

## BUDGET MESSAGE

Chairman Triche, Honorable Members of the Assumption Parish Police Jury, I am pleased to present to you the budget for general operations and maintenance and capital improvement funds for the year beginning January 1, 2020.

Assumption Parish has four different types of funds (the general fund, special revenue funds, enterprise funds and capital project funds). The individual funds within each fund type are identified in this budget report.

Preparation of annual operating budgets for submittal to the Police Jury is the shared responsibility of the Secretary-Treasurer and the staff accountants, with the projection of program expenditures and needed improvements provided by operating department heads. The year 2020 annual budget was prepared based upon past operating history and the projected needs and changes for the upcoming fiscal period. After the budgets have been completed for each fund, they are submitted to the Police Jury President, whose responsibility is to review them. Once adjustments have been made by the Police Jury President, the budget is submitted to the Police Jury for final approval.

The following is a discussion of significant changes in select funds:

### **GENERAL FUND:**

The General Fund accounts for all revenues and expenditures of the Assumption Parish Police Jury, which are not accounted for in other funds. The fund generally receives revenues from taxes, licenses and permits, intergovernmental grants, interest earnings, rents, and royalties. For the upcoming year of 2020, revenues are estimated to have a decrease compared to those revenues received in 2018 due to an overall decline in receipts. Expenditures for the year 2020 are expected to have minimal increases as compared to those expenditures in 2019 in an effort to cut back on spending. Step increases, nor a cost of living increase were not factored in for 2020. Recreation allowances have remained steady at \$10,000 per year per ward in order to cover basic utilities/maintenance at current facilities. However, cumulative allocations for recreation allowances have been incorporated into the budget for 2020 resulting in increased expenditures and no carry over figures for 2021. Prior discussions relative to returning these cumulative allocations back to the fund balance were denied in 2017, 2018 and 2019. Funding of \$10,000 for maintenance and repairs of the Parish Health Unit has been allocated. For 2020, funding of the HSA allocation, travel for the Judge's secretary, annual fire hydrant allocation, rent to the Village of Napoleonville for the Veteran's Office, National Guard funding and Pauper's funeral funding have been discontinued due to budget cuts. The annual allocation to the Chamber of Commerce was also cut in half to \$5,000 annually. In addition, for 2020, the salaries of the Secretary-Treasurer, General Fund Accountant, Economic Development/Grants Coordinator, OHSEP Director, Assistant to the OHSEP Director, OHSEP Administrative Assistant, OHSEP Planner, Parish Manager and Assistant Parish Manager will be re-allocated between the General Fund, Assumption Parish Community Center, 1%, OHSEP and 911 funds. The Criminal Court fund is requiring a \$250,000 transfer from General Fund for 2020, an increase from \$235,000 in 2019. The Office of Emergency Preparedness is requiring a \$100,000 transfer from General Fund for 2020, down from the \$250,000 transfer for 2019 due to salary reallocations and a supplemental transfer from the Special Industry Fund to the OHSEP fund. The Consolidated Sewer District is requiring a

\$17,000 transfer in 2020, down from the \$45,000 transfer in 2019 as a result of an increase in user service fees by \$2 per household. Allocations for 2020 for prisoner meals, medical services, medications, jail physician, jail nurse and housing of the parish youth is estimated at approximately \$600,000 as incurred for 2017, 2018 and 2019 which is up from \$350,000 in 2016. The General Fund has an estimated ending fund balance of \$3,098,033.

#### **1% SALES TAX:**

The 1% Sales Tax Fund accounts for revenues generated from the sales tax collections throughout the parish. Estimated revenues for the 2020 Sales Tax Fund are at \$2,213,136 which is slightly less than that received in 2018. Expenditures are remaining steady. An allocation of \$25,000 has been appropriated for possible building renovations along with an additional \$45,000 for the purchase of fixed assets. No cost of living or step increase was allocated. The \$50,000 transfer for the Library has been discontinued for 2020 and the Road & Bridge transfer has been reduced from \$1,019,400 annually to \$919,400. The 1% Sales Tax Fund has an estimated ending fund balance of \$2,661,141.

#### **SOLID WASTE FUND (Enterprise Fund):**

The Solid Waste Fund for 2020 should continue to experience increased expenditures. Revenues are expected at \$2,168,053 and expenditures at \$2,536,311. Inclusive in the expenditures is another CPI increase on the collection fees to be effective in July, 2020. The residential garbage collection contract steadily increases year after year while collections do not. The existing contract expires June 30, 2021. Therefore, the estimated ending fund balance of the Solid Waste Fund is \$332,311. As recommended in 2018 and 2019, user service fees need to be increased. The fund will not sustain itself through the end of the contract at this rate.

#### **CRIMINAL COURT FUND**

The Criminal Court Fund for 2020 has anticipated revenues of \$133,129 with expenditures projected at \$388,000. This requires the General Fund to transfer funds into the Criminal Court Fund in order to cover the deficit. For 2018, the transfer was \$265,000 and for 2019 the transfer is projected at \$250,000. This trend is expected to continue. The board has been advised that a meeting with the District Attorney and Chief Judge must take place in order to discuss the possibility of increased fines and forfeitures within the Criminal Court Fund.

#### **LIBRARY FUND**

The Library Fund has estimated revenues at \$988,325 and expenditures at \$1,016,325. The transfer from 1% Sales Tax into the Library Fund has been discontinued for 2020. The Library Fund is currently sustaining an ending fund balance of \$2,777,242.

#### **¼% SALES TAX – DRAINAGE:**

The ¼% Sales Tax Fund accounts for revenues generated from the sales tax collections throughout the parish. Estimated revenues for 2020 have decreased from that of 2018 to an estimated \$522,270.

Drainage project allocations remain steady at \$275,000 for 2020. Expenditures are estimated at \$672,764 resulting, therefore, in an estimated ending fund balance of \$1,166,646.

#### **CONSOLIDATED FIRE DISTRICT:**

The board has approved an allocation of \$1,000 per individual fire department to be withheld from the tax money prior to distribution to the departments. This money will be set aside within the General Fund to pay for any communication/radio repair invoices throughout the year for 2020.

#### **PUBLIC BLDGS/FACILITIES FUND:**

The board has approved an increase in rental rates by \$500 per rental for the Assumption Parish Community Center for all events booked to be effective January 1, 2020. This additional \$500 rental fee will be charged for all "out of parish" renters. Proof of residency by means of a valid driver's license or registrar of voter's card must be provided in order to be exempt from this increased fee. The Public Bldgs/Facilities Fund is maintaining an ending fund balance of \$1,574,522.

#### **CONSOLIDATED SEWER DISTRICT (Enterprise Fund):**

The board has approved an increase in user service fees by \$2.00 per household to be effective January 1, 2020. This increase should result in additional collections of \$9,528 annually based on 397 households. The Public Works Department is also in the process of conducting a house count for all residences connected to the public sewer system. Additional households could also generate additional collections. The estimated ending fund balance of the Consolidated Sewer District is \$4,162 which includes a \$17,000 transfer from the General Fund.

#### **PIERRE PART/BELL RIVER RECREATION DISTRICT #2 BALL PARK #2 (Belle River)**

Recreation District #2 has discontinued the lease with Belle River Sites for continued operations of Belle River Park to be effective January 1, 2020. The fund is anticipating interest income in the amount of \$477 with no expenditures, resulting in an ending fund balance of \$7,620.

\*\*\*\*\* Revenues of all remaining funds are remaining steady, some with minimal increases, however, expenditures, are remaining steady as well. Resulting, therefore, in an estimated total parish ending fund balance of \$23,553,518. Despite the anticipated increase in the parish's ending fund balance, it is still my professional recommendation that this board continue to operate in a "maintenance mode" of all existing programs, infrastructure, services, etc. There should be no expansion and/or increased services until further notice.

Respectfully submitted,



Kim M. Torres  
Secretary-Treasurer