

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
CADDO PARISH COMMISSION'S
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
HELD ON THE 5TH DAY OF MAY, 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, Lazarus, and J. Young (5). ABSENT: None (0).

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

NEW BUSINESS

- *Visit from SWEPCO with update and information regarding recent outages*

Mr. Mike Corbin, SWEPCO representative, came before the Committee to discuss the recent power outage incident. He said that a recent power outage impacted approximately 30,000 customers due to a transmission-level issue. The outage was caused by high energy demand exceeding available power, necessitating a load shed to prevent wider, long-term damage. Southwest Power Pool's (SPP) grid operation and forecasting models are under review to prevent future occurrences. Mr. Corbin provided written correspondence to the Committee members. Mr. Epperson requested that this correspondence be sent to all of the citizens committee members as well.

Mr. Atkins wanted to know if there was a greater risk of interruption if there was more reliance on power from Texas or Oklahoma wind or solar farms. Mr. Corbin said that it is "a bit of a moving target" and depends on where generation is originating on any given day.

Mr. J. Young wanted to know what causes a load shed. Mr. Corbin explained that voltages dropped in the transmission lines because the use was more than the available power. To prevent overheating or burning of a substation, they have to take that substation out of service.

Mr. Corbin also mentioned that no one's power was turned off meter by meter; substations were taken out of service.

Mrs. Gage-Watts thanked Mr. Corbin for coming today and sharing this with the public. She asked about plans going forward. Mr. Corbin said that SPP will review their forecasting models.

Mr. Joe Shyne said that there is a Public Service Commission scheduled for May 19 to discuss this recent outage.

- *Review of draft booklet*

The Committee reviewed the draft booklet compiling information from various entities for disaster response. Mr. Epperson requested that a draft booklet be sent to the citizens committee members as well.

Mr. Epperson suggested that the following pages be added to the booklet: Municipalities page, Water/Sewerage page, Fire Department page, Community Lighthouses, Panola Harris page, Attorney General's Office, State Police/ EPA (oil rigs), Caddo Ready/Alerts page, and CenterPointe/Delta Energy. There were suggestions to reach out to the Commission Clerk's Office for any other ideas on what to include in the book.

Dr. Treadwell wanted to know if they are able to share this book. Mr. Epperson said that they are.

- *Feedback and input from citizen representatives on Committee*

Mrs. Rachel Jackson asked about the poles in the neighborhoods. She isn't sure if they are from SWEPCO. Mr. Corbin said that SWEPCO has an ongoing pole replacement program. He asked that she provide him with the addresses, and he will look into it.

- *Summary and closing remarks*

Mr. Thomas reminded the Committee that there are sandbags available to the public. Mr. Epperson requested that this be mentioned in the Administration Report during the Work Session.

Mr. J. Young announced that the Highland Center Community Lighthouse's solar backup and backup water supply is now up and running. He said that there will be a grand opening later this month and hopes all the Committee members will attend.

Mr. Atkins asked about the solar panels. Mr. Corbin said that generally, if you have rooftop solar and you don't have battery backup, the converter that takes DC power solar panels and converts it to AC power for your house. If there's a power outage, then you will still be without power even though you

have solar panels. If you have battery storage and the switches work, you will have a limited amount of power until that battery is depleted. Mr. Corbin said that the community lighthouses' equipment is "behind the meter" meaning the customer owns and operates the system—SWEPCO has nothing to do with it.

Mr. Atkins then wanted to know if there was a safety issue with solar panels and the converter. Mr. Corbin said that there can be, and the Public Service Commission has passed rules to allow SWEPCO to be part of that process.

Mr. Corbin encouraged anyone who is considering rooftop solar panels to contact SWEPCO. He said that more information on solar panels is listed on their website.

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned
2:43 p.m.



Michelle Nations
Assistant to the Commission Clerk