

**AVOYELLES PARISH POLICE JURY SPECIAL MEETING
THURSDAY, MARCH 12, 2026, 4PM**

Present: Mark Borrel, Darrell Wiley, Jacob Coco, Allen Thomas, Sam Pearce, Travis Franks, Craig Foster, Brendon Gaspard, Rhett Desselle, District Attorney Riddle, Franis Keller, and Dr. Callegari

Absent: Ingrid Wilson and Clyde Benson

President Wiley called the meeting to order at 4:00 a.m., followed by the invocation and Pledge of Allegiance.

President Wiley opened the discussion with a public statement. He noted that over the past few days he had participated in several interactions and emphasized that it is the Police Jury's duty to protect the well-being of the people of the parish. As Police Jurors, members have the right and responsibility to discuss any matter that comes before the body or may affect its credibility. He stated that concerns raised by the Civil Works Director or the Secretary-Treasurer are taken with the utmost seriousness, as their roles are critical in matters of financial oversight and infrastructure. Since becoming President, he has encouraged openness, working through differences, and arriving at sound decisions. President Wiley expressed confidence that the governing body and its members will act in the best interest of the parish and continue to do what is right.

A motion by Allen Thomas, seconded by Travis Franks to award the Avoyelles Parish Recreation and Sports Complex project to the low bidder, Bayou Rapides Corporation. Base bid, 43,567,160, additive alternate 1 \$409,000 total bid \$3,976,160. Motion carried.

District Attorney Riddle advised that a contingency should be added to the motion stating that the award is contingent upon the State paying one hundred percent (100%) of the construction costs.

The motion was made verbally, adding the contingency as stated by Mr. Riddle. The motion carried.

Travis Franks inquired whether the required match had been settled. District Attorney Riddle advised that the matter had been resolved and that the motion needed to reflect the contingency.

Francis Keller asked how many bids had been received. Travis Franks responded that six (6) bids were received.

Dr. Callegari was present to provide an overview of the agreement offered by Build a Better Avoyelles. He explained that several sports complexes exist throughout Louisiana and noted that, at best, many break even and, at worst, become a cost to taxpayers. Most complexes are operated by nonprofit organizations. He stated that the Parish does not have the financial means to operate such a complex, therefore a nonprofit organization would be the most suitable alternative. Under the proposed plan, Build a Better Avoyelles would assume responsibility for liability insurance and for hiring personnel to operate the complex, resulting in essentially no operational cost to the Parish. Related expenses would be covered through ticket sales revenue.

District Attorney Riddle advised Dr. Callegari to amend the Cooperative Endeavor Agreement to reflect that a mandatory one million dollar (\$1,000,000) liability insurance policy would be maintained and paid for by Build a Better Avoyelles, and that all necessary repairs and upkeep would be their responsibility.

Francis Keller inquired whether salaries would be paid from the revenue generated. Dr. Callegari responded that they would not.

Travis Franks requested clarification from Pan American Engineers regarding the three percent (3%) maintenance escrow account.

Mr. Brendon Gaspard, Engineer with Pan American Engineers, explained that the mandatory three percent (3%) requirement was designated for the long-term maintenance of the additive alternate.

Francis Keller approached the podium with questions. He asked for clarification as to whether a Little League team wishing to utilize the property would be allowed to do so. Dr. Callegari responded that they would not, explaining that the organization would still incur operational costs and therefore a small usage fee would be required.

Mr. Keller then brought to the attention of the Jurors the signed lease agreement with the Office of Juvenile Justice, which specifies that the property is to be made available to all citizens, including youth offenders in custody of OJJ. The lease further stipulates that the complex will not generate net revenue or profit, as the lease is intended solely to enhance recreational opportunities.

Mr. Riddle stated that the complex would be available to all citizens. He acknowledged that there was conflicting language in the contract; however, he advised that the nonprofit organization is acting within the law.

A motion was offered by Travis Franks, seconded by Mark Borrel authorizing the president to sign the Cooperative Endeavor Agreement with Build a Better Avoyelles. The purpose of the agreement is to lessen the financial burden on the Parish by allowing Build a Better Avoyelles to assume the operational management and maintenance of the Bayhills Sports Complex. Motion carried.

On motion by Craig Foster, seconded by Jacob Coco to adjourn.