

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE  
CADDO PARISH COMMISSION'S  
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE  
HELD ON THE 6<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2025

The Caddo Parish Public Safety Committee met in legal session on the above date at 2:00 p.m. in the Government Plaza Chambers, with the following members were present constituting a quorum: Commissioners Atkins, Epperson, Gage-Watts, and Lazarus (4). ABSENT: Commissioner J. Young (1).

The invocation and Pledge of Allegiance were given during the previous Committee meeting. There were no Agenda Additions, nor Public Comments, so the Committee moved onto New Business.

**NEW BUSINESS**

- *Discussion of Citizens Disaster Response Committee Document*

The Clerk of the Commission explained that this committee was a previous ad-hoc committee, but became a permanent committee last year via a By-Law amendment. Its focus is on public safety and funding issues not addressed by other committee, acting as an umbrella for disaster recovery efforts. The Committee collaborates with a Citizens Disaster Committee, compiling information from various organizations involved in disaster response. The Citizens Disaster Committee is a group of citizens who will collaborate with various entities, including 911, law enforcement, and fire protection, to create a comprehensive emergency response plan.

Mr. Epperson explained that a booklet will be created with information relevant to community members and will focus on emergency preparedness for natural disasters, like hurricanes and tornados. Document collection is currently underway to create the booklet. The goal is to provide accurate disaster response information, correcting common misconceptions.

- *Discuss and make recommendations related to Resolution No. 4 of 2025– a resolution approving the amended 2024 and proposed 2025 budgets of the North Louisiana Criminalistics Laboratory Commission and to otherwise provide with respect thereto.*

The Clerk of the Commission explained that the Crime Lab resides in Caddo Parish, but serves a 29 parish region. This resolution proposes an amended budget. He also explained that the Commission reviews their budget, but its adoption or rejection is separate from the Parish budget.

Mr. Atkins mentioned that the budget is independent of Parish funding, but the Commission has an oversight role. He also said that their budget is unsustainable beyond the current year mirroring the previous two years' reliance on State appropriations.

Mrs. Bryant agreed and said that in accordance with the State Budget Act, this is considered a balance budget because they do have an ending fund balance.

It was **moved by Mr. Epperson**, seconded by Mrs. Gage-Watts, *to recommend Resolution No. 4 of 2025– a resolution approving the amended 2024 and proposed 2025 budgets of the North Louisiana Criminalistics Laboratory Commission and to otherwise provide with respect thereto* to the full body for consideration. Motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Epperson, Gage-Watts, and Lazarus (3). NAYS: Commissioner Atkins (1). ABSENT: Commissioner J. Young (1). ABSTAIN: None (0).

The Clerk of the Commission advised that it will be on the February 17, 2025 Work Session.

The Committee Chair asked if anyone had any other business to come before the Committee.

Mrs. Belinda Rose came forward and wanted to know the status of the smart meters. Mr. Mike Corbin, SWEPCO, stated that the AMI meters will be installed by the end of this year.

Mrs. Rose also asked about the tree trimming. Mr. Corbin stated that tree trimming happens year round with SWEPCO employees and contract employees.

Mr. Atkins informed the Committee that AMI stands for Advanced Metering Infrastructure.

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 2:27 p.m.



Michelle Nations  
Assistant to the Commission Clerk