

SPECIAL MEETING UNION PARISH POLICE JURY

**Farmerville, Louisiana
September 21st, 2021**

The Union Parish Police Jury met this date in special 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 meeting to order and welcomed all visitors. Mr. Nyegaard offered the invocation and Mrs. Abercrombie led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

President Buckley welcomed the visitors in the audience and asked if anyone in the audience would like to register for public comment. The public was given the opportunity to comment on any item shown on the agenda.

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

Motion Mr. Watley, seconded by Mr. Bridges to enter into a Public Hearing concerning the Board of Review for the 2021 Tax Roll. Motion carried unanimously. The President declared the public hearing opened.

Lance Futch, Union Parish Assessor, represented the Union Parish Assessor's Office for this hearing. Mr. Futch stated that his books have been open for the fifteen (15) day inspection period. There has been one appeal filed by Joe Jacobs with Enervest Production Partners, LTD. Mr. Jacobs owns properties in the Monroe Gas Field in Morehouse, Ouachita and Union Parishes. Mr. Jacobs purchased the properties in October 2019 for \$150,000 and assumed a plug and abandon liability of \$11,840,000 for a total of \$11,990,000. Mr. Futch stated that he has valued the wells, equipment, gathering lines, pipelines and compressor stations according to the Louisiana Tax Commission guidelines and applied production rate discounts accordingly. Mr. Futch further stated that he has applied a discount to lower the value to \$6,474,600, Union Parish's pro rata share of the \$11,990,000.

Joe Jacobs with Enervest Production Partners addressed the jury. Mr. Jacobs stated that he is appealing because of the way the current tax code is written. The current tax code states that it is not anticipated that there will be a gas well that is over a hundred years old. Mr. Jacobs has leases that are over a hundred years. Mr. Jacobs stated that he employees about twenty-five people and most of them work in Union Parish. Mr. Jacobs stated that his taxes are assessed at what it would cost to drill a new well per foot. There is no drilling in his oil fields. Mr. Jacobs stated that he should be assessed at the value of his asset. Mr. Jacobs further stated that he appreciates the job that the Union Parish Assessor does.

Mr. Bridges asked Mr. Jacobs what the number was that he thought he should be taxed on. Mr. Futch answered that the current value for all three parishes is \$11,990,000. The appraisal that came in yesterday was \$8,000,000. Mr. Futch's assessment is based on the Louisiana tax commission guidelines. There are different production level discounts and all of those have been applied. The tax calculation is a process that can only be changed on the state level.

Motion Mr. Nolan, seconded by Mr. Ramsey to close the Public Hearing. Motion carried unanimously. The President declared the public hearing closed.

Mr. Bridges moved, seconded by Mr. Moses to accept the 2021 tax roll assessment as presented by the Union Parish Assessor. Motion carried as follows:

YEAS:	Moses, Pilgreen, Ramsey, Buckley, Bridges, Nyegaard, Nolan, Abercrombie and Watley
NAYS:	None
ABSTAINED:	None
ABSENT:	None

Motion Mr. Pilgreen, seconded by Mr. Moses to hire the following individuals for the Road Department: Grace Nyegaard for full-time employment effective September 27th, 2021 with her time counted back to her original hire date of May 10th, 2021 and Michael Morgan for full-time employment effective September 20th, 2021 with his time counted back to his original hire date of June 22nd, 2021. Nyegaard and Morgan are now eligible for all police jury benefits including retirement, insurance, vacation, sick leave and holiday pay. Motion carried unanimously.

Doug Mitchell, North Delta Regional Planning & Development District, addressed the jury regarding redistricting. The population in Union Parish decreased by 1,614 people since the 2010 census. Mr. Mitchell stated there are two significant items which are causing the parish to redistrict. District 9 which encompasses Bernice lost population and District 1 which encompasses Farmerville lost population. Mr. Mitchell further stated that the most notable thing is that both Bernice and Farmerville lost black population. Mr. Mitchell presented three reapportionment plans to the jury. Plan 1 and Plan 2 are very similar. Plan 3 would involve more precinct issues. **Motion Mr. Pilgreen, seconded by Mr. Ramsey to accept Reapportionment Plan No. 2 with the following Roll Call Vote:**

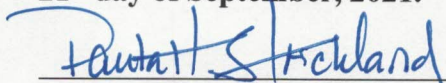
YEAS:	Moses, Pilgreen, Ramsey, Bridges, Nyegaard, Nolan, Abercrombie and Watley
NAYS:	Buckley
ABSTAINED:	None
ABSENT:	None

Landfill Committee Recommendations:

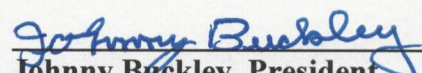
Motion Mr. Pilgreen, seconded by Mr. Nolan to authorize the Secretary/Treasurer to set up an interview with Scottie Shreve and the Personnel Committee for the Public Works Director position. Motion carried unanimously.

In accordance with Ordinance 549, time for public comment was given. No comments were made.

There being no further business to come before the Jury, the President declared the meeting adjourned upon motion by Mr. Bridges, seconded by Mr. Nolan on this the 21st day of September, 2021.



Paula Strickland, Secretary/Treasurer
Union Parish Police Jury



Johnny Buckley, President
Union Parish Police Jury