



Ironton and Southeast Louisiana Committee Meeting

Wednesday, May 31, 2023 at 5:00 PM

Belle Chasse Auditorium

8398 HWY 23

Belle Chasse, LA 70037

Agenda

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. ATTENDANCE

- | | |
|----------------------------------|---------|
| • Brian Lezina (CPRA) | Present |
| • Steven Davidson (Tallgrass) | Present |
| • Audrey Trufant Salvant | Present |
| • Sandra Irons | Present |
| • Andrew Jason III | Present |
| • Kornell Davis | Absent |
| • Wilkie Declouet | Present |
| • Pastor Haywood Johnson | Present |
| • Melissa Folse (Port) | Absent |
| • Parish President Keith Hinkley | Present |

III. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

- Amendment of the minutes to reflect meeting attendance from the previous meeting.
- Minutes approved.

IV. PRESENTATION ON THE PRELIMINARY SURVEY RESULTS (MR. LEZINA)

- 32 total responses
- Nearly everyone wants to stay in Ironton
- Most people are able to provide deed and paperwork
- Lots of FEMA losses, most not eligible for repairs
- Most people want an elevator or elevation for their home
- Our next steps are to identify what we can and cannot use these monies for
- Home elevations and elevator access
- Would it be a good use of time work with Parish Pres office to

V. BOARD DISCUSSION ON NEXT STEPS

- Mr. Declouet: Is Tallgrass trying to use their money to help the parish government? People getting frustrated because we keep hearing the same old song and dance



- Mr. Lezina: We need to know how exactly we can use these dollars before we can commit to something
- Pres. Hinkley: with the monies that they have provided to the community, we are saying we can use those right now to do some of these things rather than using government money that hasn't been secured and may not be secured for a while.
- Ms. Salvant: it's a matter of prioritizing the list of issues that the IRAD board came up with. We need housing. We have to see how we are going to implement these dollars before we can make decisions about them.
- Pres. Hinkley: The Parish can't come in and use the money however they want right now. There is a process and we're restricted. What Tallgrass can do is help this community in the meantime so the parish can help them later, but the issues are too urgent right now to be waiting for the Parish money.
- Mr. Declouet: The drainage issue has been a problem for over a decade. When are we going to get something done for Ironton?
- Pres. Hinkley: Well, we are trying to figure that out right now. That's something that hopefully the parish can do after these more urgent issues are addressed.
- Mr. Declouet: There is three feet of water in the community.
- Pres. Hinkley: Now that has been brought to my attention and we will make sure to prioritize that as the parish funds become available.
- Pastor Johnson: A lot of people are losing their homes and moving and not returning. The longer this goes on the more people we lose.
- Mr. Lezina: Bringing this back together, we want to use this money in the most effective way possible. We do not want to bring something to the table that we aren't sure about, and at this moment we are not totally sure. Home elevation we can do, elevators we can do, home purchasing may not, but we need to be sure so we are using the money in the best way possible.
- Pres. Hinkley: We are now talking about a plan of action. Not just an idea. We are talking about real action in a short amount of time. This process is normally very long. People are still wanting to get their money from Katrina. This is an opportunity we have to move forward and really take action. This money is the bird in hand and we are trying to put it to use as soon as possible.
- Public: Hurricane season is coming, and we have nothing right now. We don't have any hurricane protection from levees.
- Pres. Hinkley: There is a levee being built, but it is not supposed to be done until probably 2026. I understand the frustration.
- Mr. Lezina: We are making action items and we are making sure we don't shoot ourselves in the foot by not being able to accomplish the things we set out to do.
- Mr. Davidson: We are planning to cut checks next month. Still working on getting that all settled right now and it will not be the full amount immediately, but we are expecting to be releasing some of the capital next month. Was hoping that some of the details were worked out to announce tonight, but we are doing our best to speed this process up and positively affect this community.
- Public: So there were 32 surveys filled out, are those showing what we need to do? Are these going to be house by house or the community as a whole?
- Mr. Lezina: We are looking to go on a house by house basis for whatever is going to help the greater good of the community.
- Mr. Lezina: For past 2 years, we have seen the PPG not get a roof over people's heads. Drainage and other issues are not what they are worried about. Those things are important but they are not the most important.
- Pres. Hinkley: The two grants we are working on now are for infrastructure and for home repairs and elevations. We have to be careful about how we use these funds to make sure we don't end up ineligible for those grant monies.
- Public: If you got through the mobile home HUD approved houses, you can get your home raised for \$50k. Resident showed proof (receipt) that was documented by the board.
- Mr. Lezina: I want to clarify that we are committed to help people get back in their homes before we get drainage or these other things.



- Ms. Salvant: I am in favor of what is being said, we cannot jeopardize the mitigation money. At the same time, housing is the #1 priority.
- Mr. Lezina: Need to underscore the value is having the flexibility with these dollars. we do not want to have this be a 2-year process. I think from here we have a plan in place to bring back some concrete options next week

VI. SET DATES FOR RECURRING MEETINGS

- 3rd Wednesday of the Month.
- Next Meeting, Wednesday June 21st

VII. PUBLIC COMMENT

- None

VIII. ADJOURN

- Motion to adjourn - Ms. Salvant
- Second - Mr. Davidson