Acadia Police Jury drops unmandated insurance

By JO CART

Crowley — The Acadia Parish Police Jury voted Tuesday to drop all liability insurance not mandated by law.

That action was recommended by the jury’s Finance Committee because under an earlier budget the jury is unable to pay all of its insurance premiums.

The jury also eliminated costs associated with private citizens who want to call an election on the matter in September.

Juror Dan Riggs said he was told in a phone call that a citizen committee wants the jury to call an election on the matter in September.

Juror Secretary-Treasurer Joe Arabie said he had received two similar calls.

The police jury also eliminated costs associated with private citizens who want another vote on financing a new parish jail.

Just before adjournment, Juvor Riggs said he was told in a phone call that a citizen committee wants the jury to call an election on the matter in September.

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There were grumblings and murmurs from some jurors.

“Just the phone I have received from the citizens in my district, I tell me that people are very concerned about the jury’s future. I tell them we don’t have any other funds to be spent,” Riggs said.

“I also tell them the police jury has not had a public hearing on this subject; and I tell them if they don’t like the money, they should vote against it.”

President Joe Arabie said he knew nothing of such a committee.

“I have no idea what they are talking about,” he said.

“Who is the member of such a committee?”

The committee should submit a written statement and tell the public what they are planning,”

Juror Nelson Armentia said.

Other jurors said they had no idea of the election again and changes of such a tax pending are imminent.

Martin Guillory of Branch asked about the feasibility of remodeling and adding to the current jail.

There were only 14 buildings among all buildings and 1,100 buildings in the county’s jail, which has been approved at $2,000 earlier in the year.

Jurors said Herring said he was doing a good job and giving the jurors significant sums in fines.

Jurors also voted to roll forward the parish tax from 2015 to 2016 for use in the general fund.

They set the following parish millages for the coming year: Acadia Parish library maintenance tax, $0.00; parish library tax (bond accounts), $0.00; parish road maintenance, $3.00; parish school maintenance, $3.00; and Acadia-Evangelina Fire Protection Commission, $0.00.

In other action, the jurors:
- Authorized the president and secretary-treasurer to advertise for the purchase of all supplies needed for the coming year.
- Approved a recommendation authorizing the solid waste engineer to contact the State Department of Environmental Quality regarding the landfill’s agreement for the solid waste disposal system and the possibility of the landfill being used as a landfill.
- Accepted a two-bid at 45 cents per legal yard for advertisements naming the Raine School Board as the official newspaper for the coming year.
- Authorized the president to advertise for the lease-purchase of a refrigerator for the Rural Area.

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