

MINUTES OF THE **ST. BERNARD PARISH HOSPITAL SERVICE DISTRICT MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 27, 2010 AT SEVEN (7:00) P.M.** IN ST BERNARD PARISH COUNCIL CHAMBERS, LOCATED AT 8201 WEST JUDGE PEREZ DRIVE, CHALMETTE, LOUISIANA

The Hospital Service District met on Wednesday, January 27, 2010 in the St. Bernard Parish Council Chambers pursuant to notice given to each member and posted in the manner required by law.

The Chairman, Mr. Landry, convened the meeting at 7:15 p.m. and continued with calling the roll.

There were present: Mr. Wayne J. Landry (Chairman), Mr. George Cavignac, Mr. Ron Chapman, Mr. James DiFatta, and Mr. Dysart.

There were absent: None

Also present were: Dr. Brian Bertucci, and Dr. Paul Verette Advisors to the HSD; Phil Wendling, Jessica Daw and Tom Noble from Hammes Co; Rob Hamby and Scott McQueen of Gresham Smith and Partners, Architectural Firm; Jennifer Mitchell and Allen Ohlmeyer of Siezler Thompson Brown Architectural Firm; Frank Folino, and Peter Dougherty of FMOL.

Dr. Brian Bertucci delivered the invocation.

Mr. DiFatta led the Pledge of Allegiance.

#1

Agenda Item #1

On motion of Mr. Cavignac, seconded by Mr. DiFatta, it was moved to approve the minutes of the 1/13/2010 HSD meeting.

The above and foregoing having been submitted to a vote, the vote thereupon resulted as follows:

**YEAS:** Cavignac, Chapman, DiFatta, Dysart

**NAYS:** NONE

**ABSENT:** NONE

The Chairman, Mr. Landry, cast his vote as **YEA**

And the motion was declared **ADOPTED** on the 27<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2010.

#2

Agenda Item #2

On motion of Mr. Cavignac, seconded by Mr. Chapman it was moved to allow GSP to present the recommended exterior and interior finishes for the hospital.

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No Action Necessary.

#3

Agenda Item #3

Without objection, Mr. Landry removed Item #3 from the agenda until the Community Workgroup came up with a resolution that combined the recommendations of the board members and community workgroup members on any and all changes to be made to what was presented for the interior and exterior of the hospital.

#4

Agenda Item #4

On motion of Mr. DiFatta, seconded by Mr. Cavnignac, it was moved to approve GSP's Invoice #0637123 in the amount of \$287,497.88 as recommended by the Finance Workgroup.

Mr. DiFatta said this invoice represented 1/3 of the work that was done thus far.

The above and foregoing having been submitted to a vote, the vote thereupon resulted as follows:

**YEAS:** Cavnignac, Chapman, DiFatta, Dysart

**NAYS:** NONE

**ABSENT:** NONE

The Chairman, Mr. Landry, cast his vote as **YEA**

And the motion was declared **ADOPTED** on the 13<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2010.

# 5

Agenda Item #5

On motion of Mr. DiFatta, seconded by Mr. Cavnignac it was moved to approve Sullivan, Stplier and Resor's invoice # 50892 in the amount of \$19,075.03 as recommended by the Finance Workgroup.

Mr. DiFatta stated that the invoice was reflective of the work that had been done relating to the CDBG application amendment.

Mr. Dysart asked that the rate on the bill seemed higher than the state rate and wanted clarity on that prior to voting on payment of the invoice.

Mr. Chapman wanted the invoice reviewed by Kendall Magee.

Mr. Landry agreed that Mr. Magee should also review the invoice.

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Without objection, Mr. Landry removed item #5 until the rate could be verified by the state and the invoice could be reviewed by Kendall Magee.

#6

Agenda Items #6

On motion of Mr. Cavnac, seconded by Mr. DiFatta, it was moved to approve the publication the financial pro-forma.

Without objection, Mr. Landry removed Item #6 from the agenda until Pat Forbes approved the language of the RFP.

#7

Agenda Item #7

Without objection, Agenda Items #8 & #9 were combined in global

On motion of Mr. DiFatta, seconded by Mr. Chapman it was moved to approve all work done thus far for the HSD website.

The above and foregoing having been submitted to a vote, the vote thereupon resulted as follows:

**YEAS:** Cavnac, Chapman, DiFatta, Dysart

**NAYS:** NONE

**ABSENT:** NONE

The Chairman, Mr. Landry, cast his vote as **YEA**

And the motion was declared **ADOPTED** on the 13<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2010.

#8

Agenda Item #8

On motion of Mr. Cavnac, seconded by Mr. Chapman it was moved to discuss the recent delegation meeting.

Mr. Cavnac stated that Senator Crowe and Representative Hutter were willing to help in anyway possible to assist in helping the Hospital Project including acquiring the letter from LaDOTD regarding the servitude on the Meraux Donation/property and to also move capital outlay monies from Priority 5 to Priority 1.

Mr. Cavnac asked if he had received the letter from the LaDOTD.

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Mr. Wendling replied that he had not but would again send out a series of emails in an attempt to receive it.

Discussion Ensued.

No Action Necessary.

#9

## Agenda Item #9

On motion of Mr. Cavnac, seconded by Mr. DiFatta it was moved to discuss the letter on behalf of Meraux Foundation from Floyd Gue and what direction the board wants to take in respect to the Meraux Donation Documents.

Mr. Cavnac wanted to reiterate the board's thankfulness for the donation and went further to state the Secretary for Meraux Foundation had been contacted on numerous occasions to set up a meeting for the HSD to negotiate terms of the donation principle to principle with no response other than the letter received from Floyd Gue on January 26, 2010.

Mr. Cavnac stated that he was not opposed to resending all the objections in writing to Mr. Gue, as requested, but questioned where the breakdown in communication was since the board through its secretary has sent the objections to the Frilot Firm to be communicated to Meraux Foundation.

Mr. Dysart stated that he does not want to wait another day to execute the donation and feels that the discrepancies in the servitude document were an attempt by the board to disengage with the Meraux Foundation and obtain the Prince of Peace property.

Mr. Dysart made a motion to execute to execute the donation document.

Mr. Cavnac stated a point of order that the problem is that the matter has been settled by the board and voted on. Mr. Cavnac went further to state that the body has spoken and the individual opinions are no longer an issue.

Mr. Landry stated that Mr. Cavnac's point of order was well taken and did not want to issue civic lessons, in a democracy when the body speaks, it speaks.

Mr. Chapman stated that freedom of speech under the first amendment allows other board members opinions to be spoken. Mr. Chapman went further to state that in his opinion the letter simply requests an agenda for the meeting and he believes the HSD should be able to provide that to them.

Mr. DiFatta stated that no one has been sitting on any hands, and according to Mr. Gue he was unaware of what the objections were. Mr. DiFatta stated that the board did vote and the board entrusted Frilot Firm to convey those objections on to Meraux Foundation and still today the board has not seen anything in writing from the Meraux Foundation agreeing or disagreeing with the objections. Mr. DiFatta did want to again supply the objections in writing to Mr. Gue so that he would be aware. Mr. DiFatta stated that the board

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has declared its objections openly in a public meeting, the board has voted on it, and yet there still is not a perfected easement document.

Mr. Dysart reminded Mr. Landry that he made a motion to execute the Meraux Airport Tract donation.

Mr. Landry stated that Mr. Cavnac's point of order was well taken and his inference was that matter had been settled.

In deference to Mr. Dysart, Mr. Landry allowed the motion.

On motion of Mr. Dysart, seconded by Mr. Chapman it was moved to execute the Meraux Airport Tract donation.

The above and foregoing having been submitted to a vote, the vote thereupon resulted as follows:

**YEAS:** Chapman, Dysart

**NAYS:** Cavnac, DiFatta

**ABSENT:** NONE

The Chairman, Mr. Landry, cast his vote as **NEA**

And the motion was declared **FAILED** on the 27<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2010.

Mr. Cavnac stated that he agreed with Mr. DiFatta that the objections are quite serious to the success of the project and after multiple attempts to set up a meeting for face to face negotiations, and being unsuccessful, Mr. Cavnac would like the secretary of the HSD to resend the objections and continue to attempt to set up a meeting with the Meraux Foundation.

Mr. Landry stated he wanted to make some comments in regards to the memorandum of understanding with the Meraux Foundation. Mr. Landry stated that when he served as council liaison for the HSD, he objected to the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding because not all the language at that time was acceptable.

Without objection the letter from Mr. Gue on behalf of The Arlene and Joseph Meraux Charitable Foundation dated January 26, 2010 was entered into the record.

#10

Agenda Item #10

On motion of Mr. DiFatta, seconded by Mr. Chapman it was moved to discuss evaluation of proposed project land sites.

Mr. DiFatta stated this was on the agenda because HSD had looked into other parcels of property for the hospital, including Prince of Peace and Torres Park. Mr. DiFatta wanted to have a cost analysis for all possible land options. Mr. DiFatta wanted to reiterate that the costs to place the hospital on the Meraux

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Airport Tract were still over 2 Million dollars more than the other 2 proposed sites, should the HSD be lucky enough to acquire either the Torres Park site or the Prince of Peace site.

Mr. DiFatta stated he wanted to try to minimize costs on the Meraux site if possible and now that the driveway has to be lengthened due to issues with ingress/egress the cost could potentially be more than 1.5 Million.

Mr. Chapman wanted clarity on whether or not the Prince of Peace property was viable.

Mr. Landry stated that ARC (Association for Retarded Citizens) had requested the property one week earlier for Prince of Peace and the Archdiocese felt a moral and pastoral obligation to let ARC have the property.

Dr. Bertucci stated the land only being 11.3 acres and even 20 acres is small for the size of the hospital. Dr. Bertucci stated that the cookie cutter tract that was given caused some concerns as to how to position the hospital, on top of the fact that there is a high pressure gas line running through the property and that the hospital is land locked with little room to expand. Dr. Bertucci believes 30 acres would be adequate, should not be land locked, and should be on St. Bernard Hwy.

Mr. Cavnac stated that ARC turned down numerous locations offered by parish government, and wanted to know if there was even funding in place for ARC to complete the building of their site on Prince of Peace Property.

Mr. Landry stated that the Executive Director of ARC stated that ARC had no funding, did not know how many citizens they would service, and did not know if it would even be successful.

#11

Agenda Item #11

No Action Necessary

#12

Agenda Item #12

On motion of Mr. Cavnac, seconded by Mr. Chapman it was moved to discuss New Business.

Mr. Landry discussed his recent trip to Washington and met with USDA in Washington, who has no money available for the hospital, but through a special program (242 program) with HUD, the hospital could borrow money.

Mr. Landry also stated that the amendment for the CDBG application will now state that the MOB cost will be 6 Million because LRA will not release the 10-14 Million until there is a program amendment in order for them to move the money to the HSD.

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Mr. Dysart wanted to place into the record a letter from the Parish President that all board members received before the meeting, stating that it is his opinion that the Meraux Airport Tract is the best location for the hospital.

Mr. Landry stated that he had not read the letter yet, but at next meeting it could be entered into the record.

Mr. Folino also wanted to reiterate that negotiations were complete and now FMOL was accepting Blue Cross Blue Shield insurance.

There being no further business for discussion, the Chairman, Mr. Landry declared the meeting adjourned at 10:17p.m.p.m. on the 27<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2010.

*Gretchen H. Henry*

Gretchen H. Henry  
Recording Secretary

*Wayne J. Landry*

Wayne J. Landry  
Chairman