

The Lambert Lawsuit

“A basic principal of good management is that governments - like a business or like each of our families - must live within our means. West Feliciana Parish only has the resources that you the citizens of the Parish give us when you pay your taxes. This means that we need to make choices based on priorities and we must make decisions based on facts and not emotions.

So here are real facts to consider:

- Winning this lawsuit will NOT result in the Parish establishing ownership of the River Landing.
- Entering this Settlement will not result in the Lambert’s being granted ownership. It neither strengthens nor weakens the Lambert’s claims.
- It simply isn’t true that by entering this agreement the Lamberts “end up with 70 acres and the Parish 7 acres.”

THE SETTLEMENT SIMPLY STOPS OUR SPENDING MONEY FRIVOLOUSLY AND ESTABLISHES THE PARISH’S RIGHT TO USE THE ROAD AND THE FERRY LANDING. IT MEANS THAT THE LAMBERTS CANNOT CHALLENGE US IN COURT ON THIS MATTER IN THE FUTURE.

Thus far the Parish has spent over \$400,000 defending a lawsuit and, if we continue this lawsuit thru final appeal the Parish will spend AT LEAST \$600,000.

As the person most responsible for the finances of the Parish I do not think that we can afford to continue this suit without impairing our ability to provide needed services (like the bridge repairs that we are doing for public safety reasons).

In addition, we should evaluate these costs by comparing what we could have done with the money spent if we had spent it in other ways.

For example, we are currently constructing an outdoor rodeo arena at the Sports Park. In that process we have evaluated what it would have cost to put a roof over the facility.

These pictures show what we could have done in building a first class recreation facility for the Parish and all of its citizens.



Finally, this is important to note, settlement of this lawsuit as I have proposed will not keep a private individual from challenging the Lambert’s ownership of the land.

Recently Ms. Williams has indicated that a private attorney has offered to pursue this lawsuit for free. If that is the case and she believes in the case, she will be free to pursue that legal matter on her own without using the resources of the Parish. “

- Kevin Couhig