

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND BOARD OF ALDERMEN
OF THE VILLAGE OF FRENCH SETTLEMENT, July 12, 2017**

The Mayor and Board of Aldermen of the Village of French Settlement met at 16015 Hwy. 16, French Settlement, Louisiana on the 12th day of July, 2017 at 6 p.m. in regular session convened. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Toni Guitrau with the following members present:

Alderman Teresa Miller, Alderman Danette Carrier, Alderman Rhonda Lobell

Also present: Assistant Chief Callender, LEM

A prayer was offered and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all.

Public Comments on Agenda Items: None

Reading of Minutes and Statement of Finances

The Mayor and Board reviewed the Statement of Finances. Mayor Guitrau noted that an Administrative Assistant was needed in past years but due to a sudden decrease in the average regular income being generated, and because of the work-load lessening over the past few months, this position will end effective August 1, 2017. The municipal clerk will be responsible for processing citations and warrants after August 1, 2017. She also said that when it comes time to propose the Budget of 2018, if steady income for the town has not returned to a normal average, many non-essential line items in the budgets will need to be cut including conventions, travel, etc. The motion to adopt the minutes and statement of finances for the month of June 2017, as presented, was made by Alderman Carrier and seconded by Alderman Miller. A yeas and a nay vote was called for and resulted as follows:

Yeas: Miller, Carrier, Lobell

Nays: None

Absent: None

Reading of Communications: None

August 2016 Flood Event Update: French Settlement's Emergency Manager, Lawrence Callender, reported that all the current expenses from the August 2016 Flood Event were covered 90% by FEMA, and 10% by volunteer hours which were submitted last month. Everything spent through today has been paid with no out of pocket expenses for the town. Mayor Guitrau said that \$108,000 of this money was received in December 2016 and had to be spent in January 2017 to renovate the shop into a temporary town hall until the municipal building can be repaired. This does not allow for zeroing out of income and expenses in one given year for the income and expenses incurred in 2017. We may have a one-year deficit ending 2017 but hopefully maintain a healthy fund balance.

Police Department Report - None

Old Business

Grounds Report – Mayor Guitrau will contact Scott Jones in regard to the digital sign connection problem.

Road Report: The sides of many roads in town have been mowed by the DOTD and LP DPW. LP DPW has cleaned out a couple drainage problems in ditches along AydeLL Lane. Another request has been submitted.

Grant(s) and/or State Appropriation(s) Update: LGAP Grant: The mayor said we are now ready to move forward with the purchase of an illuminating street light at the intersection of Hwy. 42 and Hwy. 16. The amount of approximately \$2100 is lower than originally estimated. She is currently waiting on an invoice for the exact amount of the light before requesting an amendment to the grant.

New Business

- 2016 Annual Review Report: The Review reflected no violations of state rules or deficiencies. In the opinion of the auditor French Settlement is in compliance with all applicable state and federal laws and the Legislative Auditors Office, as well as internal controls of financial matters. The Village's net position increased 7.4%. The Village's total revenues decreased during 2016 by 9.2% from 2015. The Village incurred additional expenses in 2016 as the town hall sustained significant damage from the August 2016 flood. The total cost of all programs and services were \$476,874. Costs increased by \$119,072 primarily due to the costs incurred as it relates to the Great Flood of 2016. The general fund reported fund balance of \$480,631, which is a decrease of \$27,468. A motion to approve the 2016 Annual Review Report was made by Alderman Miller and seconded by Alderman Lobell. A yeas and a nay vote was called for and resulted as follows:

Yeas: Miller, Carrier, Lobell

Nays: None

Absent: None

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- Village Property Policy: Discussed adopting a policy regarding village property in the near future. The Board agreed to place an item to declare the town utility trailer as surplus property on the August 9, 2017 agenda.
- Request by non-resident to discuss annexation process: Not discussed. The requester did not attend the meeting.

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

Yeas: Miller, Carrier, Lobell

Nays: None

Absent: None

/S/Toni Guitrau, Mayor

/S/Pam Melancon, Municipal Clerk