

Regular Meeting of the Mayor and the Board of Aldermen of the Village of French Settlement, July 8, 2020

The Mayor and Board of Aldermen of the Village of French Settlement met at 16015 Hwy. 16, French Settlement, Louisiana on the 8th day of July 2020 at 6 p.m. in regular session convened. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Rhonda B. Lobell with the following members present:

Alderman Teresa Miller, Alderman Kim Demarest, Alderman Gene Eleazar

Municipal Clerk: Pam Melancon

Present: Chief Cary Mosby

Guest Speaker: Lieutenant Colonel Alden Thomason, Jeremy Aydell/Leadership Livingston

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In January 2017, the Livingston Parish Sheriff's Office (LPSO) began utilizing GPS systems to monitor maintenance and use of vehicles and to also monitor harsh driving, speeding, heavy braking and to keep track of mileage between oil changes and other maintenance. Prior to GPS use there were 25 at fault vehicle crashes, year after installation crashes were reduced 11. Damage caused by the crashes were reduced by 62%. Lawsuits reduced from 24 to 18 with payouts on the lawsuits down 87% (consider time that a lawsuit may incur to resolution). Reduced speeding on over 90 mph by 70%. GPS capabilities include monitoring speed amounts of vehicles (especially over 90 mph), the administrative staff and Sheriff's office receives a read out and checks the legitimacy of speed by comparing to dispatch records. Dispatch can track all units 'live' allowing the capability to dispatch the nearest unit to the exact address. The system utilized by LPSO is Synovia GPS Fleet Management System (web-based system). This system can also monitor seatbelt usage, airbags and other safety aspects. LPSO allows monitoring access to the system by individual(s) designated by the Sheriff and administrative staff responsible for paying maintenance invoices. Lt. Col. Thomason can provide additional information on the system. LPSO dispatches all calls in the Parish except for the City of Denham Springs. Mayor Lobell stated that she would research. Mayor Lobell asked Lt. Col. Thomason if it would be considered out of the ordinary for a Mayor to have access to a GPS system and he replied no - as long as others also have access. From a safety aspect, if the officer is not able to radio the department in an emergency, dispatch would be able to locate the officer. We are located in a rural area and not everyone has numbers on mailboxes. Utilizing the GPS would allow dispatch to quickly determine the location of officer. Dispatchers check locations of officers periodically on the CAD board. Lt. Col. Thomason mentioned that they had to get initial 'bugs' out of the Synovia GPS program and have used the system for about 3 years. LPSO can monitor locations of FSPD units if systems compatible and safety issues (not maintenance) and could help each other out. Lt. Col. Thomason mentioned that the GPS system has benefited LPSO. Lt. Col. Thomason answered general public questions regarding GPS systems.

Guest Speaker: Jeremy Aydell/Leadership Livingston

Playground Update - COVID shut the Leadership Livingston meetings down for a couple of months. They are putting the deposit down on the equipment and colors will be chosen. Hopefully, after speaking with the installer he thinks that things will begin to happen this year. They've raised \$15,000 to date and still looking to raise a little bit more money. Fundraiser in March raised almost \$4,000. The equipment itself is approx. \$33K and they have other costs in this amount that has been donated.

Reading of Minutes:

The motion to accept the minutes for the meeting of June 10, 2020, as presented, was made by Alderman Miller and seconded by Alderman Demarest. A yeas and a nays vote were called for and resulted as follows:

Yeas: Miller, Demarest, Eleazar

Nays: None

Absent: None

Statement of Finances:

Mayor Lobell stated that there is no allowance in the 2020 budget prepared by the prior administration for vacation/leave pay nor is there an Ordinance providing for such. Several leave policies created by the Police Department (approved by Chief Mosby) were submitted to the Mayor and Board. The policies include but not limited to:

- Vacation Pay (which includes an ADDITIONAL 12 days of Holiday Pay).
0-5 yrs - 120 hours 6-9 yrs – 144 over 10 yrs 180 hours
Carry over time and pay for unused time if they leave.
- Additional 120 hours of Sick Pay, Maternity Leave, Funeral Leave, Jury Duty, Military Leave, Family and Medical Act of 1993 Leave, Education Leave
- Overtime and Compensatory Time (Comp time) work an hour get an hour and half off.

As per our Village attorney, these policies must be passed by Ordinance and cannot be unilaterally voted on or implemented by the PD or the Chief. The Ordinance currently in place allows for -0- days. The precedence that has been established is 10 days total Personal Time off. The prior administration stated that ‘the days are not set in stone and the Mayor decides’. Further, the prior administration did not factor any PTO or vacation time when preparing the 2020 budget. The policies will not be considered until we begin to prepare the 2021 budget.

Timesheets for the Police Department have not been submitted correctly. For the previous two payroll periods the officers have omitted time in/out on timecards. After my inquiry to Chief Mosby dated 07.02.2020 regarding omitting time in/out on the timesheets, Mosby replied via email 07.07.2020 that the FSPD were not required to. Mayor Lobell stated that she would not process payroll if the hours are not reported properly and read aloud a letter from Village Attorney, Timothy E. Pujol stating that his legal opinion was that if the payroll hours are not submitted in the format of requested by the Mayor, that she has no administrative duty to process payroll.

The motion to accept the Statement of Finances for the month of June 2020, as presented was made by Alderman Eleazar and seconded by Alderman Miller. A yea and a nay vote were called for and resulted as follows:

Yeas: Miller, Demarest, Eleazar

Nays: None

Absent: None

Police Department: Statistics as per agenda item (Police Report) were not given to general public. Statistical report was hand delivered to Mayor and Board of Alderman during meeting. There were other letters read that were non-related to Village business given during the police report portion of the meeting. However; they were not on the agenda to be discussed.

New Business: Insurance Underwriting:

Property Insurance - Mayor Lobell thanked Chief Mosby for the inventory listing of contents for the FS Police Department. However; the list does not include values of individual items, nor does it include a listing/locations of inventory/equipment (with values) normally kept away from premises. There is no specialty equipment coverage listed for Officer Ordeneaux’s unit. Until proper lists are provided coverage will remain as is. No coverage away from premises and current limits are inadequate for replacement of PD equipment.

Police Officers Professional Liability – Mayor Lobell explained that it has come to her attention that while reviewing Police Officers Professional Liability she received a current roster of Police Officers for the FSPD from Chief Mosby. When asked, Officer Ordeneaux stated that he took his last firearms course on 09.25.2019. He mentioned that a certification expires after 12 months but you are given a one-month grace period. When asked, Officer Rhoads stated that his certificate is currently expired. Chief Mosby is exempt from the requirement as he is elected. Chief Mosby mentioned that Rhoads was about to go take his re-certification. Rhoads stated that he hopefully will be

taking his required annual certification next week. A citizen expressed concern that an officer was not in compliance with firearms training is patrolling and the liability that it presents a liability to the Village. He mentioned a concern of the record keeping of officer certification and read annual requirements from the POST website. Alderman Eleazar asked Officer Ordeneaux who keeps up with certifications. Ordeneaux replied that each department designates a Training Coordinator. Mayor Lobell stated that per research, the Louisiana Commission on Law Enforcement (LCLE) is the reporting agency and the records provided aren't clear. That the continuing education transcripts look a bit 'wonky'. The training coordinator is shown as Jack Stevens and hasn't been in the LCLE for 189 days as of date of meeting. The Mayor does not know a person named Jack Stevens. However; he is on the Officers by Agency Roster provided to the Mayor by the LCLE. One individual reflected on the LCLE lists is deceased. The list hasn't been updated in quite some time. The insurance company has to underwrite the risk and certifications are expected.

Local Events: The French Settlement Beta Club participated in the H.O.P.E. (Help Other People Eat) project and used the Community Center as a staging point to gather the food. The event was successful. Chief Mosby and Officer Ordeneaux assisted the Club with delivery of the goods to citizens in need. Mayor Lobell congratulated the graduating Seniors of FSHS.

Adjourn

A motion to adjourn was made by Alderman Miller and seconded by Alderman Eleazar. A year and a nay vote were called for and resulted as follows:

Yeas: Miller, Demarest, Eleazar

Nays: None

Absent: None

Rhonda B Lobell, Mayor

Pam Melancon, Municipal Clerk