

Public Works Committee Meeting

Date: April 2, 2019 at 3:30 pm

Present: Carey Cook, Chairman, Jimmy Jernigan, and Willie Dunbar

Agenda: 1) Vidalia Ordinance Violation Notices
 2) Road Bond Agreement and Permit
 3) Plains Marketing Road Bond Letter
 4) Cell Phone Tower Permits

The Public Works Committee met to discuss the above listed agenda topics.

The first item for discussion was three ordinance violation notices sent to the Police Jury for properties within the town limits of Vidalia. Ms. Burley had prepared a draft response to send to the DA's office in which to execute and represent at the court date for Town of Vidalia to be held on April 11th at 5:30 p.m. The response is as follows:

In response to the Notice of Violations, the following is given on behalf of the Concordia Parish Police Jury:

Notice of Violation: 206 Beech Street, Vidalia, 71373

- No supporting documentation was submitted with the notice in which to confirm the property's identity. The Assessor's Office does not use street numbers; rather parcel lot numbers to identify property. Therefore, no documents to support this property is a violation in which the Parish is responsible.
- Further information is required for further response.

Notice of Violation: 600 Carter Street, Vidalia, 71373

- A legal notice and proceeding has already been conducted on this property on November 8, 2018.
- Established at this hearing is the building, not the land, is adjudicated property.
- Requests were made to tear down the building. If the building is torn down, then the property in which to recoup any monies expended in the process is no longer applicable.
- The Concordia Parish Police Jury has no allocated funds in which to expend on tearing down the building.
- Recommended that a title search be conducted to see if an agreement was ever recorded between the land owner and the original building owner exists. Land owner may ultimately be responsible.

Notice of Violation: 511 Maple Street, Vidalia, 71373

- Property is listed as adjudicated to the Parish 05-31-2013.
- Property has been cleaned by Town of Vidalia in prior years and placed on tax roll to recoup funds expended when the property is sold.
- While the Parish is the end holder of adjudicated property, the Town of Vidalia has the same propensity to correct any ordinance violations and have a bill for these services placed on the tax roll to be reimbursed when the property is sold.
- The Parish has no allocated funds in which to clean/maintain/demolish any properties listed as adjudicated to the Parish, specifically those within the municipalities of the Parish.

Each of the responses were reviewed and the committee accepted the response to be given to the DA to proceed with further action in preparation for the upcoming court date.

The next item for discussion was the Road Bond Permit and the Road Bond Agreement. By ordinances previously established, a road bond permit is to be issued supporting the agreement of a bond produced to the Parish office for commercial use on a parish road. A sample permit to be placed in each “hauler” covered under the agreement was presented. The permits would be printed on fluorescent orange paper with a watermark providing the carrier’s name, date issued, date of expiration, road(s) covered under bond, the amount of permits issued, signed by both the President and Secretary/Treasurer after the Road Bond Agreement is executed, and a gold seal imprinted with the Parish stamp. The permits are to be placed in the dash of each vehicle to show compliancy with road permitting ordinances.

The Road Bond Agreement which has been sent to the DA for review was also discussed. The agreement details the requirements of the ordinances and the obligations the company has to maintain and repair the roads in which they use. Once the agreement has been approved, it will be placed on the agenda for review and approval by the Jurors.

Discussion was also held that ordinances require a culvert permit. While there are no forms or fees established for a permit, the minimum specifications for culverts are upheld in the ordinance. Drainage issues are occurring due to improperly sized culverts being placed along parish roads and ditches that need to be addressed.

Next for discussion was the certified letter sent to Plains Marketing for compliancy with the road bond permitting ordinances. Plains Marketing was given a thirty day notice in which to comply. The time frame for compliancy has passed and there has been no response or bond submitted to the Parish. The committee asked that the topic be placed on the agenda for full discussion by the Jurors to determine further action. The DA’s and Sheriff’s office were copied on the notice sent to Plains Marketing.

Lastly discussed was the need for permitting and information as it pertains to cell phone towers. Numerous calls are received if the Parish has any zoning or ordinances for cell phone tower erection. The only ordinances in place are those that would be around any airport landing strip. Further discussion was held of the different entities that need this information to properly document for their offices. These are the 911 Communications District who needs to establish a 911 number for the location, the Parish office as it pertains to any structures or building permits needed, and the Assessor’s office as it pertains to assessing taxes on the structures, towers, and land. Ms. Burley is working with the different entities to see what information is needed on a permit and will look at proposing an ordinance in the near future once the information is gathered.

In conclusion, the Plains Marketing issue will be added to the agenda. A letter will be sent to the DA for action on the ordinance violation notices from the Town of Vidalia and a status update on the Road Bond Agreement review. With no further questions or issues to address, the committee meeting ended.

Sandi T. Burley, Secretary / Treasurer