

Village of Folsom

*Mayor-Bettye Boggs
Alderman-Lance Willie
Alderwoman-Jill Mathies
Alderwoman-Paulette Lee*



*Ronnie "Beau" Killingsworth
Chief of Police
Susan Willie, Municipal Clerk
Delbert Talley, Attorney*

**Village of Folsom
General Meeting
March 9, 2015
7:00 p.m.**

**Present: Mayor: Bettye M. Boggs
Alderwoman: Jill Mathies
Alderman: Lance Willie
Alderman: Paulette Lee
Attorney: Delbert Talley**

Also Present: Asst. Secretary: Diane Sanders

The meeting was called to order and a quorum established. Mayor Boggs then introduced De'Jeune' Richardson, (*Honor student from Covington High School*) to lead invocation and pledge.

Mayor Boggs began with motion for approval of Agenda, asking if there are any additions to the Agenda. Alderman Willie then made a motion to move Ms. Pat Brister who is on first Item of New Business to be moved before Old Business so we would not take up all her time and also to add the application of Beer & Liquor License for Don Juan Restaurant to New Business for approval. Mayor Boggs asked for a second, seconded by Alderwoman Mathies. The motion carried (3Yeas 0 Nays).

Mayor Boggs stated the next item on agenda is the approval of the monthly financial statement. She indicated that we would be glad to provide copies at end of meeting if anyone would like to have a copy or she can email it to you. Alderman Willie made a motion to approve the monthly financial statement and it seconded by Alderwoman Mathies. Motion carried (3 Yeas 0 Nays).

State of the Parish—Pat Brister:

Mayor Boggs then stated what a pleasure it was to introduce Parish President, Pat Brister, to give us some information and an update on the Parish. Ms. Brister began stating, "We have always tried to bring everyone up to date on what is going on and what we are doing in the Parish." She stated that Ronnie Simpson, who is the Information Officer for the parish, has put together video that tells what is going on in the Parish, and afterwards she will be glad to answer any questions. After video, Ms. Brister began stating that the Charter Committee is now looking into our Charter, which has been in place for 15 years, to see if it is still a viable document that represents St. Tammany Parish as a whole or if it

needs any changes to take place. If there are suggested changes, they go before the voters of the entire St. Tammany Parish to decide if they want to change those things in our Charter that runs our government from day to day. Those meetings are public meetings on the website. They will have a report next month for the council and then it will go on ballot for next month. Ms. Brister then addressed the Covington Fairgrounds Expansion which is a revitalization project and she stated the importance of that whole area, the outdoor events, such as the Parish Fair, and the Christmas Extravaganza, which is one of the largest Arts & Crafts Show Expos in the area as well as the Fair Grounds and Emergency Operations. The Revitalization Project opens doors that we may have already had, but now we can really open it wide and go through some other events there. Ms. Brister stated that Phase 1 of this project will wrap up within the next few weeks and Phase 2 has already been bid and is set to begin in early spring. The expansion is projected to more than triple the size of the facility to approximately 73,000 square feet. It will enhance our capacity to meet community emergency and recreational needs. The expansion of the arena alone will now qualify our facility as a professional rodeo venue, which is very important to the equestrian community here in northern St. Tammany Parish. This means more recreational options for our citizens which we look for every day, the local jobs, increased revenue for tourism as when the rodeos and horse shows come to town the tourist stay in our hotels, they buy food in our restaurants, and they shop in our stores. Ms. Brister stated her excitement over all this and including the fact that in addition to the outdoor expos, concerts, fairs, and festivals we would be able to host there now because of the expansion.

Ms. Brister addressed the roundabouts in the parish, stating that it has been found that putting all those roundabouts instead of traffic lights and four-way stops really keeps the traffic moving and is a much better traffic flow tool that we have. Our public art program will do the landscaping and art in the center of those and each one will reflect where they are in the parish.

Mayor Boggs asked if there were any questions from the citizens. In response to a question, Ms. Brister confirmed that there will be a new Bogue Falaya bridge built having two lanes both ways stating that the project will take about two years.

In a response to a question regarding the condition of the roads, Mayor Boggs stated that she met with DOTD and was told that bids will go out in September to three-lane Hwy 25 from Folsom Elementary School to Hay Hollow Rd., and work should start three to four weeks after bids have gone out. Mayor Boggs stated that this improvement will help with the traffic flow which is now backed up waiting on cars to turn. She also stated that DOTD is also looking at Hwy. 40 East and West and redesigning it into a more continuous curve versus two ninety degree turns.

After a few questions and answers from audience concerning parish roads in Folsom, President Brister addressed current parish roads receiving overlays at this time and offered to send the project list to the Village. There was a question from the audience about the performing arts center and this project was also addressed. Ms. Brister was thanked for her time.

Old Business:

Item I = Magnolia Park Utility Issue:

Mayor Boggs stated that there was a broken line on this property in which our maintenance department turned on the water to a broken line on the park property and it caused a significant leak. Mayor Boggs stated that she and Alderwoman Mathies have been in meetings with the park official and an agreement was reached to split that bill with

Magnolia Park due to the fact that we also contributed to that leak. The amount of that bill is \$450.00 and the Village will pay \$225.00 and the Magnolia Park will pay \$225.00.

Alderwoman Mathies made motion to accept adjustment of \$225.00 Magnolia Park water bill and it was seconded by Alderman Willie. Motion carried (3 Yeas, 0 Nays). Mayor Boggs stated that we are adjusting this bill which is the reason that it is being brought before an open meeting.

Item II = Utility Rate Study:

Mayor Boggs stated that we have had the utility rate study on our agenda for the last several months. We received a Utility Rate Study from Tim Lemoine with the Louisiana Rural Water Association (LRWA). The basis of this was that in our last financial statement ending June 2013 our operating income for our water was actually a loss. The Village lost \$9825 in the operation of its water, and the Village also lost \$35,053 in operation of its sewer system. Mayor Boggs continued stating that the Village cannot continue operating with these losses due to upcoming audits.

Mayor Boggs then stated that Alderman Lance Willie has some figures for us and he is going to talk about the specifics in terms of what the Board is looking at in this study. Alderman Willie began stating that the water and sewer was at a loss of about \$45000. Alderman Willie referred to the rate study that was provided by LWRA. He stated that we were down \$45,000 and the study of one of the suggestions with water and sewer increases put an extra \$60,000 to \$70,000 which he felt would cause us to make money on the water. His concern was that it would put too much of a strain on many of the residents, especially the ones on fixed incomes. He also stated that he did not want to put a strain on the businesses. Alderman Willie continued stating that his proposal is to only cause the Village to break even. He suggested that water for residential customers be increased from \$9.00 first 0 to 2000 gallons to \$10.00 and from \$2.10 every 1000 gallons after to rate of \$3.00, average bill would go up \$3.70 for residential customers giving a \$23,000 back into water system. He stated that commercial customers water be increased from \$9.00, which was supposed to be \$16.00 but was never put into effect, to be \$20.00 first 0 to 2000 gallons and \$3.00 for every 1000 gallons giving us \$22,000 back into the community. With this projection Alderman Willie stated that this would make the Village break even, not make any money off this increase. He stated that we would not be affecting sewer bills and that with going up on the water we would be projected to make another \$45,000 more than what we made last year. He said that we would break even.

Alderman Willie continued, using three residential customers bill as an example for monthly increases one being his own bill. First customer's bill with 1900 gallons in water usage, giving them a \$1.00 increase, second customer's with 9500 gallons in water usage giving them a \$7.00 increase, third customer's bill with 3400 gallons in usage giving them an increase of \$2.31. Sewer bills would not be increased. He stated that he did not project the business bills.

Mayor Boggs asked the question of the difference in the average residential customer usage of 5000 gallons and the average commercial of 11,000 gallons. Alderman Willie said that he did not get to that. Alderman Willie stated that at 11,000 gallons for commercial, the bill would be \$47 instead of the proposed \$52 from the LRWA rate study.

Mayor Boggs stated that it would be helpful if the citizens knew the difference in their bill would be minor. Alderman Willie stated that the average residential customer bill would go up about \$3.00. Alderwoman Mathies clarified that at an average of 5000 gallons the bill would be \$12.40. Alderman Willie took exception to her figure stating it

was \$15.30 and that the average bill will go up \$3.00 not \$12.00. Mayor Boggs stated that at \$10 if we go with a flat rate and \$3 per 1000 gallons then we are looking at \$19. The current average rate is \$15.30 so the difference is going to be \$3.70, not \$3.00.

Alderwoman Lee referred to the memo notation where current rates being charged were put in place in 1993 and asked if that is correct and if any changes have been made since 1993. Mayor Boggs stated that she looked at an ordinance passed in 1993 and that is when the current rates we are charging were put in place. Alderman Lee stated that everything is going up and we need to at least break even. Mayor Boggs mentioned that Alderwoman Lee has talked to some of the businesses and they have been positive in terms of the rate increases and understand that the Village cannot operate at a loss. Alderwoman Lee stated they understand the situation as long as it is uniform across the board.

Mr. Ronnie Feske, business owner in the audience, asked for clarification that it is the same increase regardless of the number of gallons of water used referring to agricultural accounts which use large amounts of water. Alderman Willie state the rate is the same regardless of the number of gallons used.

Chief David Pittman stated the board needed to address construction companies that come to get water for the construction sites. Mayor Boggs stated that it was on the agenda.

Mayor Boggs asked the board if we have a consensus on the proposal and clarified with Mr. Talley that we could make this change by resolution. He stated that water or sewer could be by resolution, and that it only allowed one to be by resolution. Mayor Boggs stated that Alderman Willie had suggested raising garbage rates and asked whether he wanted to propose this as well. He stated we would handle these separately.

Alderwomen Mathies asked for clarification on a question. She stated that she understands with these minor increases, it will break us even on the part of water but that these increases are only based on water and that these funds will go into our water transactions. She stated we cannot transfer our money from the water into sewer. Alderman Willie stated no matter what we do with the sewer, we are never going to make up \$35000 in the sewer. He stated that we are always going to lose money on sewer and that it never makes money. Alderman Mathies questioned if all these funds are going into water, at what point does the sewer break even. Alderwoman Lee suggested that we research other communities to see how they handle this. Alderman Mathies stated that this only breaks us even and does not put anything aside when it comes to repairs and maintenance.

Mayor Boggs mentioned that we have a number of water leaks and LRWA will do testing of all of our lines. When the leaks are found we will have the obligation to do something about it. We are going to have to have the funds to fix these repairs. The average water loss is 15% and the Village is losing 18% because of all the water leaks. We have these issues and we need to have reserves to purchase items to meet the current DHH violations. We were also under a number of violations with DHH and it has cost us a great deal of money supplying what was required for our system. It is fiscally responsible for us to plan ahead because we know we have repairs now and we know we have repairs coming. We are looking at the safety and welfare of our citizens.

Alderwoman Lee asked if the LAMP funds could be used if we have major repairs or to fix these leaks that need to be made or if there is a fund available. Alderman Willie said that he did not have our audit with him but addressed the actual budget. Mayor Boggs stated that we have enacted a number of cost cutting operations such as the collection

\$7000 of delinquent water bills the first month of the year. She stated that we may see more money coming in now that we have following policies that we had in place for paying bills. There are a number of other cost-saving items that we are looking at.

Alderswoman Jill Mathies made motion to adopt a resolution for new water increases on residential and commercial accounts, with commercial at \$20 for 0 to 2000 gallons and \$3 for every 1000 gallons thereafter and with residential at \$10 for 0 to 2000 gallons and \$3 for every 1000 gallons thereafter. It was seconded by Alderman Willie. Motion carried. (3Yeas 0 Nays) The effective date was asked by Mark Beard and a discussion followed.

Item III - 2013-2014 Unresolved Audit Findings:

Mayor Boggs stated that we have three (3) unresolved audit findings that were carried over from previous years and Attorney Talley is going to address this.

(Alderswoman Lee interjected as to the effective date of the previous resolution. Mr. Talley stated as a resolution it will be effective on the next bill. Alderswoman Lee asked about how the change would take place and it was stated the computer program will be changed with the new rates. Mayor Boggs mentioned that we have a statement box where we can announce the change in rates. It was clarified that the change would take place on the April bill. Jimmy Zamin asked about businesses getting their increase with no right to say anything, and it was noted that this is an open meeting and everyone had the right to come and address any agenda items in this meeting. Alderswoman Lee noted that the businesses for a long time have been paying inaccurate and lower charges than they should have been paying. Mayor Boggs pointed out that this item has been on the agenda for the past three months. Mr. Ken Wilt pointed out that the Village does not get any money paid on property taxes in this Village. Mayor Boggs pointed out that when Alderman Willie was comparing our water rates to other municipalities and you cannot compare our rate to other municipalities that do have property taxes which we do not and that we do not want to have to consider a property tax that will affect property owners. Once again we will be cited on our audit if we do not fix this problem.)

Returning to the original item, Attorney Talley stated that the audit of 2012 to 2013 had some suggested findings. It was around 23 that were long standing. Some of the problems were accounting problems and checks & balancing. We have gotten them down to three by having done a number of ordinances and resolutions to change the policies, the way we did our accounting, the system we used and we put in check and balances. We made sure that any write-offs for any utility bills could not be done by individuals and had to come before this board. We have three findings left. What our independent auditors ask us to do, before it goes to the legislative auditors, is to take these suggested findings and tell them what we are going to do to fix it. One has to do with the franchise fees which are charged to customers who are receiving city water but living outside the city limits. The auditors suggested that some people were being charged and others were not. The problem there is that some people were grandfathered in and those people were not being charged. We advised the auditors that we would take care of that by charging everyone who should be charged. In the meantime, it was discovered that the parish in one of those one hundred agreements that President Brister talked about and they has us sign was based on an ordinance that the parish had allowed to expire. It was a 40 year ordinance that allowed us to charge a franchise fee, but they had let it expire. He indicated that he talked to the parish and they will put another ordinance in to establish that franchise fee. We have done everything that we can to resolve that particular issue. Some may not be resolved because we need the help of other parties. The parish is going to have to put an ordinance in to allow us to continue with the franchise fee. Our part is to charge everyone who should be paying it across the board.

with regard to another finding was the use of the vehicle by the Mayor. In connection with several of these audit findings, I asked the Attorney General for their guidance and opinions and they came back and I told them in some of these cases that it would not be cost effective. Also, I could not do anything in this case since I represent the mayor and I represent the board. Those charges are on his vehicle use and I could not represent the Board against the Mayor nor the Mayor against the Board so they would have to hire counsel and that gets to be a money thing. I asked the Attorney General in that situation when it is not really cost effective what he wanted us to do. The Attorney General said that if it would not be cost effective to hire outside counsel to file a suit, the Village would be spending more than it would collect. So therefore it is left unresolved. He stated that it would not be in the benefit of the Village to file a suit as it would cost us \$2 to collect \$1 and that is assuming that we would be successful.

The next finding has to do with an unpaid utility bill. Basically, the bill which has a lien and it is kind of ambiguous. The water bills are paid by the residents, but the lien goes against the property owner. The Village has a lien to collect these water bills. It would not be cost effective for the Village to file suit or do anything like that to collect them. There was question in that the auditors said that if you cannot collect them you need to write them off. Mr. Talley stated that he knew that we could not write any off so he asked the Attorney General's opinion of that and he said that we could not write them off but we can put them in an uncollectible file. He stated where people have died or some particular reason that we cannot collect the bill, we are now putting them in an uncollectible file. But with regard to the utility bills, and this is in regard to all utility bills that are not paid after a certain amount of time, the Attorney General indicated that it is our responsibility to collect them. Mr. Talley responded to the AG that it may not be cost effective to collect them. And again the AG said that under those circumstances, you find a collection agency and turn the bill over to them. He said that there is a state collection agency. Basically, any municipality can send unpaid water bills to the state collection agency and they will attempt to collect it. What they will do is to withhold tax returns to collect that money. That is a cost feasible way to deal with uncollectible utility bills that are outstanding and would not otherwise be cost effective for us to collect.

Mr. Talley stated that we have done everything that we can to deal with all the schedule of findings and all of the recommendations. We have done our best and we have done a very good job because we are down to three. Of those three, they all involve action by third parties and we cannot tell people what to do, we cannot make people write checks, and we cannot make people do anything. All we can do is on occasion file lawsuits but it has to be cost effective to do so. He stated that the Village has done everything that we can, and in talking with the Mayor we are going to ask the auditor to please do not put these on the audit any longer because they asked us for a response and we have given it to them. He stated that we have done everything that we can do which is reasonable.

New Business:

Item II = Utility Credit – Wayne Wactor:

Mayor Boggs began stating that we have a utility credit involving Wayne Wactor and once again we cannot give away utilities. We would like to bring this issue before the Board to consider writing off of a penalty. There was a faulty water meter and the property owner did not want to pay the bill until the meter was replaced and by the time the meter was replaced a \$10.50 late penalty had accrued.

A motioned was made by Alderman Willie to credit Mr. Wactor \$10.50, seconded by Alderwoman Lee. Motion carried (3 Yeas 0 Nays).

Item III - Changing Deposit/Installation Utility Fees:

Mayor Boggs announced this item and Alderman Willie ask for the paperwork regarding this item. Mayor Boggs asked which fees we are addressing. Alderman Willie stated we are looking at the cost to the Village in installation and deposit fees and in putting out late notices and the cost of turning off meters with delinquent bills. He stated that what we have in place was \$25 for handling the whole process. He suggested that we look at increasing this due to the time and labor on the part of maintenance. He stated that this had led to our looking at deposit and utility fees being examined. Alderman Willie asked the clerk the deposit for water, and the clerk advised him that it is \$100 for water and \$100 for sewer for renters and \$75 for owners. Alderman Willie stated that commercial water deposits being considered was \$150 each for water and sewer. He stated that deposits need to be adequate to cover water bills that are left when businesses and residents vacate without paying their final bills. He addressed renters who know that they are moving and fail to pay their water bills and left the Village without paying for water used.

Mayor Boggs stated that the reason we are looking at the difference in rates it is normally the renters where the Village is losing money from unpaid water bills. She noted that some renters will stop paying their water bill knowing that they are moving and will sometimes leave a water bill greater than the amount of their deposit, hence the Village is losing money. What we would like to do is to make a different rate for renters than for home owners because we seldom see this in the home owner market. Alderwoman Mathies asked if we have clarified the difference between deposits and installation fees as they are two different fees. She clarified that deposits are deposits for the service to be turned on and installation refers to the installation of a meter or the hookup to the sewer system for new service. She noted in the past in the contractual paperwork of the Village that those terms were used interchangeably and need to be clarified and reworded in the new contracts.

Mayor Boggs stated that the previous maintenance supervisor noted that the cut off notices that we hang on the doors costs the Village time, gas for delivery (*some to areas outside the village*) so he asked the board to consider placing a fee on the cutoff notice in addition to the disconnect fee. We are trying to encourage those who have the money to come in and pay their bills in a timely manner. Mayor Boggs noted that if anyone is having a hardship and they want to come in we will be more than glad to work with them individually. In general, we have a great amount of money outstanding that belongs to the Village, i.e. the example in January where we collected over \$4,800 in back water bills. Therefore, we are not making money with these changes but compensating the Village in time and gas and what it takes maintenance to notify those who are in arrears.

Alderman Willie asked if we changed the disconnect fees and the reconnect fees at the Special Meeting. Mayor Boggs corrected this in that no decisions can be made at a Special Meeting and that it was only a discussion item. Alderman Willie suggested \$10 for hanging the disconnect notice, \$20 to disconnect and \$30 to reconnect, for a total of \$60. Mayor Boggs noted the amount of record keeping on the part of our clerical staff and that currently our reconnect is \$25. A comment from the audience by Ronnie Feske was that it makes no sense to charge a disconnect fee and a reconnect fee. Alderwoman Lee made the comment many people come in to pay their bill upon receipt of that notice. Mayor Boggs noted that it can take a great deal of time for the preparation of the disconnect notices on the part of the clerical staff. It was agreeable that the flat \$50 to disconnect and reconnect was a better option.

Mayor Boggs reiterated that she has worked with customers on an individual basis but has made it clear to the clerical staff that all special considerations must come through her.

Alderman Willie suggested \$100 deposit for residential and renters and \$150 deposit for commercial. Mayor Boggs questioned our consideration of a larger amount for renters since they frequently leave the Village with a water bill larger than their deposit.

Alderman Willie made a motion for \$100 deposit each for water and sewerage for residents, \$150 deposit each for water and sewerage for commercial, to hang a disconnect notice \$10, and \$50 to disconnect/reconnect. The motion was seconded by Alderwoman Mathies. The motion carried. (3 Yea, 0 Nays)

Mayor Boggs indicated that we need to prepare the new contract effective April 1st to give us the remainder of March to revised the contract and work through the putting these changes into process. This was agreeable on the part of the board.

Item IV = Contractor Utility Rates:

Mayor Boggs stated that this item involves the contractor utility fees. Alderwoman Mathies stated that contractor utility rates are based off of rates that are for businesses, such as Barrier or Boh Brothers Construction. These companies come into the Village, fill up their trucks, they use our water system and we need to adjust these rate also. She stated that they have been paying a small deposit and Chief Pittman has been monitoring their usage. Alderwoman Mathies continued stating that some companies utilize more water than they pay for, so the Village is at a lost. She suggested that the Village look at and readjust these rates.

Chief Pittman from the fire department stated that there is a master meter at the fire department which records how many gallons the contractor gets. The Fire Department provides them with a form. Chief Pittman indicated that the businesses need a form from Town Hall indicating they have paid the deposit. He indicated that the \$100.00 deposit that we are charging he thinks is too low. He stated that a beginning reading and an ending reading goes on the form. At the end of the month, Chief Pittman stated that he brings the form to Town Hall. He said he feels that the Village is not charging enough deposit. He stated that when these businesses come in they have been known to skip out without paying and leave us with the bill. Alderwoman Lee asked if that deposit takes care of just that one job and he replied that was so.

Mayor Boggs asked Chief Pittman if before any company pumps water if they present the letter from Town Hall indicating the deposit has been made, and he indicate that they do. She indicated that the Village will now make three copies: one for Town Hall, one for the Fire Department and one for the company. That way if a company comes to fill their vehicle, the Fire Department will have a copy on file.

Alderman Willie asked the amount that we are charging these companies. Chief Pittman indicated the amount is \$100 deposit. Chief Pittman suggested a \$1000 deposit because some companies come and pump 50,000 gallons of water.

Alderwoman Lee asked if the \$100.00 deposit covers them for that one job or does it cover them for all jobs. Chief Pittman stated that it is for just the one job, and they pay another deposit each time they come for a job. Mayor Boggs indicated that sometimes large projects require for them to fill up more than once. Chief Pittman indicated that some companies pump 100,000 gallons of water and we should be in the business of making money on this. Alderwoman Lee mentioned that she suggests the fire department turn in water usage sheets weekly rather than when job is finished and she agreed to pick them up weekly.

Mayor Boggs indicated that the file of these company charges is available for review to see what these companies are paying. She indicated we are dealing with companies and

corporation and if they know that they are going to get their deposits back, there should be no problem in raising the deposit to cover the Village in case we do not hear from them to finalize their bill. She also pointed out that if they are paying residential rates and we have our businesses paying a higher rate, they certainly need to be paying a higher rate. She stated that if we are increasing our commercial rates in the Village, then we certainly need to increase the rates for these businesses as well. Alderwoman Lee stated that we need to rewrite the contract and the changes bolded on the form. Mayor Boggs stated that they do not have a contract at this time. Chief Pittman indicated that the contract needs to indicate that the only place they can fill up water is at the fire station.

Alderman Willie suggested that we come up with rates and deposits which need to be more in line with the Village commercial rates. Alderwoman Mathies suggested changing the \$100 deposit to at least a \$500 deposit. Mayor Boggs asked if we have a process of termination since some bills are for very small amounts so that we know when they are finished. Alderman Willie asked when these companies pay their bill.

Ronnie Feske from the audience suggested that perhaps some of the larger companies could leave a credit card on file as a deposit and assurance of payment. Alderwoman Mathies mentioned that a credit card may not be good at the end of the agreement.

After further discussion, Mayor Boggs opened floor for motion. A motion was made by Alderman Willie to increase the deposit to \$500 and pay the commercial rate for water. It was seconded by Alderwoman Mathies. In the process of the motion, Mr. Talley instructed the board that the motion must be made as a resolution. Alderman Willie reintroduced the motion as a resolution to increase the deposit to \$500 and the rate to the commercial rate of the Village. Alderwoman Lee asked by what date, and it was stated by Alderman Willie effective April 1st. The motion was seconded by Alderwoman Mathies. The motion carried. (3 Yeas, 0 Nays) Alderwoman Lee indicated that she would be bringing those from to Town Hall.

Item V= Infrastructure/Impact Fees:

Mayor Boggs announced that the Village of Folsom has been dealing with these fees for a very long time and completed the comprehensive plan in regard to these fees. She stated that it was the Village's impression at that time that we had to have a comprehensive plan in order to implement impact/infrastructure fees. Mayor Boggs stated that we have talked with other municipalities and gathered their data on this subject and received impact fee information from St. Tammany Parish. To give you some information on this, there is a great deal of cost born by the Village when we connect residential and commercial users to our utilities. Mayor Boggs stated in addition to these businesses coming into the Village as well as residences, it puts additional costs on our police departments, wear on roads and infrastructure. Basically, the more people we have here, the more it costs the Village to provide those services. Once again, we are trying to look at the Village and make the Village more fiscally responsible. We are looking at both residential and commercial fees. Mayor Boggs asked for discussion on this item.

Alderwoman Lee stated that as Mr. Talley suggested in our meeting on February 24th that we should include exceptions as he stated for hardships. Since this is something that we have to do by ordinance, if we can agree to the terms of the infrastructure fees then we can fine tune the ordinance and present it in April with the Public Hearing and vote on it in April.

Alderman Willie noted that the sample impact fee structure from Abita Springs indicated a \$2500 residential impact fee and he felt that was too much. He stated that a \$2500 impact fee rolled over into a loan ends up costing the resident \$15,000. He stated that

that the budget will put it into the price of the house and the resident will feel the impact of the fee. He also stated that the \$2500 would impact of businesses in the area. He stated we need to look at this and not jump into it. Mayor Boggs responded to Alderman Willie's comments that we are looking at new construction and not a situation where someone comes and purchases a current residence or commercial building.

With further discussion, Mayor Boggs pointed out that other municipalities also have put exceptions into their ordinances and she advised the board to keep in mind that we have a number of businesses coming into the Village and it will cost the Village a great deal of money to provide them services. Alderwoman Mathies suggested that we look at fees with steps rather than one amount. She stated that she did not think it was fair to go from zero to \$2500 for commercial or residential. She stated looking at the value of the homes here that \$2500 would too much and we should start out with stepping blocks. After further discussion, the item was tabled for further study. Jimmy Zamin from the audience questioned the services being provided by the Village to which Alderman Willie responded that we do offer those services in the Village. Mayor Boggs responded that the more people we have coming into the Village the more demand that it puts on our roads. She also noted that we have things that need to be repairs and we need money to make those repairs. She again pointed out that the more people who come into the Village, the greater demand on the infrastructure of this Village.

Alderwoman Mathies addressed a comment by Jimmy Zamin noting that Abita started their impact fees at \$250 and they did not have a medical center. She noted that had a park which flooded frequently. She noted she was raised in Abita and that at that time they did not have sidewalks. She proposed the question as to what did he think got them to the present state. She asked the question that did not these fees help them to provide their current services.

Mayor Boggs stated that we have an understanding that we want to study this issue further and then if it means putting off the decision for a month we will study the issue further. She asked if that was what the board had in mind. Alderman Willie stated he wanted to table it because he does not want to put charges the residences or businesses coming in and that we need to look at it further and see if impact fees will make a difference in our community. Mayor Boggs responded that it would definitely make a difference and it is a matter of what amounts they are comfortable with and what amounts in the budget that we have will necessitate. She said that we have talked repeatedly month after month about the fact that our employees have not been given raises. She also noted that we know that we want to give our employees raises as they have not been given raises in years. She pointed out that we are taking all our money and putting it in other places and we have these hard working employees who have stood here with us but we need to operate more fiscally responsible and we have to look at the whole picture. Mayor Boggs state that if you want to table this and do more study of it, then I suggest that we do that but that we be prepared to make a decision in one month's time.

Alderwoman Mathies stated that she would like for everyone to look at least starting impact fees at least at a rate of \$500. Ronnie Feske from the audience stated that some businesses will impact the Village differently than others as some businesses will generate sales tax revenue and some are not. He pointed out that a service type business with service trucks coming on your roads will not provide sales tax where if you get a Walmart it will generate this revenue. It was agreed by the board to study this matter for future decision making.

Item VI = Meeting Time Change:

Mayor Boggs announced the item noting that in the past we have had two different meeting times depending upon the time of the year, daylight savings time versus non-

daylight savings time. We are proposing that we set a 7:00 pm meeting time change. She noted that this needs to be done by ordinance and a copy of ordinance was prepared. Alderman Willie asked for discussion. Alderman Willie read the ordinance. After the reading of the ordinance, Alderman Willie stated what time it is now 9:00 pm, and that it is late for people who have kids. Alderman Willie recommended moving the time to 6:00 PM, but wanted to open it up to the Board. Alderwoman Lee stated she would like the public's opinion as they are the ones who would have to push the clock to arrive at 6:00 PM. Mayor Boggs mentioned the fact that there are people, many of which work in New Orleans, who do not get home until 6:00 pm or 6:30 pm.

Mayor Boggs pointed out that we had an unusually long meeting tonight and if we continue holding our planning meetings prior to the general meeting, perhaps the discussion will be done at those meetings and then come to the table ready to make some decisions. Alderwoman Lee asked about compromising and making it 6:30 PM. After know further discussion Mayor Boggs made motion to introduce Ordinance. Alderwoman Mathies stated that she would like to stay at the 7:00 PM starting time and that the purpose of the ordinance was to get the confusion off from the daylight savings time. She stated that if we continue to have long meetings then perhaps at that time we need to relook at the time. Alderwoman made a motion to introduce this ordinance to set the starting time to 7:00 pm year round. It was seconded by Alderman Willie. The motion carried (3 Yeas, 0 Nays). Mayor Boggs indicated that a public hearing will take place next month at 6:45 PM next month. Ken Wilt from the audience stated that the citizens needed to come by town hall to find out if they is a public hearing with an earlier time or a regular meeting. He asked if it would be possible to have all the meetings start at 7:00 PM and if it is a public hearing that it take place 10 or 15 minutes prior to the general meeting. He stated that everyone would know the exact starting time of the meeting each month. The board was in agreement to start all meetings at 7:00 PM to avoid the confusion of what time the meeting would start.

Announcements / Discussions:

Mayor Boggs presented an application of a beer and liquor license by Don Juan Restaurant which is planning to open at the end of the week. Alderman Willie made a motion to accept their Beer and Liquor License. Mayor Boggs asked is there were any questions from the audience. Mark Beard from the audience asked about the location of a business with a liquor license in the proximity New Life Lutheran Church and suggested the attorney investigate this matter. Mayor Boggs responded in that the Village did look into this and the fact that this establishment had already received a beer and liquor license, they can receive a beer and liquor license because it has already been established at that location. Alderman Willie made a motion to accept their Beer and Liquor License for Don Juan Restaurant, it was seconded by Alderwoman Mathies, and the motion carried. (3 Yeas 0 Nays)

Mayor Boggs announced notices/locations of upcoming leak tests will be posted throughout the Village, on Village website, at Post Office, Library, and normal notice locations. She indicated that the tests will produce some smoke and we want all residents to be informed of this and the dates at this time for this tests the week of March 23 through March 27.

The last announcement is Village cleanup and the abandoned Shell station. Alderman Willie addressed Village cleanup and wanted the Village to follow through with our ordinances. He noted abandoned cars, dilapidated homes and noted an area on the way to the junior high school. Mayor Boggs noted that part of the delay in the Shell station was because of the litigation that was involved in that fire. She indicated that Trademax Property Management has purchased those four lots on Hwy. 25 and have put down their deposits and before they begin any building they will have to come in and get a building

coming from the village. Alderman Willie wanted to make sure that we know through on our ordinance regarding cleanup. Mayor Boggs indicated that we do have a couple of area where we may need to take the ordinance and present it to the property owners, and if the owners do not clean it up we can hire someone to do so and present them with the cost of the cleanup.

Mr. Beard announced that Lot #3 in Village Trace has not been mowed in over three years and the former Mayor said that it belongs to a Bank and is now sold at auction for unpaid taxes year after year. Mayor Boggs stated that she realize that that is a bad cycle and that there is another lot like that on Austin Street.

Mayor Boggs noted that this has been a very long meeting and we appreciate everyone patience as we have undertaking a great deal since January, February and March as we are attempting to make the Village more fiscally responsible and improve the appearance of the Village as well. Upcoming funeral arrangements were announced for a fellow worker's son.

Mr. Beard asked if the Board would be interested in recycling in Folsom. Mayor Boggs indicated that she recently noticed recycling containers in the Village in the Main Market parking lot.

Mr. Ken will commend the Board on the amount that was accomplished at the meeting tonight. He stated that he has not attended a meeting in a long time that has gotten as much accomplished as we did tonight.

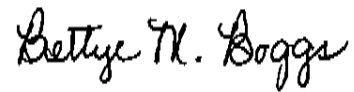
Patricia Jamison addressed her drainage issue in Keeneland Place and that she has called Town Hall several times as well as the builder. Alderman Willie stated that he has looked at it and he will have town maintenance to help her out when we hire more maintenance workers.

Mike Sanders from the audience noted that he moved to Folsom to make it their retirement location and we glad to be here. He stated that he know the area is growing. He stated that he had a chance to talk with the mayor last week that this is one of the fastest growing zip codes in the state. He noted that south on Hay Hollow is a business behind them that is that on a daily basis burns their trash. His wife has severe allergies and he has COPD. He would like to be quiet and friendly neighbors, but for that smoke to come into their subdivision he presented several ideas. At a time when some localities prohibit lighting a cigar and cigarette, the burning of trash is an issue. His suggestions are perhaps no burning within 2500 feet of a subdivision or medical facility. He suggested no burning of paper products. He noted that burning hurts those who have illnesses and have spent a great deal of money to build retirement places here. He asked that someone can help them.

Alderman Willie noted that the ordinance that we have now says that we cannot burn after dark. Mr. Sanders questioned how we know on record what the businesses are burning. Alderwoman Mathies asked that we pull the current ordinance and review it. Alderman Willie indicated that the feed store was burning hay. Chief Killingsworth stated that he would go talk with the business owner. Mayor Boggs indicated that we do have a burn ordinance which was addressed some years ago.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Alderman Willie and seconded by Alderwoman Mathies. Motion carried (3 Yeas, 0 Nays) and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bettye M. Boggs". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'B'.

Bettye M. Boggs, Mayor

I attest that the above is a true and correct copy of the minutes taken at the General Meeting held March 9, 2015.

Attest:

Diane Sanders
Asst. Secretary