

REGULAR MEETING UNION PARISH POLICE JURY

Farmerville, Louisiana
February 4, 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: 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 Tracy Houck, Assistant District Attorney. The President called the session to order and welcomed all guests. Mr. Ramsey offered the invocation and Mr. Watley 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.

Thane Huggs, Stroud Exploration Co., LLC, addressed the Jury concerning Union Parish Ordinance #708. Stroud Exploration Co. went through the application process to drill a well in Union Parish. The \$15,000 road deposit was paid and the initial paperwork was filled out. David Dumas with Dumas & Associates provided the amount necessary for the bond. Mr. Huggs said the bond is excessive and is also open ended. The bond would cost Stroud Exploration approximately \$15,000 a year. Mr. Huggs stated that Stroud Exploration wants to do business in Union Parish.

Mark Preaus addressed the Jury concerning Union Parish Ordinance #708.

Motion Mr. Bridges, seconded by Mr. Watley and declared adopted by unanimous vote of the Jury to approve the agenda with no changes.

Motion Mr. Nyegaard, seconded by Mr. Ramsey to adopt the minutes of the January 13, 2020 regular meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

The Secretary/Treasurer presented the Budget to Actual Revenue and Expense report for the month of January and explained to the jurors that the report reflects what has been budgeted for the year compared to what has been spent. The Secretary/Treasurer then presented a brief financial report.

In January the jury collected approximately 1.2 million dollars in Ad Valorem Tax which was dispersed among the General Fund, Road Maintenance Fund and Road Construction Fund.

There were three (3) pay periods in the month of January. Each fund that has payroll had elevated expenditures for the month.

The Green Oaks invoice for January was \$6,200. There was a juvenile housed for the whole month of January. That juvenile has since been released, but we will still owe seven (7) days on

the next invoice. If a juvenile stays on the invoice for a month, the Secretary/Treasurer will call the District Attorney's office to see if anything can be done to expedite the judicial process.

There were several psych evaluations that were paid out of the general fund. These are court ordered and the jury has no choice but to pay them. The total amount for psych evaluations for the month of January was \$9,000.

As of February 4th, there are 379 inmates being housed at the Detention Center. There are a total of 34 male and female inmates being housed in Madison Parish which we are paying for. The cost to house those inmates in Madison Parish was approximately \$23,000. As of today the work release inmate count for Foster Farms is 84. There are nine (9) inmates pending employment. The Detention Center work release program generated approximately \$179,361.10 for the month of January. Please keep in mind the inmates also had three pay periods which is why the income is so high. The DOC income was approximately \$207,603.42. Even with the large amount of monthly income, the expenses still outweigh the revenues. The food cost were slightly elevated, but that is due to the facility being at capacity. The overtime at the Detention Center for the month of January was \$29,233.37.

The .01 sales tax for the landfill generated approximately \$263,463.04 and the tipping fees generated \$98,201.26. Lincoln Parish, Jackson Parish and Foster Farms pay tipping fees.

A \$300,000 payment was made from the sales tax fund to the Landfill Assurance Account. The Secretary/Treasurer will make a second payment around May and that will complete the budget obligation for the year.

Motion Mr. Nolan, seconded by Mr. Nyegaard to adopt the Revenues and Expenditures Report for the month of January 2020. Motion carried unanimously.

Jim Farley, Kings Lake Subdivision I Homeowners Association, addressed the jury regarding the condition of North Spillway Road and where it rates on the Union Parish Police Jury Road Priority List.

Motion Mr. Pilgreen, seconded by Mr. Nyegaard to approve the request from the Town of Marion for two (2) loads of cold mix with the Town of Marion paying for the materials. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion Mrs. Abercrombie, seconded by Mr. Bridges to approve the request from the Rocky Branch/Crossroads Fire District Board to purchase SB2 rock to be used at the fire station located at 4141 Highway 2 with the Rocky Branch/Crossroads Fire District Board to pay for the materials. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion Mrs. Abercrombie, seconded by Mr. Pilgreen to appoint Joannie Bryan and L.W. Nolan as directors on the Rocky Branch/Crossroads Fire District Board for a two-year term beginning January 1, 2020 and ending December 31, 2021. Motion carried unanimously.

The following Resolution was offered by Mr. Bridges and seconded by Mr. Watley:

RESOLUTION 2020-02

A resolution approving the holding of an election in Ward Five Fire Protection District, Union Parish, Louisiana, on Saturday, May 9, 2020, to authorize the levy of a special tax therein.

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners of Ward Five Fire Protection District, Union Parish, Louisiana (the "Governing Authority"), acting as the governing authority of Ward Five Fire Protection District, Union Parish, Louisiana (the "District"), adopted a resolution on January 9, 2020, calling a special election in the District on Saturday, May 9, 2020, 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 Ward Five Fire Protection District, Union Parish, Louisiana, this Police Jury hereby approves the holding of an election in the District, on Saturday, May 9, 2020, at which election there will be submitted the following proposition, to-wit:

**PROPOSITION
(MILLAGE EXTENSION & REDEDICATION)**

Shall Ward Five Fire Protection District, Union Parish, Louisiana (the "District"), be authorized to extend the levy of the tax authorized to be levied through the year 2020 pursuant to an election held on October 2, 2010 (the "Tax"), at a rate of ten (10) mills on all property subject to taxation within the District (an estimated \$322,000 reasonably expected at this time to be collected from the levy of the tax for an entire year), for an additional ten (10) years to run from the year 2021 and ending with the year 2030, and shall the District be further authorized to rededicate the use of proceeds of the Tax, heretofore or hereafter received, solely for the purposes of acquiring, constructing, improving, maintaining and operating facilities

and equipment for providing fire protection and emergency medical services in and for the District, including both movable and immovable property, to be used to provide fire protection and emergency services in and for the District?

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 4th day of February, 2020.

/s/ Paula Strickland
Paula Strickland, Secretary/Treasurer

/s/ Johnny Buckley
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 February 4, 2020, approving the holding of an election in Ward Five Fire Protection District, Union Parish, Louisiana, to authorize the levy of a special tax therein.

IN FAITH WHEREOF, witness my official signature at Farmerville, Louisiana, on this, the 4th day of February, 2020.

s/ Paula Strickland
Paula Strickland, Secretary/Treasurer

Motion Mr. Pilgreen, seconded by Mr. Nyegaard to hire Edwin Whitlock for full-time employment effective February 10, 2020 at the Road Department with an hourly rate of pay of \$11.50; with his time being counted back to his original hire date of April 16, 2019. He is eligible for all police jury benefits including retirement, insurance, vacation, sick leave and holiday pay. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion Mr. Nyegaard, seconded by Mr. Moses to allow the Union Black Heritage Committee the use of the parking lot adjacent to the Union Parish Courthouse on Saturday, February 15th, 2020 to host the 27th Annual Black Heritage Festivities. Motion carried unanimously.

The Secretary/Treasurer reported that in 2014 the Union Parish Police Jury voted to pay \$32,100 towards the purchase of the upper portion of the old state park. The monies were paid to the Union-Lincoln Regional Water Supply Initiative. The total purchase price was to be divided among the four (4) entities composing ULRWSI: Union Parish Police Jury, Lincoln Parish Police Jury, Town of Farmerville and City of Ruston. ULRWSI did not purchase the property, but still has possession of the property purchase funds.

Sparta Groundwater Conservation District has requested the use of those funds from ULRWSI in connection with the conservation of the Sparta Aquifer. Sparta is applying for a grant and would like to use the available funds for their matching portion. ULRWSI held a meeting on January 23, 2020 and the Sparta Commission formally asked for their help and support. ULRWSI cannot release the money because it was dedicated for the property purchase. After consulting with the ULRWSI attorney, Joe Cusimano, it was determined that a resolution is needed for each entity to grant permission to the ULRWSI to release the money to the Sparta Commission. Once all four resolutions have been passed ULRWSI will meet again to formally vote yes or no to Sparta's request.

The following Resolution was offered by Mr. Bridges and seconded by Mr. Pilgreen:

RESOLUTION NO. 2020-03

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE UNION-LINCOLN REGIONAL WATER SUPPLY INITIATIVE TO TRANSFER FUNDS TO THE SPARTA GROUNDWATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

WHEREAS, the Union Parish Police Jury (the "Jury"), authorized the contribution of an amount not greater than one-fourth (1/4) of the appraised value of property (the "Property") situated near D'Arbonne Lake to facilitate the purchase of the Property by the Union-Lincoln Regional Water Supply Initiative (the "ULRWSI") for use as a location for a water treatment facility; and,

WHEREAS, the Jury provided ULRWSI a total of Thirty-Two Thousand One Hundred Dollars (\$32,100.00) (the "Property Purchase Funds") for the purchase of the Property; and,

WHEREAS, ULRWSI did not purchase the Property but still has possession of the Property Purchase Funds and ULRWSI now desires to provide the Property Purchase Funds in the amount

of \$32,100.00, to the Sparta Groundwater Conservation District for use in connection with conservation of the Sparta Aquifer.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE UNION PARISH POLICE JURY:

§1. The Jury authorizes ULRWSI to transfer the Property Purchase Funds in the amount of Thirty-Two Thousand One Hundred Dollars (\$32,100.00) contributed by the Jury to ULRWSI to the Sparta Groundwater Conservation District for use in connection with conservation of the Sparta Aquifer.

§2. The President is authorized and empowered to execute all documents and to do any and all things necessary and proper to carry out this Resolution and to fulfill its objects and purposes.

§3. This Resolution shall become effective upon final adoption and signature of the President.

Said Resolution having been read and considered by a quorum of the Union Parish Police Jury, on motion to adopt by **Mr. Bridges**, seconded by **Mr. Pilgreen**, a record vote was taken and the following result was had:

| 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 presiding officer declared the above Resolution duly adopted in full on this the 4th day of February, 2020.

ATTEST:

s/Paula Strickland
Paula Strickland, Secretary/Treasurer

s/Johnny Buckley
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 February 4, 2020.

IN FAITH WHEREOF, witness my official signature at Farmerville, Louisiana, on this, the 4th day of February, 2020.

s/ Paula Strickland
Paula Strickland, Secretary/Treasurer

Recommendations from the Road Committee:

The following Ordinance was offered by Mr. Nyegaard and seconded by Mrs. Abercrombie:

ORDINANCE # 900

AN ORDINANCE SETTING THE SPEED LIMIT OF 20 MILES PER HOUR ON CROSSROADS LOOP 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 **Crossroads Loop** in its entirety, shall not exceed **20** 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. Nyegaard**, who moved its adoption and duly seconded by **Mrs. Abercrombie** 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 February, 2020.

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

s/ Johnny Buckley
JOHNNY BUCKLEY
PRESIDENT
UNION PARISH POLICE JURY

Motion Mr. Nyegaard, seconded by Mr. Bridges to change the Administrator of Ordinance #708 from Dumas & Associates to Riley Company and authorize the President to execute any necessary documents. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion Mr. Nyegaard, seconded by Mr. Pilgreen to seek legal counsel regarding amending Ordinance #708 and authorize the President to execute any necessary documents. Motion carried unanimously.

Recommendations from the Courthouse Committee:

Motion Mr. Watley, seconded by Mr. Nolan to terminate the lease agreement with Union Parish Little League – Union Parish Youth Association and send a certified letter to Daniel Hunter regarding the termination of the lease agreement. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion Mr. Watley, seconded by Mr. Nolan to enter into a twenty-five (25) year lease agreement with Betty Street Community Center dba Union Parish Little League District 5 for the use of the Space Age Recreation Center and ball field; authorize the President to execute any necessary documents. Motion carried unanimously.

Recommendations from the Finance Committee:

Motion Mr. Bridges, seconded by Mr. Ramsey to increase the amount paid to Donny Grafton, nuisance trapper, from \$1,400 to \$1,500 per month effective February 2020. Motion carried unanimously.

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

Charlene Carter, 793 Gatson Road, Spearsville, addressed the jury regarding Daniel Road, Countyline Road, Gatson Road, Green Bridge Road and Oakland Bridge Road. Mrs. Carter has concerns about how the potholes are being patched.

George Cothran, 1001 Cherry Ridge Road, Farmerville, addressed the jury regarding a dependable ambulance service for Union Parish. Mr. Cothran thanked the jury for the work that has been done on Cherry Ridge Road.

Orlando Smith, addressed the jury concerning Gatson Road, Countyline Road and Oakland Bridge Road.

Vickie Sayers, 228 Victoria Road, Farmerville, addressed the jury concerning Victoria Road.

Randy Hendrix, 330 N. Spillway Road, Farmerville, addressed the jury concerning the speed limit on North Spillway Road.

Jon McKinnie, addressed the jury concerning events happening in Union Parish.

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



Paula Strickland
Secretary/Treasurer



Johnny Buckley
President