

REGULAR MEETING UNION PARISH POLICE JURY

**Farmerville, Louisiana
August 4th, 2020**

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: Nathan Pilgreen, DeWayne Ramsey, Johnny Buckley, Ben Bridges, Ceis Nyegaard, L.W. Nolan, Brenda Abercrombie and John W. Watley. Absent: Curtis Moses. Also present was Tracy Houck, Assistant District Attorney. The President called the session to order and welcomed all guests. Mr. Nolan offered the invocation and Mr. Bridges 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.

Greg Gossler, Union Parish Homeland Security Director, addressed the jurors regarding a COVID update. Mr. Gossler reported that Governor Edwards has extended Phase 2 another three (3) weeks. Phase 2 is set to expire August 28. This period will be very critical due to schools opening. Louisiana ranks first in the nation per capita for positive COVID cases. Today an additional 1,741 positive cases were announced. This is a tremendous spike and unfortunately some of this is due to lab discrepancies. Currently Union Parish has 643 reported cases. A Landfill employee has tested positive for the COVID virus. The parish is looking at several alternatives to keep everyone safe, but at the same time keep trash collection operations functioning.

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

Motion Mr. Ramsey, seconded by Mr. Pilgreen to adopt the minutes of the July 7th, 2020 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.

The Blue Cross health insurance premium for the month of August was approximately \$72,000. This amount is expensed across the respective funds. Mrs. Abercrombie is head of the Insurance Committee and is working with our insurance agent and attorney to lower that cost.

The Green Oaks invoice increased from \$5,000 last month to \$14,800 for this month. There were a total of three (3) juveniles incarcerated at Green Oaks. That amount comes out of the General Fund.

A total of 288 DOC inmates are being housed at the Union Parish Detention Center and 78 Parish inmates are being housed. Thirty (30) inmates are being housed at Madison Parish;

twenty (20) females and ten (10) males. There are thirteen (13) stick outs who are participating in programs such as drug or alcohol. There are currently eighty-seven (87) TWP offenders working at Foster Farms which has increased the revenue at the Detention Center. The TWP income for the month of July was \$141,281.51.

The one percent sales tax generated \$245,925.90 for the Landfill. The tipping fees for the month of July generated approximately \$114,000. The sales tax and tipping fees are on target with budget projections.

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

Motion Mr. Bridges, seconded by Mr. Watley to adopt the following resolution:

RESOLUTION 2020-04

BE IT RESOLVED, that the following millage(s) are hereby levied on the 2020 tax roll on all property subject to taxation by the Union Parish Police Jury:

	<u>MILLAGE</u>
General Alimony	2.790 mills
Road Construction – Construction & Improvements of Roads and Bridges	5.130 mills
Road Maintenance – Roads and Bridges	6.150 mills
Council on Aging – Maintenance	1.630 mills
Library – Operation and Maintenance	2.400 mills
Library – Support	1.000 mills

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the proper administrative officials of the Parish of Union, State of Louisiana, be and they are hereby empowered, authorized, and directed to spread said taxes, as hereinabove set forth, upon the assessment roll of said Parish for the year 2020, and to make the collection of the taxes imposed for and on behalf of the taxing authority, according to law, and that the taxes herein levied shall become a permanent lien and privilege on all property subject to taxation as herein set forth, and collection thereof shall be enforceable in the manner provided by law.

The foregoing resolution was read in full; the roll was called on the adoption thereof, and the resolution was adopted by the following votes:

YEAS: Pilgreen, Ramsey, Buckley, Bridges, Nyegaard, Nolan, Abercrombie and Watley
NAYS:
ABSTAINED:
ABSENT: Moses

CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and exact copy of the resolution adopted at the board meeting held on August 4th, 2020, at which meeting a quorum was present and voting.

Farmerville, Louisiana, this 4th day of August, 2020.

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

Wesley Johnson, E&P Consulting Services, LLC, addressed the jury regarding implementing an adjudicated property program for Union Parish. The goal of the program is to get the adjudicated property back on the tax rolls and the taxpayer paying property taxes. **No action taken on this until further research can be done by the jury.**

The Tourist Commission is requesting the jury collect a two percent (2%) occupancy tax. **No action taken on this matter until the Finance Committee can discuss and research.**

The following resolution was offered by **LW. Nolan** and seconded by **John Watley**:

RESOLUTION 2020-05

A resolution ordering and calling a special election to be held in the Parish of Union, State of Louisiana, to authorize the levy of a special tax therein; making application to the State Bond Commission in connection therewith; and providing for other matters in connection therewith.

BE IT RESOLVED by the Police Jury of the Parish of Union, State of Louisiana (the "Governing Authority"), acting as the governing authority of the Parish of Union, State of Louisiana (the "Parish"), that:

SECTION 1. Election Call. Subject to the approval of the State Bond Commission, and under the authority conferred by the Constitution of the State of Louisiana of 1974, including Article VI, Section 26 thereof, the applicable provisions of the Louisiana Election Code, and other constitutional and statutory authority, a special election is hereby called and ordered to be held in the Parish on **SATURDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2020**, between the hours of seven o'clock (7:00) a.m. and eight o'clock (8:00) p.m., in accordance with the provisions of La. R.S. 18:541, and at the said election there shall be submitted to all registered voters qualified and entitled to vote at the said election under the Constitution and laws of this State and the Constitution of the United States, the following proposition, to-wit:

MILLAGE RENEWAL PROPOSITION

Shall the Parish of Union, State of Louisiana (the "Parish"), continue to levy a tax of one and sixty-three (1.63) mills on all the property subject to taxation in the

Parish (an estimated \$255,421 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 2023 and ending with the year 2032, for the purpose of administering, maintaining and supporting services, programs and facilities of the Union Parish Council on Aging?

SECTION 2. Publication of Notice of Election. A Notice of Special Election shall be published in the *Banner*, a newspaper of general circulation within the Parish, published in Bernice, Louisiana, and being the official journal of the Parish, once a week for four consecutive weeks, with the first publication to be made not less than forty-five (45) days nor more than ninety (90) days prior to the date of the election, which Notice shall be substantially in the form attached hereto as "Exhibit A" and incorporated herein by reference the same as if it were set forth herein in full.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, prior to the publication of the Notice of Election, the President is authorized and directed to make any amendments to the foregoing proposition that may be required to comply with any state or federal regulatory agencies.

SECTION 3. Canvass. This Governing Authority shall meet at its regular meeting place, the Police Jury Meeting Room of the Courthouse Annex, 303 E. Water Street, Farmerville, Louisiana, on **TUESDAY, MARCH 2, 2021, at SIX O'CLOCK (6:00) P.M.**, and shall then and there in open and public session proceed to examine and canvass the returns and declare the result of the said special election.

SECTION 4. Polling Places. The polling places for the precincts in the Parish are hereby designated as the polling places at which to hold the said election, and the Commissioners-in-Charge and Commissioners, respectively, will be the same persons as those designated in accordance with law.

SECTION 5. Election Commissioners; Voting Machines. The officers designated to serve as Commissioners-in-Charge and Commissioners pursuant to Section 4 hereof, or such substitutes therefor as may be selected and designated in accordance with La. R.S. 18:1287, shall hold the said special election as herein provided, and shall make due returns of said election for the meeting of the Governing Authority to be held as provided in Section 3 hereof. All registered voters in the Parish will be entitled to vote at the special election, and voting machines shall be used.

SECTION 6. Authorization of Officers. The Secretary-Treasurer of the Governing Authority is hereby empowered, authorized and directed to arrange for and to furnish to said election officers in ample time for the holding of said election, the necessary equipment, forms and other paraphernalia essential to the proper holding of said election and the President and/or Secretary-Treasurer of the Governing Authority are further authorized, empowered and directed to take any and all further action required by State and/or Federal law to arrange for the election.

SECTION 7. Furnishing Election Call to Election Officials. Certified copies of this resolution shall be forwarded to the Secretary of State, the Clerk of Court and *Ex-Officio* Parish

Custodian of Voting Machines of Union Parish and the Registrar of Voters of Union Parish, as notification of the special election, in order that each may prepare for said election and perform their respective functions as required by law.

SECTION 8. Application to State Bond Commission. Application is made to the State Bond Commission for consent and authority to hold the special election as herein provided, and in the event said election carries for further consent and authority to continue to levy and collect the special tax provided for therein. A certified copy of this resolution shall be forwarded to the State Bond Commission on behalf of this Governing Authority, together with a letter requesting the prompt consideration and approval of this application.

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		
Dwayne 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 4th day of August, 2020.

/s/ Paula Strickland
Secretary-Treasurer

/s/ Johnny Buckley
President

The following resolution was offered by **Mr. Nolan** and seconded by **Mr. Nyegaard**:

RESOLUTION

A resolution approving the holding of an election in Sadie-Tiger Bend Fire Protection District of the Parish of Union, State of Louisiana, on Saturday, December 5, 2020, to authorize the levy of a parcel fee therein.

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners of Sadie-Tiger Bend Fire Protection District of the Parish of Union, State of Louisiana (the "Governing Authority"), acting as the governing authority of Sadie-Tiger Bend Fire Protection District of the Parish of Union, State of Louisiana (the "District"), adopted a resolution on July 13, 2020, calling a special election in the District on Saturday, December 5, 2020, to authorize the levy of a parcel fee 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 parcel fee 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 parcel fee 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 Sadie-Tiger Bend Fire Protection District of the Parish of Union, State of Louisiana, this Police Jury hereby approves the holding of an election in the District, on Saturday, December 5, 2020, at which election there will be submitted the following proposition, to-wit:

PARCEL FEE RENEWAL PROPOSITION

Shall Sadie-Tiger Bend Fire Protection District of the Parish of Union, State of Louisiana (the "District"), continue to levy and collect annually for a period of ten (10) years, beginning with the year 2022, a fee of Seventy-Five Dollars (\$75.00) on each lot, subdivided portion of ground or individual tract upon which is located, either in whole or in part, a residential or commercial structure, regardless of the structure's being occupied or unoccupied (an estimated \$23,200 reasonably expected at this time to be collected from the levy of the parcel fee for an entire year), for the purpose of acquiring, constructing, maintaining and operating fire protection facilities for the District, including the cost of obtaining water for fire protection purposes and all purposes incidental thereto?

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 parcel fee 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			
Dwayne 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 4th day of August, 2020.

/s/ Paula Strickland
Secretary-Treasurer

/s/ Johnny Buckley
President

The following Ordinance was offered by Ben Bridges and seconded by Ceis Nyegaard:

ORDINANCE # 907

AN ORDINANCE SETTING THE SPEED LIMIT OF 30 MILES PER HOUR ON WILLIAMS COLONY ROAD IN ITS ENTIRETY AND SETTING PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS.

SECTION I: BE IT ORDAINED by the Police Jury of Union Parish that a maximum speed limit for any truck, car, motorcycle or any other equipment traveling on **Williams Colony Road** in its entirety, shall not exceed 30 miles per hour.

SECTION II: BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED by the Police Jury of Union Parish, State of Louisiana, that any person, firm or corporation violating any provisions of this ordinance, upon conviction, shall not exceed the maximum fine for speeding upon a state highway plus court cost.

SECTION III: BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that if any section, sentence, clause or words of this ordinance shall be held invalid by any court of final jurisdiction, the same shall not affect the validity of any other section.

SECTION IV: BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that ordinance or parts of ordinance in conflict herewith be and the same are hereby repealed.

The foregoing ordinance was introduced by **Mr. Bridges**, who moved its adoption and duly seconded by **Mr. Nyegaard** and was then adopted by the following YEA and NAY 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 Ordinance was declared duly adopted this 4th day of August, 2020.

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

s/ Johnny Buckley
JOHNNY BUCKLEY
PRESIDENT
UNION PARISH POLICE JURY

Motion Mrs. Abercrombie, seconded by Mr. Bridges to hire Barry Bryan for full-time employment effective August 10, 2020 at the Road Department with his time being counted back to his original hire date of February 3rd, 2020. He is eligible for all police jury benefits including retirement, insurance, vacation, sick leave and holiday pay. Motion carried unanimously.

Recommendations from the Insurance Committee:

Motion Mrs. Abercrombie, seconded by Mr. Nolan to authorize Trevor Fry with the Gold Weems Law firm to prepare an opt-out payment policy for health insurance for the Union Parish Police Jury employees and Detention Center employees, update the personnel policy to reflect the opt-out payment policy and authorize the President to execute any necessary documents. Mr. Bridges thanked Mrs. Abercrombie for the hard work she has done. Mr. Bridges said Mrs. Abercrombie has worked to save the jury potentially several hundred thousand dollars while maintaining the level of benefits to the employees at the same time. The employees will not lose anything nor will they suffer. Motion carried unanimously.

Recommendations from the Road Committee:

Motion Mr. Bridges, seconded by Mrs. Abercrombie to accept the 7/15/20 Road Remediation Agreement with the changes that were made at the 7/16/20 Road Committee meeting; those changes have been approved by the attorney and authorize the president to execute any necessary documents. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion Mr. Bridges, seconded by Mr. Watley to authorize Paul Riley, Riley Company, to contact the Core of Engineers regarding the Alabama Landing Project. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion Mr. Bridges, seconded by Mr. Watley to assist the Village of Junction City with the requests that were made in writing dated 7/2/20 and 7/21/20 with the Village of Junction City to pay for the cost of the materials. This work will be performed by the Union Parish Road Department as time permits. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Bridges reported that for the 2020 Road Program Contract 1 – Surface Treatment Project only one bid was received. Dreher Contracting, LLC submitted a bid in the amount of \$471,618. **Motion Mr. Bridges, seconded by Mr. Ramsey to accept the only bid from Dreher Contracting, LLC in the amount of \$471,618 for the 2020 Road Program Contract 1 – Surface Treatment Project and authorize the President to execute any necessary documents. Motion carried unanimously.**

Mr. Bridges reported that two bids were received for the 2020 Road Program Contract 2 – Mill Road Project. A bid was received from Dreher Contracting, LLC in the amount of \$141,600 and a bid was received from Amethyst Construction in the amount of \$95,806.25. **Motion Mr. Bridges to accept the lowest bid from Amethyst Construction, Inc. in the amount of \$95,806.25 for the 2020 Road Program Contract 2 – Mill Road Project and authorize the President to execute any necessary documents. Motion carried unanimously.**

Motion Mr. Bridges, seconded by Mr. Ramsey to authorize the Secretary/Treasurer to advertise for a public hearing to be held on October 6th, 2020 @ 6:00 PM to discuss the closure of the following Union Parish Police Jury Roads: (1) the end of Spearsville Road (approximately 530 feet) to the property at 2121 Spearsville Road, (2) Milas Parker Road and (3) Approximately 193.85 feet of the SE end of Williams Loop Road. Motion carried unanimously.

Landfill Committee Recommendations:

The Landfill Committee met on August 4th and discussed two items. The purchase of landfill equipment was discussed, but there was no action taken. **Motion Mr. Pilgreen, seconded by Mr. Ramsey to authorize the expenditure of the Mill Road Project in the amount of \$95,806.25 to come out of the Landfill – Sales Tax Fund and authorize the President to execute any necessary documents. Motion carried unanimously.**

In accordance with Ordinance 549, time for public comment was given.

Cyril Burch, 101 Betty Street, Farmerville, addressed the jury concerning the Betty Street Community Center. Ms. Burch was complaining about the kick ball tournament that was held the previous weekend.

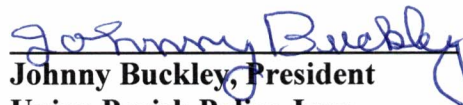
Thomas Ledbetter, 290 Zion Hill Church Road, Farmerville addressed the jury concerning signage on Zion Hill Church Road.

Jon McKinnie, Union Parish Chamber of Commerce, addressed the jury concerning upcoming events in the parish and new businesses.

There being no further business to come before the Jury, the President declared the meeting adjourned upon motion by Mr. Ramsey, seconded by Mr. Nolan on this the 4th day of August, 2020.



**Paula Strickland, Secretary-Treasurer
Union Parish Police Jury**



**Johnny Buckley, President
Union Parish Police Jury**