

## BUDGET MESSAGE

Chairman Naquin, 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, 2021.

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 2021 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 2021, revenues are estimated to have a minimal decrease compared to those revenues received in 2020 due to an overall decline in receipts. Expenditures for the year 2021 are also expected to increase as compared to those expenditures in 2020. A step increase for all employees in addition to a 2.5% cost of living increase were factored in for 2021. Recreation allowances have remained steady at \$10,000 per year per ward in order to cover basic utilities/maintenance at current facilities. Cumulative allocations for recreation allowances have been incorporated into the budget for 2021 resulting in increased expenditures. Funding of \$10,000 for maintenance and repairs of the Parish Health Unit has been allocated. As in 2020, in 2021, 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 is maintained at \$5,000 annually. The Criminal Court fund is requiring a \$165,000 transfer from General Fund for 2021, an increase of \$55,000 in 2020. The Office of Emergency Preparedness is requiring a \$108,000 transfer from General Fund for 2021, an increase of \$8,000 for 2020. The Consolidated Sewer District is requiring a \$72,000 transfer in 2021 due to increased operational costs. This trend is expected to increase in the future annually. The Community Development Office received approximately \$17,951 in 2020 for reimbursement from the CARES Act (COVID-19) which delayed an increased General Fund transfer to 2021. The Community Development Office is requiring an increased transfer of \$40,000 due to salary increases for 2021. The General Fund received approximately \$26,005 in 2020 for reimbursement from the CARES Act (COVID-19). The General Fund has an estimated ending fund balance of \$3,527,040.

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

The 1% Sales Tax Fund accounts for revenues generated from the sales tax collections throughout the parish. Estimated revenues for the 2021 Sales Tax Fund are at \$2,126,585 which is slightly less than that received in prior years. Sales tax revenues have continually decreased from year to year, even though minimally. Expenditures are remaining steady. An allocation of \$20,000 has been appropriated for possible building renovations along with an additional \$21,000 for the purchase of a new server for the multiple departments and tape deck. A 2.5 cost of living and 1 step increase for all employees was allocated. The Road & Bridge transfer remains steady at \$919,400. The Sales Tax Fund received approximately \$44,532 in 2020 for reimbursement from the CARES Act (COVID-19). The 1% Sales Tax Fund has an estimated ending fund balance of \$3,435,678.

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

The Solid Waste Fund for 2021 should continue to experience increased expenditures. Revenues are expected at \$2,394,602 and expenditures at \$2,563,021. Inclusive in the expenditures is another CPI increase on the collection fees to be effective in July, 2021. The residential garbage collection contract steadily increases year after year while collections do not. The existing contract expires June 30, 2021. The Solid Waste Fund received approximately \$5,095 in 2020 for reimbursement from the CARES Act (COVID-19). The estimated ending fund balance of the Solid Waste Fund is \$310,389. As recommended in 2018, 2019 & 2020, user service fees need to be increased. The fund will not sustain itself through the end of the contract at this rate, nor be in a position for a substantial increase in costs with a new contract.

### **CRIMINAL COURT FUND**

The Criminal Court Fund for 2021 has anticipated revenues of \$155,125 with expenditures projected at \$338,290. This requires the General Fund to transfer funds into the Criminal Court Fund in order to cover the deficit in the amount of \$165,000. The board was advised in 2019 and 2020 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. The Criminal Court Fund received approximately \$12,347 in 2020 for reimbursement from the CARES Act (COVID-19).

### **LIBRARY FUND**

The Library Fund has estimated revenues at \$947,871 and expenditures at \$924,369. The transfer from 1% Sales Tax into the Library Fund has been discontinued. The Library Fund received approximately \$78,978 in 2020 for reimbursement from the CARES Act (COVID-19). The Library Fund is currently sustaining an ending fund balance of \$2,994,601.

### **1/4% SALES TAX – DRAINAGE:**

The 1/4% Sales Tax Fund accounts for revenues generated from the sales tax collections throughout the parish. Estimated revenues for 2021 have decreased from that of 2020 to an estimated \$519,381. Drainage project allocations remain steady at \$275,000 for 2021. A 2.5 cost of living and 1 step increase

for all employees was allocated. Expenditures are estimated at \$701,567 resulting, therefore, in an estimated ending fund balance of \$1,259,566. The 1/4% Sales Tax Fund received approximately \$146 in 2020 for reimbursement from the CARES Act (COVID-19).

#### **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 2021.

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

The Public Buildings Fund sustained loss in revenues estimated at \$65,000 in 2020 and potentially the same in 2021 due to COVID-19. Rentals are on the decline with no projection for a return to normalcy. The Public Bldgs/Facilities Fund received approximately \$10,520 in 2020 for reimbursement from the CARES Act (COVID-19). The Public Bldgs/Facilities Fund has a declining fund balance of \$1,496,670.

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

The Public Works Department is still in the process of conducting a house count for all residences connected to the public sewer system. Additional households could also generate additional collections. Revenues for the Consolidated Sewer District for 2021 are estimated at \$108,766 with expenditures estimated at \$180,692. The age of the sewer districts is a direct result of the increased operational expenses in addition to legal fees related to the Peterville Sewer District. The estimated ending fund balance of the Consolidated Sewer District is \$19,730 which includes a \$72,000 transfer from the General Fund. The amount of the transfer from the General Fund to the Sewer Districts is continually increasing annually and the trend is not expected to end.

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

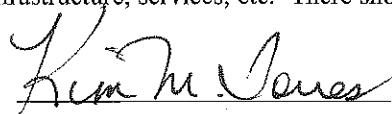
Recreation District #2 discontinued the lease with Belle River Sites for continued operations of Belle River Park effective January 1, 2020. The fund is anticipating an ending fund balance of \$2,883. There is on-going consultation with the legal department relative to the removal of structures on the property. These remaining funds are being held until all legal matters are resolved.

#### **HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FUNDS**

The Office of Housing and Community Development (Multiple Funds) received CARES Act funding for client assistance in the amount of \$107,626 in 2020 and approximately \$99,000 is being carried over to 2021 for distribution. This funding is specifically used to assist eligible clients through the issuance of food vouchers and educational/employment assistance. The Housing and Community Development (Multiple Funds) also received approximately \$21,000 in 2020 for specific allocations from the CARES Act (COVID-19). These funds were used for salaries for CARES Act application intake and a portion of the Section 8 Administration contract.

\*\*\*\*\* 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 \$26,381,291, not inclusive of Enterprise Fund transactions. 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