

MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 2021 AT 10:00 A.M.

ST. TAMMANY GOVERNMENT COMPLEX

21454 KOOP DR., BUILDING B, MANDEVILLE, LA.

Call to Order by Honorable Rykert Toledano, Chairman

**Roll Call: David Fitzgerald ABSENT
Rykert O. Toledano, Jr.
Cheryl Tanner
James "Jimmie" Davis, III
Maureen "MO" O'Brien ABSENT
Jerry Binder
Jacob "Jake" Airey**

ALSO PRESENT: Lorino

- Toledano - explained how the meeting would run.**
- President Cooper - made an opening statement.**
- Leslie Long - gave a presentation on the budget book and how it is set up.**
- Davis – asked if capital money could be used for other purposes.**
- Long – explained that it must be used for what it is allocated for.**
- Lorino -asked about the bond and if it was all spent.**
- Long – explained how much of the bond was spent.**
- Lorino – asked if the departments were asked not to add positions.**
- Long – explained that they direct the departments to tell administration what they need, but most departments are funded and generate income.**
- Long – explained expenditures and revenues. She also explained the Cost Allocation Plan.**
- Toledano – asked Long to explain the state mandated expenses to the department heads.**
- Binder – asked if what is shown for mandated agencies/costs is what we are paying or what they are asking for.**
- Long explained this to the committee.**
- Airey – what the Public Health Tax was previously spent on.**

1. Budget Discussions:

St. Tammany Parish Government Departments

A. Animal Services – Robert Bremer

-Bremer – explained that they stopped prematurely euthanizing animals and that has made some increases in the budget there is a lot of transportation to the northern regions. There is a 98% live release rate for cats and 97% for dogs.

-Toledano – asked if the fund balance has been consistent over the past few years.

-Bremer – explained that it has more or less and that the millage was just renewed.

-Long – explained that the millage was renewed until 2028 and it brings in around \$1.9 million. She also explained that the fund balance has been about the same.

-Toledano - asked is there a way to balance revenues with expenditures to prevent use of fund balance.

-Bremer – explained the plan for generating income (increasing adoption fees, permit fees).

-Davis asked about employees and wages.

B. Human Resources – Adrienne Stroble

-Toledano – asked if she is having a hard time getting people to come work for the Parish.

-Stroble – it is becoming difficult to get people to come work for the Parish. Selling the benefits is becoming a bit of a challenge because retirement is over time and many young workers don't want to wait over time.

-Council discussion ensued.

C. Health and Human Services – Mary Burkell

-Burkell – spoke about programs offered by Health and Human Services (Community Action, Safe Haven). She mentioned that the department is funded out of the Public Health Millage. She also explained that she is the only employee funded from the Public Health Millage.

D. Grants – Jeanne Marino

-Marino – explained what the Grants department does.

-Tanner – asked about any funding in the Grants department. Marino explained.

-Davis – said he is trying to figure out the 21.3 people but he likes the idea of adding more people to get more grants.

-Binder – asked how she sees opportunities in 2022 as opposed to previous years.

-Marino – explained that this year was a huge year in grant funds which was around \$50 million. 2022 will be similar. It won't be \$50 million but it will be between \$20 million and \$30 million.

-Binder – asked if it will be health and human project-based.

-Marino – explained that it will be across the board.

E. Facilities Management – Bruce Crouch

-Crouch – explained that there are 20 employees in the department. The department takes care of 1 million square feet of facilities. He also explained that the biggest obstacle is operating the Justice Center. He explained that they are \$150,000 short with what finance has

issued to run the building. There is about \$850,000 in security (10 deputies). The security covers 2 control rooms and 2 entrances.

-Lorino – asked when does the security contract end.

-Crouch/Long – answered December 31.

-Toledano – asked if privatizing save costs.

-Crouch – answered not really.

-Crouch – mentioned that he is concerned with the condition of the building. They will need to start replacing things like boilers, chillers, etc. soon.

-Tanner – asked about the \$150,00 that is short and what are they going to do.

-Davis - asked about any buildings that could possibly be sold to recoup money.

-Crouch – stated that there are none.

-Binder – asked about buildings that are not 100% occupied by Parish Government such as the Justice Center and where funding comes from.

-Long – answered the general fund.

F. Department of Technology – Grant Black

-Black – explained that there are 14 people in the department. There are 2 server rooms that they take care of. One on Koop Dr and one at the EOC. He also explained that there is a 75% upgrade needed at Koop Dr.

-Tanner asked if there are any grants available.

-Black – said he would look into that, but they're not really for infrastructure.

-Toledano – asked how vulnerable are we.

-Black – mentioned that there are always risks. Some equipment is 20 years old and patches aren't available.

-Gina Hayes – mentioned that the Cyber Security insurance will not be renewed because of this equipment.

-Toledano – asked if this could be covered under cost allocation.

-Long – said where they can they are covering it. She mentioned that they will also try to use some ARPA funds.

-Toledano – stated that the Finance committee would like to monitor this and help in any way they can.

-Binder – asked if the Grants department has any programs that can help.

-Black – said he could look into grants.

-Davis - said this is something that should be done now, not in 5 years.

-Black – said they are looking to do this now with a 5-year replacement plan.

G. Planning and Development – Ross Liner

-Liner – explained the breakdown of the department and what the department does. He explained that some fees have not been updated since 1984. He explained that he is looking to increase revenue by increasing costs. They are looking at about \$1 million if the fees are enacted.

-Binder – said he is glad to hear that they are increasing fees.

-Liner – explained the increased of Code Enforcement officers to 5 and adding 2 vehicles and replacing equipment that is old. He also explained that he increased salaries for lower level employees.

H. Permits & Inspections – Kenny Wortman

-Wortman – Said he didn't put in for another employee because he doesn't want work to die down and be overstaffed.

-Toledano – asked if fees could generate enough funds to cover a salary, etc.

-Lorino – asked what the turnaround was on getting a permit.

-Wortman – explained the permit process with residential (pretty fast) and commercial (a few weeks).

I. Public Information – Michael Vinsanu

-Tanner – asked how is it funded.

-Long – answered that it is funded with the cost allocation plan.

J. Procurement – Shawn Hoover

-Long - explained the increase and that they are under the cost allocation plan.

K. Public Works – Jay Watson

-Watson explained Public Works. He explained that they are funded by tax. There are 198 employees in the department.

-Tanner – asked if he was looking at raising salaries.

-Long – said they raised salaries in 2018 to \$12.84. They are working with Adrienne on increasing salaries/addressing the salary issue.

-Lorino – asked if there are enough employees.

-Watson - said he believes there are enough. There is some turnover though with lower level employees.

L. Homeland Security and Emergency Operations – Clarence Powe

-Powe – explained that there are 4 employees. They have no budgetary problems. They are purchasing 2 vehicles with grants. He explained what Homeland Security and Emergency Operations does.

M. Environmental Services – Tim Brown

-Brown – explained that there are 12 employees. The department is self-funded. He explained a bit about what Environmental Services does.

N. Engineering – Daniel Hill

-Hill – explained that there are 24 employees. Said that drainage is the biggest issue. There are 2 dedicated staff members for drainage concerns. He said the department is looking to purchase 4 trucks and 2 computers.

-Long – mentioned that they are 90% funded by Sales Tax District 3 and 10% by Development.

-Tanner asked about replacing the vehicles.

-Council discussion ensued.

O. Utilities – Chris Tissue

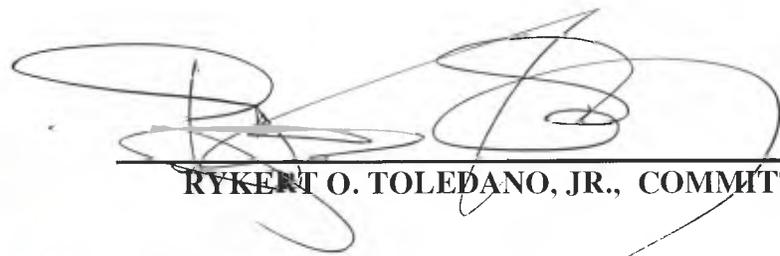
P. Parish President, CAO, Finance, Council

-Long explained the increases/decreases.

-Karlin Riles – explained the Council’s budget/requests.

-Long – mentioned that she has asked legal to look into the JPs and Constables.

-There being no further business, meeting adjourned at the call of the Committee Chairman.



RYKER O. TOLEDANO, JR., COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN



KATRINA L. BUCKLEY, COUNCIL CLERK