

REGULAR MEETING UNION PARISH POLICE JURY

**Farmerville, Louisiana
August 3rd, 2021**

The Union Parish Police Jury met this date in regular session in the Police Jury meeting room, Courthouse Annex, Farmerville, Louisiana with the following present: Curtis Moses, Nathan Pilgreen, DeWayne Ramsey, Johnny Buckley, Ben Bridges, Ceis Nyegaard, L.W. Nolan, Brenda Abercrombie and John W. Watley. Absent: None. Also present was Judith Hampton, Assistant District Attorney. The President called the session to order and welcomed all guests. Mr. Nolan offered the invocation. Mrs. Abercrombie led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

President Buckley welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked if anyone in the audience would like to register for public comment. At this time the public was given the opportunity to comment on any item shown on the agenda.

The Secretary/Treasurer made the following announcement:

“Due to the current surge of Covid-19 cases in our area and considering the Governor's recent proclamation "PROC 137 JBE 2021" requiring face masks for everyone; pursuant to the proclamation, section 3, paragraph D which authorizes local authorities to impose more restrictive measures, the Police Jury Annex will close its doors to the public effective Wednesday, August 4th, 2021 to Wednesday, September 1st, 2021, or as extended by any subsequent Proclamation, unless terminated sooner. The office will still accept building permit requests by 'appointment only'. There will be no outside foot traffic allowed.”

President Buckley welcomed Judith Hampton, new legal counsel for the jury. President Buckley said he looks forward to working with Mrs. Hampton.

Motion Mr. Ramsey, seconded by Mr. Watley and declared adopted by unanimous vote of the Jury to approve the agenda as written.

Motion Mr. Nolan, seconded by Mr. Moses to adopt the minutes of the July 6th, 2021 regular meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

The Secretary/Treasurer presented the Budget to Actual Revenue and Expense report for the month of July and explained to the jurors that the report reflects what has been budgeted for the year compared to what has been spent. Each juror received a copy of the Revenue and Expense Report in their email packet. The Secretary/Treasurer reported that at this point in the year approximately 58% of the budget should have been expended.

The Secretary/Treasurer reported that the work on the 2021 Road Program has started. The roads in that program include North Spillway Road, Love Road, Burford Road, Jesse Guinn Road and a portion of Union Cemetery Road. The Road Department is currently in the process of prepping the roads. On the engineer's recommendation, more base material is being added when the roads are being zipped. This will add more structure to the road base. The engineer is estimating that those roads will be completed by the end of September. The Scott's Hideaway Road project is progressing. The Parish is currently in the process of acquiring the necessary right of ways and meeting with landowners.

The jury received a large check for insurance occupational license fees in the amount of \$60,029.88. The jury will receive another payment in October. LaMats (Louisiana Municipal Association) does the collection, and if an insurance company is not remitting their payments then LaMats will actively pursue the late payments. LaMats holds out a 3% collection fee. Previously, the sheriff's office collected the occupational license and withheld a 15% collection fee and did not pursue the non-payers.

The Transitional Work Release Program generated \$156,354.18 in revenue for the month of July. The state income for DOC prisoners was \$106,468.05. There are currently 207 DOC inmates and 147 parish inmates. Out of the 147 parish inmates 13 are participating in programs such as substance abuse. There are 74 inmates participating in the work release program.

The Sales tax collection for the month was \$277,927.65. That is a 13% increase over last year at this time. The Tipping Fees for the Landfill generated \$88,295.37.

Litter Court generated \$800 in fines and that money was disbursed between the JP/Constables who wrote tickets. Litter Court is held on the third Monday of each month.

Motion Mr. Bridges, seconded by Mr. Nolan to adopt the Revenue and Expenditures Report for the month of July. Motion carried unanimously.

Jeff Maxwell – American Rescue Plan Discussion

Mr. Maxwell addressed the jury regarding the American Rescue Plan funds the jury received. Mr. Maxwell is a CPA/auditor in Sterlington. In March of 2021, President Biden signed the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021. Sixty-five billion dollars of the American Rescue Plan monies was allocated to counties and parishes. The funds are supposed to cover costs from March of 2021 through December of 2024. Funds can be put in an interest-bearing account. The main three areas of use are water, sewer and broadband. There are other uses that the money can be used for.

Mr. Maxwell stated that the funds can be used to support the public health needs for the coronavirus such as vaccines, medical needs, testing, quarantine costs, contact tracing, PPE, mental health treatments and substance abuse treatments.

The funds can also be used to address the negative economic impacts caused by the pandemic. This means the funds can be used to deliver assistance to workers and families, including support for unemployed workers and aid to households; support small businesses with loans, grants, in-kind assistance and counseling programs; and speed the recovery of impacted industries, including tourism and travel.

The funds can also be used to replace public sector revenue loss. General revenues are defined as taxes, charges, miscellaneous revenues, intergovernmental transfers between state and local governments. The revenue loss calculations cannot include any Federal revenue.

The funds can also be used to provide premium pay for workers during the pandemic. Some examples of essential workers include, janitors, sanitation workers, truck drivers and public health/safety workers.

The funds cannot be used for debt service, legal judgments and no roads.

The reports are due at the end of August and every October thereafter, thru 2024. The problem is all of this is very general. Mr. Maxwell said he is fearful that a lot of people are going to spend this money and then have to pay it back. The best thing to do is just wait and be patient. Mr. Maxwell stated that a list of projects is needed and then those projects should be prioritized. Sometimes there are other funds available for projects such as water. Mr. Maxwell urged the jurors to consult with your CPA and/or attorney if you are not 100% sure that a project will qualify.

Motion Mr. Nolan, seconded by Mr. Bridges to open a public hearing regarding the proposed abandonment from the intersection of St. Paul Cemetery Road and Ed Hunt Road to Riley Trestle Road. President Buckley declared the public hearing open and asked the public if they had any comments relating to the road closure. No comments were made with regards to this road closure. Motion Mr. Bridges, seconded by Mr. Nyegaard to close the public hearing. Motion carried unanimously. President Buckley declared the public hearing closed.

Motion Mr. Pilgreen, seconded by Mr. Nyegaard not to abandon the intersection of St. Paul Cemetery Road and Ed Hunt Road to Riley Trestle Road from the Union Parish Police Jury Road Program. The intersection of St. Paul Cemetery Road and Ed Hunt Road to Riley Trestle Road will remain in the Union Parish Police Jury Road Program. Motion carried unanimously.

President Johnny Buckley authorized the payment and distribution of the 2020-2021 Two Percent (2%) Fire Protection Rebate checks based on the parish's population as compiled by the Louisiana State University and Agriculture and Mechanical College Agriculture Center, Department of Agricultural Economics and Agribusiness. For the districts that had a representative attending this meeting, the representative was given the district's check by the juror representing the fire district. The amounts of the checks are shown below:

| Fire Protection District | LA 2% Rebate |
|---|--------------|
| Junction City Volunteer Fire Department | \$3,594.63 |
| Lillie Volunteer Fire Department | \$1,435.23 |
| Spearsville Volunteer Fire Department | \$6,246.80 |
| Ward 5 Volunteer Fire Department | \$11,933.68 |
| Farmerville Volunteer Fire Department | \$20,672.26 |
| Marion Volunteer Fire Department | \$3,299.94 |
| Bernice Volunteer Fire Department | \$10,806.61 |
| Rocky Branch/Crossroads | \$6,752.29 |

| | |
|--|-------------|
| Spencer-West Sterlington Volunteer Fire Department | \$3,554.56 |
| Northeast Union Fire District | \$10,791.64 |
| North Union Fire District | \$3,457.21 |
| Sadie-Tiger Bend Fire District | \$9,040.13 |
| TOTAL | \$91,584.98 |

Mr. Buckley thanked the ladies and gentlemen who serve on these Volunteer Fire Departments.

Motion Mr. Nolan, seconded by Mrs. Abercrombie to enter into a contract with North Delta Regional Planning and Development District in the amount of \$15,000 for the implementation of the redistricting plan and authorize the President to execute any necessary documents. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion Mr. Bridges, seconded by Mr. Moses to enter into a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement with the State of Louisiana and the Union Parish Police Jury regarding the funding for the modernization of the courthouse elevator and authorize the President to execute any necessary documents. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion Mrs. Abercrombie, seconded by Mr. Ramsey to appoint Stephanie Herrman (Member at Large #2) to replace Robert Lemoine and Earl Roberts (District #1) to replace Joyce Grier. Motion carried unanimously.

The following resolution was offered by Mr. Watley and seconded by Mrs. Abercrombie:

RESOLUTION 2021-13

A resolution approving the holding of an election in Wards 3, 4 and 10, Hospital Service District No. 1 of the Parish of Union, State of Louisiana, on Saturday, November 13, 2021, to authorize the levy of a special tax therein.

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners of Wards 3, 4 and 10, Hospital Service District No. 1 of the Parish of Union, State of Louisiana (the "Governing Authority"), acting as the governing authority of Wards 3, 4 and 10, Hospital Service District No. 1 of the Parish of Union, State of Louisiana (the "District"), adopted a resolution on June 30, 2021, calling a special election in the District on Saturday, November 13, 2021, to authorize the levy of a special tax therein; and

WHEREAS, the governing authority of the District has requested that this Police Jury, acting as the governing authority of the Parish of Union, State of Louisiana, give its consent and authority for the District to hold the aforesaid election, and in the event that the election carries to continue to levy and collect the special tax provided for therein; and

WHEREAS, as required by Article VI, Section 15 of the Constitution of the State of Louisiana of 1974, it is now the desire of this Police Jury to approve the holding of said election and in the event that the election carries, to continue to levy and collect the special tax provided for therein;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Police Jury of the Parish of Union, State of Louisiana, acting as the governing authority of said Parish, that:

SECTION 1. In compliance with the provisions of Article VI, Section 15 of the Constitution of the State of Louisiana of 1974, and in accordance with the request of the Board of Commissioners of Wards 3, 4 and 10, Hospital Service District No. 1 of the Parish of Union, State of Louisiana, this Police Jury hereby approves the holding of an election in the District, on Saturday, November 13, 2021, at which election there will be submitted the following proposition, to-wit:

**PROPOSITION
(TAX CONTINUATION)**

Shall Wards 3, 4 and 10, Hospital Service District No. 1 of the Parish of Union, State of Louisiana (the "District"), be authorized to levy a tax of 5.47 mills on all property subject to taxation within the District (an estimated \$144,900 reasonably expected at this time to be collected from the levy of the tax for an entire year), for a period of ten (10) years, beginning with the year 2022 and ending with the year 2031, for operations and maintenance of the hospital for the care of persons suffering from illnesses or disabilities which require care in the District, said millage to represent a thirteen hundredths of a mill (.13) increase (due to reappraisal) over the 5.34 mills tax authorized to be levied through the year 2021 pursuant to an election held on October 22, 2011?

SECTION 2. In the event the election carries, this Police Jury does hereby further consent to and authorize the District to continue to levy and collect the special tax provided for therein.

This resolution having been submitted to a vote; the vote thereon was as follows:

| MEMBERS: | YEAS | NAYS | ABSENT | ABSTAINING |
|--------------------|------|------|--------|------------|
| Curtis Moses | x | | | |
| Nathan Pilgreen | x | | | |
| DeWayne Ramsey | x | | | |
| Johnny Buckley | x | | | |
| Ben Bridges | x | | | |
| Ceis Nyegaard | x | | | |
| L.W. Nolan | x | | | |
| Brenda Abercrombie | x | | | |
| John W. Watley | x | | | |

And the resolution was declared adopted on this, the 3rd day of August, 2021.

 /s/ Paula Strickland
Secretary-Treasurer

 /s/ Johnny Buckley
President

STATE OF LOUISIANA

PARISH OF UNION

I, the undersigned Secretary-Treasurer of the Police Jury of the Parish of Union, State of Louisiana, do hereby certify that the foregoing pages constitute a true and correct copy of a resolution adopted by said Police Jury on August 3, 2021, approving the holding of an election in Wards 3, 4 and 10, Hospital Service District No. 1 of the Parish of Union, State of Louisiana, to authorize the levy of a special tax therein.

IN FAITH WHEREOF, witness my official signature at Farmerville, Louisiana, on this, the 3rd day of August, 2021.

s/ Paula Strickland

Paula H. Strickland, Secretary/Treasurer

The following resolution was offered by Mrs. Abercrombie and seconded by Mr. Ramsey:

RESOLUTION 2021-14

ANNUAL CERTIFICATION OF COMPLIANCE WITH STATE OF LOUISIANA OFF SYSTEM BRIDGE REPLACEMENT PROGRAM

WHEREAS, the Code of Federal Regulations as enacted by the United States Congress mandates that all structures defined as bridges located on all public roads shall be inspected, rated for safe load capacity and posted in accordance with the National Bridge Inspection Standards and that an inventory of these bridges be maintained by each state; and

WHEREAS, the responsibility to inspect, rate and load post these bridges under the authority of Union Parish in accordance with those Standards is delegated by Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development to Union Parish,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the governing authority of Union Parish that the Parish in regular meeting assembled does hereby certify to the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development (herein referred to as the DOTD) that for a period **October 1, 2020 through September 30, 2021**: The Parish has performed all interim inspections on all Parish owned or maintained bridges in accordance with the National Bridge Inspection Standards.

All bridges owned and maintained by the Parish have been structurally analyzed and rated by the parish as to the safe load capacity in accordance with AASHTO Manual for Maintenance Inspection of Bridges. The load posting information that has been determined by the LA DOTD for all bridges where the maximum legal load under Louisiana State law exceeds the load permitted under the operating rating as determined above has been critically reviewed by the Parish. Load posting information has been updated by the Parish. Load Posting information has been updated by the Parish to reflect all structural changes, any obsolete structural ratings or any missing structural ratings.

All Parish owned or maintained bridges which require load posting or closing are load posted or closed in accordance with the table in the DOTD Engineering Directives and Standard Manual Directive No. 1.1.1.8. All DOTD supplied load posting information concerning a bridge has been critically reviewed by the Parish Engineer prior to load posting.

All bridges owned or maintained by the Parish are shown on the attached list in the format specified by the DOTD. Corrections to data supplied to the Parish by the LA DOTD are noted.

Roll Call Vote:

| MEMBERS: | YEAS | NAYS | ABSENT | ABSTAINING |
|--------------------|------|------|--------|------------|
| Curtis Moses | x | | | |
| Nathan Pilgreen | x | | | |
| DeWayne Ramsey | x | | | |
| Johnny Buckley | x | | | |
| Ben Bridges | x | | | |
| Ceis Nyegaard | x | | | |
| L. W. Nolan | x | | | |
| Brenda Abercrombie | x | | | |
| John W. Watley | x | | | |

WHEREUPON, the motion was declared duly adopted by unanimous vote of the Jury this the 3rd day of August, 2021.

s/ Paula Strickland
PAULA STRICKLAND
SECRETARY-TREASURER
UNION PARISH POLICE JURY

Johnny Buckley
JOHNNY BUCKLEY
PRESIDENT
UNION PARISH POLICE JURY

STATE OF LOUISIANA

PARISH OF UNION

I, **Paula H. Strickland**, Secretary/Treasurer of the Police Jury of Union Parish, Louisiana, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of one (1) motion adopted by the Union Parish Police Jury in regular session on August 3, 2021 at which meeting a quorum was present. Given under my official Signature and Seal of Office on this the 3rd day of August, 2021.

s/ Paula H. Strickland
 Paula H. Strickland
 Secretary/Treasurer
 Police Jury of Union Parish, Louisiana

The Secretary/Treasurer reported that the Airport Engineer Selection Committee met on Tuesday, July 27, 2021 and scored the proposals. Two proposals were received; Denmon Engineering and KSA Engineering. The scoring committee consisted of Johnny Buckley (UPPJ Parish President), L.W. Nolan (Airport Committee Chairman), Nicholas Green (Airport Manager) and Paula Strickland (Secretary/Treasurer). **Motion Mr. Nolan, seconded by Mr. Watley to accept KSA Engineering’s proposal as the Engineering Firm for the Union Parish Airport and authorize the President to execute any necessary documents. Motion carried unanimously.**

Motion Mrs. Abercrombie, seconded by Mr. Moses to authorize travel for the Secretary/Treasurer to attend the Parochial Employees’ Retirement System workshop in Baton Rouge on October 5th. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion Mr. Moses, seconded by Mr. Pilgreen to allow Nikki Brantley the use of the courthouse parking lot on August 21st for a carnival fundraiser to benefit Girl Scout Troop 1359. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion Mrs. Abercrombie, seconded by Mr. Nolan to enact an ordinance prohibiting the operation of motor vessels when Lake D’Arbonne is above 83 feet mean sea level. The motion failed with the following vote:

| MEMBERS: | YEAS | NAYS | ABSENT | ABSTAINING |
|--------------------|------|------|--------|------------|
| Curtis Moses | | x | | |
| Nathan Pilgreen | | x | | |
| DeWayne Ramsey | x | | | |
| Johnny Buckley | | x | | |
| Ben Bridges | x | | | |
| Ceis Nyegaard | | x | | |
| L.W. Nolan | x | | | |
| Brenda Abercrombie | x | | | |
| John W. Watley | | x | | |

Motion failed.

Recommendations from the Finance Committee:

Motion Mr. Bridges, seconded by Mr. Pilgreen to purchase three acres of land from Paul Mayo for a purchase price of \$4,000 an acre; property is located off Highway 143 on Arkansas Road and is to be surveyed; and authorize the President to execute any necessary documents. The property will be used for the Marion Road Crew. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion Mr. Bridges, seconded by Mr. Pilgreen to purchase crushed concrete in an amount up to \$50,000 when it becomes available. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion Mr. Bridges, seconded by Mrs. Abercrombie to authorize travel for the Registrar of Voters to attend the Registrar of Voters Association Workshop in Martinville, Louisiana on August 18th, 2021. Motion carried unanimously.

Recommendations from the Road Committee:

Motion Mr. Bridges, seconded by Mr. Ramsey to accept Change Order No. 1 from Durable Piling in the amount of \$16,296 for the Rocky Branch Bridge cap repair. Motion carried unanimously.

Recommendations from the Executive Committee:

Motion Mrs. Abercrombie, seconded by Mr. Ramsey to appoint Beth Green (Rocky Branch/Crossroads Fire District) and Melissa Johnson (Marion Fire Department) to the Union Parish Ambulance Oversight Committee. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion Mrs. Abercrombie, seconded by Mr. Nolan to form an American Rescue Plan Oversight Committee to prioritize applications received for the American Rescue Plan funds. The committee will be composed of the following: Johnny Buckley (President), Brenda Abercrombie (Vice-President) and Ben Bridges (Finance Chairman). Motion carried unanimously.

In accordance with Ordinance 549, time for public comment was given. There were no public comments.

There being no further business to come before the Jury, the President declared the meeting adjourned upon motion by Mr. Ramsey, seconded by Mr. Watley, on this the 3rd day of August, 2021.



Paula Strickland, Secretary/Treasurer
Union Parish Police Jury



Johnny Buckley, President
Union Parish Police Jury