

OCTOBER 27, 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 6:07 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Those members recorded as PRESENT were as follows:

Michael R. Landry, Lloyd Brown, Natalie Broussard, Scott Ransonet, Brock Pellerin, Lady Fontenette Brown (entered meeting at 6:12 p.m.), Caymen Crappell, and Chad Maturin.

Those members recorded as ABSENT were as follows:

Francis "Tommy" Pollard, Sr., Marcus "Bruce" Broussard, Warren P. Gachassin, Jr., Dustin Suire, James P. Trahan, and Brian P. Napier.

Others in Attendance:

Parish President M. Larry Richard, CAO Milton "Bo" Belanger, Finance Director Erica Duplechain, Budget Officer Gary Roberts, Director of Public Works Jean Romero, and Director of Homeland Security Brandon Miguez.

BUSINESS TO BE DISCUSSED

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

a. Road District No. 10 Maintenance Fund Budget

Public Works Director Jean Romero stated that overall the Road District No. 10 Fund Budget remains the same, however, it will have a deficit at the beginning of 2026.

Director Romero stated that the Roads - Non Division/Repairs and Maintenance - Other line item decreased from \$350,551 to \$200,000.

Director Romero explained that the Roads - Non Division/Equipment line item increased from \$23,536 to \$104,050 to allow for the purchase of a Ford F350 Crew Cab Diesel, 16GN Single Wheel Tandem Axle Gooseneck Trailer, 60" Commercial Lawnmower, and a 5-Ton two post Vehicle Lift.

Director Romero stated that Bridges - Non Division/Architecture and Engineering line item decreased from \$20,000 to \$10,000.

Director Romero stated that the Roads - Non Division/Repair and Maintenance/Equipment line item decreased from \$20,000 to \$5,000.

Finance Director Erica Duplechain stated that a Resolution will come before the Iberia Parish Council to move ARPA Funds from line items for two bridges that have been completed and placed in the Road District No. 10 Fund Budget to allow for expenses for the remainder of 2025.

Director Duplechain further stated that funds will be moved from Road Sales Tax for the 2026 Fiscal Year to accommodate the Maintenance line item for the Cold Patch work.

Mr. Michael R. Landry confirmed that there will be less need for road patching like in the past years since road repairs are ongoing.

Mr. Brock Pellerin confirmed that funds will be removed from Road Sales Tax Fund Budget and moved to the Road District No. 10 Maintenance Fund Budget.

Director Duplechain stated that those funds will be moved from ARPA Funds.

Mr. Caymen Crappell questioned Director Romero as to whether there is anything that could be purchased to help with efficiency.

Director Romero stated that additional personnel would be needed to operate machinery if purchased.

Mr. Caymen Crappell confirmed that employment is the biggest obstacle in operation.

Director Romero explained that if you expand to asphalt work, a specialized crew would be needed to conduct that type of work.

Parish President M. Larry Richard stated that we will need to be careful because it would become part of the Road District No. 10 Maintenance Fund Budget.

Road District No. 10 Fund balances for the 2026 Fiscal Year:
Beginning fund balance deficit of (\$115,478)
Deficit projected in 2026 of (\$219,114)
Ending fund balance deficit of (\$103,635)

b. Parishwide Drainage Fund Budget

Public Works Director Jean Romero stated that overall the Parishwide Drainage Fund Budget remains the same.

Director Romero advised that the Flood Control - Non Division/Equipment line item will be increased from \$732,000 to \$966,500 to purchase a wash truck to replace the current unit, that will be going to bid before end of 2025. Also a low-profile 16GN single wheel tandem axle gooseneck trailer, two double axle utility trailers, and a Pro 43 Mechanics truck with crane, totaling \$866,500.

Director Romero also stated that the wash truck will be advertised for bid before purchased.

Mr. Brock Pellerin asked Director Romero what the plan is for the current wash truck.

Director Romero stated that the current wash truck may be surplus.

Parish President M. Larry Richard recommended that the new wash truck should be leased to avoid maintenance fees.

Mr. Brock Pellerin asked Director Romero why the new wash truck has not been advertised for bid yet.

Finance Director Duplechain explained that Mr. Michael Clifton is waiting on the final specifications before advertising for bid.

Mr. Michael R. Landry asked if Iberia Parish is still looking at contract crews to cut the main arteries.

Parish President M. Larry Richard stated that Iberia Parish is still considering contract crews to cut the main arteries.

Mr. Michael R. Landry stated that if contract crews were hired, it would free some of the employees to conduct other duties.

Parish President M. Larry Richard advised he is currently completing a 5-year Drainage Master Plan before the end of 2025 for this to be include in the 2026 Parishwide Drainage Fund Budget.

Mr. Scott Ransonet stated he noticed the Travel and Training line item increased from \$750 to \$5,350 and asked if there is new training needed.

Director Romero stated that is for required employee training needed.

Parish President M. Larry Richard advised Public Works needs to conduct traffic control training to obtain certifications.

Parishwide Drainage Fund balances for the 2026 Fiscal Year:
Beginning fund balance of \$5,953,996
Deficit projected in 2026 of (\$2,232,943)
Ending fund balance of \$3,721,053

c. Solid Waste Sales Tax Fund Budget

Public Works Director Jean Romero stated that overall the Solid Waste Sales Tax Fund Budget is consistent with last year's budget.

Mr. Scott Ransonet asked Director Romero what is the length of time was for the Landfill Contract?

Director Romero stated that the Landfill Contract is for twelve years.

Director Romero stated that Iberia Parish received the Burn Permit to conduct burning.

Director Romero stated there will be no equipment purchases this year within the Solid Waste Sale Tax Fund Budget.

Solid Waste Sales Tax Fund balances for the 2026 Fiscal Year:
Beginning fund balance of \$6,081,869
Deficit projected in 2026 of (\$145,890)
Ending fund balance of \$5,935,979

d. Road Sales Tax Fund Budget

Finance Director Erica Duplechain stated that tax collections are being received accordingly.

Director Duplechain explained \$277,000 will be needed for the remainder of 2025. Any additional funds will be placed in to the Road Sales Tax Fund Budget.

Mr. Brock Pellerin questioned if Iberia Parish is working on any of the smaller roads in-house with the Road Tax.

Parish President M. Larry Richard stated that we will need to be careful with operations. If it goes well once we pay the bond note, we may have approximately \$1.3 Million remaining in the Road Sales Tax Fund Budget. President Richard further stated that he has been receiving requests to repair other roads not on the list.

Mr. Brock Pellerin asked if those funds will be coming from the \$1.3 Million.

Director Duplechain confirmed that is detailed in Projects A, B, and C.

Mr. Brock Pellerin asked if the Road Projects are still going to be within the \$17 Million.

President Richard stated that it will cost approximately \$13 Million, with \$4 Million remaining. We will need to figure out next year which roads we want to include. We can then bond out and continue with the roads on the list.

Mr. Brock Pellerin suggested that Iberia Parish consider a second bond to complete the road projects.

Director Duplechain stated that once Road Project C is completed, we can look at the list to determine additional roads to be completed.

Mr. Caymen Crappell stated that it takes at least eight people to complete one road project.

Mr. Scott Ransonet stated that line items are needed for these road projects.

Director Duplechain agreed with Mr. Scott Ransonet that line items are needed for the road projects.

President Richard stated that the numbers came in from Berard and Habetz, LLC being \$4,686,000 for completion of eleven roads in Project A.

Road Sales Tax Fund balances for the 2026 Fiscal Year:
Beginning fund balance of \$6,759,011
Surplus projected in 2026 of \$1,876,000
Ending fund balance of \$8,635,011

e. General Fund Budget

Finance Director Erica Duplechain advised that 5% cost of living increase was added to all Governing Body employment positions in Iberia Parish Government.

Director Duplechain stated there is an increase from \$138,734 to \$165,550 for a new part-time position in the Governing Body.

Director Duplechain advised that the Governing Body/Advertisement and Dues line item increased from \$15,491 to \$20,000.

Director Duplechain stated that the Governing Body/Maintenance - Subscriptions line item decreased from \$14,800 to \$10,400 due to the new software program.

Director Duplechain advised that the Governing Body/Official Publication line item increased from \$20,000 to \$30,000 due to additional publication requirements.

Director Duplechain stated that the Governing Body/Printing and Photocopying line item increased from \$284.80 to \$1,000.

Director Duplechain advised there is \$126,000 budgeted for the Governing Body/Equipment line item for the new Council Chambers recording system.

Director Duplechain stated there has been no major changes or adjustments to the District Attorney or Clerk of Court Fund Budgets.

Director Duplechain advised that President-Non Division/Workers Compensation line item increased from \$680 to \$5,136. The Parish President's Office is working to obtain more reasonable quotes.

Director Duplechain stated that President-Non Division/Professional Services line item increased from \$94,827 to \$150,000 for services with Adam & Reese, Haney & Associates, and Minvielle & Associates.

Director Duplechain stated that President-Non Division/Travel and Training increased from \$11,109 to \$29,000 for trips to Washington, D.C. in an attempt to receive additional Federal funding.

Director Duplechain stated that there has been no major changes or adjustments to the Registrar of Voters Fund Budget.

Director Duplechain stated that funds in Financial Administration - Professional Services line item in the amount of \$108,000 have been carried over for enhancement of the Munis Software Program.

Director Duplechain advised that Financial Administration - Travel and Training line item has increased from \$1,207 to \$5,000 to ensure new staff is trained.

Director Duplechain stated that Financial Administration - Supplies and Postage line item decreased from \$21,541 to \$15,000.

Director Duplechain stated that the Purchasing - Travel and Training line item increased from \$260 to \$2,500 to adequately train the new Purchasing Agent.

Director Duplechain stated that the Mapping - Travel and Training line item increased from \$1,000 to \$3,560.

Director Duplechain advised that there will be an amendment to the Manning Chart to add a new employee in Network Administration (IT), which will increase Personnel Services line item from \$63,739 to \$120,000 and Group Insurance line item from \$20,235 to \$50,553.

Inspector James "Jimmy" Landry stated that Inspection Administration/Advertisement and Dues line item increased from \$35,859 to \$43,788.

Inspector Landry advised that Inspection Administration - Equipment increased from \$4,640 to \$27,000 due to having four telephones.

Ms. Lady Fontenette Brown asked if it is possible to apply the postage fees for certified mail as application fees.

Parish President M. Larry Richard stated that the postage fees are included as application fees.

Inspector Landry stated that he will consult with legal to determine if newspaper advertisements can be eliminated and just send a certified letter.

Mr. Chad Maturin asked Inspector Landry what the neighboring parishes are doing and how are they handling notifications.

Inspector Landry stated that he would have to check with the other parishes.

Mr. Chad Maturing questioned if a grass cutting complaint is received and a certified letter is sent, if the Parish is able to collect for the certified letter fee.

Director Duplechain stated that the process stops at that point and nothing is collected if the grass is cut.

Director Duplechain agreed to review the Nuisance and Demolition line items.

Director Duplechain stated there has been no major changes or adjustments to the Coroner Fund Budget.

Director of Homeland Security Brandon Migues stated that overall there are no major changes or adjustments to the Emergency Management Fund Budget, with the exception of Travel and Training increased from \$687 to \$2,103.

Director Migues advised that the EMPG and SHSP Funds have been put on hold due to FEMA Review Counsel. Director Migues further stated that several states filed a lawsuit against FEMA causing these funds to be put on hold, therefore, the 2025 funds have not been received to this date.

Director Migues stated that SHSP Funds are State Homeland Security funds which have been decreased from \$44,000 and 35% of those funds go to Law Enforcement.

Mr. Brock Pellerin questioned whether there is anything in the foreseeable future that Emergency Management may need to purchase.

Director Miguez explained he will be needing a new vehicle. The vehicle he is currently driving is a 2012 and has 108,000 miles on it. The other vehicle is a 2007 Yukon and has 140,000 miles on it and needs to be surplus.

Director Duplechain stated there were no major changes or adjustments to the Public Works Administration line item.

Mr. Scott Ransonet stated he feels that all of the percentages are not adequate.

Director Duplechain stated they will look very closely at the percentages and those may increase by 15% on adjustments as needed.

General Fund balances for the 2026 Fiscal Year:
Beginning fund balance of \$10,212,233
Deficit projected in 2026 of (\$672,594)
Ending fund balance of \$9,539,639

A motion was made by Mr. Lloyd Brown, seconded by Mr. Caymen Crappell, that the Finance Committee adjourn.

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

YEAS: Michael R. Landry, Lloyd Brown, Natalie Broussard, Scott Ransonet, Brock Pellerin, Lady Fontenette Brown, Caymen Crappell, and Chad Maturin.

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: Francis "Tommy" Pollard, Sr., Marcus "Bruce" Broussard, Warren P. Gachassin, Jr., Dustin Suire, James P. Trahan, and Brian P. Napier.

And the motion was declared adopted this 27th day of October, 2025.

Finance Chairman Scott Ransonet declared the Special Finance Committee Meeting adjourned at 7:02 p.m.

I HEREBY CERTIFY THE FOREGOING TO BE EXACT AND TRUE:



Clerk of the Council