance - Building line item to renovate the Administration Building and restroom.

Mr. Warren P. Gachassin, Jr. requested that Director Songy confirm that First Solar is bringing in \$1 Million in revenue to the Airport Authority.

Director Songy confirmed that First Solar will be bringing in \$1 Million in revenue to the Airport Authority and also stated that every year the amount will increase by 5%.

Mr. Scott Ransonet confirmed that the hangar tenants are local people.

Ms. Lady Fontenette Brown questioned Director Songy as to whether the funds are secured to resurface the runway.

Director Songy stated that signs are funded, however, the overlay funds should be received in 2026.

Airport Authority Fund Budget balances for the 2026 Fiscal Year:

Beginning fund balance of \$1,404,9147
Deficit projected in 2026 of (\$295,910)
Ending fund balance of \$1,109,004

g. Mosquito Abatement District Fund Budget

Mosquito Abatement District Director Herff Jones gave an overview of daily mosquito control activities and statistics over a 3-Year average per 583,962 acres.

Director Jones stated that expenses are shared with Vermilion Mosquito Abatement District. The Aerial Chemical line item has increased from \$375,000 to \$450,000. The Ground Chemical line item has increased from \$275,000 to \$300,000.

Director Jones advised that Mosquito Abatement District carries two fund balances, i.e., the first fund balance is used to distribute to Municipalities and Parishwide Drainage and then the second fund balance is used to project distribution at the end of the tax cycle.

Director Jones advised that additional expenses have been incurred due to an employee retiring.

Director Jones stated that the Mosquito Abatement District is currently waiting to received their certificate to use the drone for aerial spraying.

Director Jones stated that the U.S. Airforce from Youngsville, Ohio contacted Iberia Parish to be involved in their Innovative Readiness Training Program. This program is designed to have actual airspace training exercises so the air wing can be mission ready. All costs will be covered by the U.S. Airforce.

Mr. James P. Trahan questioned how many trucks and personnel spray to cover the Parish.

Director Jones stated that they dispatch six trucks per night to rotate around the Parish which allows them to go around the Parish and repeat the process again. They have two trucks set up as spares in the event of a breakdown.

Mosquito Abatement District Fund balances for the 2026 Fiscal Year:

Beginning fund balance of \$1,917,585
Deficit projected in 2026 of (\$118,448)
Ending fund balance of \$1,799,137

h. Acadiana Fairgrounds Commission Fund

Acadiana Fairgrounds Arena Manager Courtnie Boudreaux stated that they are planning to put on two events in 2026, a cook-off and lawn event where people can display tractors, lawn mowers, weed eaters, etc.

Manager Boudreaux stated that they found sign rental sponsors to get rid of the black tarp that was blocking the sun.

Manager Boudreaux stated that the Disposal line item will increased from \$1,500 to \$7,825.

Mr. Warren P. Gachassin, Jr. stated that he is concerned about Acadiana Fairgrounds Commission Fund Budget. He stated that many years ago, the revenue sharing from the state was \$150,000 and now it continues to split. We are finding that there are issues with next year's budget.

Mr. Michael R. Landry stated that he was of the understanding that this facility was supposed to be shared with St. Martin Parish.

Mr. Scott Ransonet asked what the outcome of the Cattle Event that was held a couple months ago.

Manager Boudreaux stated that there were over 500 heads of cattle at the event.

Acadiana Fairground Commission Fund balance, as follows:
Beginning fund balance started with deficit of (\$381,200)
Projected surplus in 2026 of \$5,516
Projected (\$375,684) deficit

i. Public Maintenance Fund Budget

Finance Director Erica Duplechain stated that no major changes have been made in the 2026 Public Maintenance Fund Budget except for Capital Outlay items which are primarily deferred maintenance.

Director Duplechain stated that the Repair and Maintenance - Buildings line item increased from \$130,000 to \$545,000.

Director Duplechain stated that Capital Outlay expenditures will be \$250,000 to wash and paint Courthouse and Annex exteriors, \$250,000 to update and repair all electronic air conditioning controls and operating valves, \$45,000 for Courthouse 3 Exterior stairwell doors, \$60,000 for replace Courthouse 4 condensing units, \$80,000 to purchase two trucks for Maintenance, \$100,000 Annex 2nd Floor ceiling replacements, \$20,000 for VFW#1 Jeanerette Building for internal water damage repairs to walls and ceilings, for a total of \$885,000.

Public Maintenance Fund balance, as follows:
Beginning fund balance of \$3,690,745
Projected deficit in 2026 of (\$1,219,855)
Ending fund balance of \$2,470,890

j. Royalty Fund Budget

Finance Director Erica Duplechain stated there is a very conservative estimate for income and interest income. The bulk of this budget is GOMESA related funds.

Mr. Warren P. Gachassin, Jr. questioned regarding the new Contract line item for Avery Island and Delcambre Canal and confirmed that the funds are coming from state grant funds and the architectural and engineers are both coming from state grants funds.

Director Duplechain responded confirming that the Contract line item funds will be coming from state grant funds.

Mr. Warren P. Gachassin, Jr. questioned if the grant funds for Gaubert Road Improvements have been moved in anticipation of the project starting.

Director Duplechain responded confirming that the grant funds for Gaubert Road Improvements have been moved until the project begins.

Mr. Warren P. Gachassin, Jr. questioned if any updates have been received for crossover of the lifting of houses for flood mitigation.

Director Duplechain responded confirming she actually received that information last week.

Royalty Fund balance, as follows:
Beginning fund balance of \$8,310,800
Projected deficit in 2026 of (\$5,977,739)
Ending fund balance of \$2,333,061

A motion was made by Mr. Warren P. Gachassin, Jr., seconded by Mr. Lloyd Brown, 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, Lloyd Brown, Warren P. Gachassin, Jr., James P. Trahan, Scott Ransonet, Brock Pellerin, Lady Fontenette Brown, Caymen Crappell, and Chad Maturin.

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: Marcus "Bruce" Broussard, Natalie Broussard, Dustin Suire, and Brian P. Napier.

And the motion was declared adopted this 20th 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