

**FINANCE COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF MEETING**

July 7, 2020

4:00 P.M.

Present: Ben Bridges, Nathan Pilgreen, Brenda Abercrombie and L.W. Nolan. Also present, Minor Patton, Jon McKinnie, Johnny Buckley, Jason Holmes, Ceis Nyegaard, DeWayne Ramsey, Lane Rugg and John Watley.

Mr. Pilgreen called the meeting to order. Mr. McKinnie led the group in prayer.

Motion Mrs. Abercrombie, seconded by Mr. Nolan and declared adopted by unanimous Roll Call vote to approve the agenda with the following addition:

**Agenda Item #7 – Discuss and make recommendations, if necessary,
regarding the purchase of crushed concrete.**

Ben Bridges enters the meeting.

Motion Mr. Nolan, seconded by Mr. Bridges to approve the minutes of the June 1st, 2020 meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Minor Patton (Union Parish Tourist Commission) and Jon McKinnie (Union Parish Chamber of Commerce) addressed the Finance Committee regarding the Crappie Fishing tournaments. Both tournaments will cost \$60,000. The State Tourism Commission will provide \$30,000 of the \$60,000 which will leave a \$30,000 balance to be paid with local funds. Mr. Patton is asking that the jury contribute up to \$7,500. The proposed contributing entities will consist of the Union Parish Tourism Commission, Union Parish Chamber of Commerce, Town of Farmerville, Ruston/Lincoln Tourism Commission and the Union Parish Police Jury. The tournaments bring in about 150 teams. Those fishermen bring their families and those families stay and shop in our town. The economic impact is tremendous to the parish. The jury has a one cent sales tax in connection with the Landfill so the jury would feel a positive impact from the tournament through the sales tax. **Motion Mr. Pilgreen, seconded by Mrs. Abercrombie to recommend to the full jury to contribute up to \$7,500 to the Union Parish Tourist Commission for the support of the Crappie Masters Tournaments. Motion carried unanimously.**

Jason Holmes with the LSU Ag Center addressed the Finance Committee regarding the services his office provides. The LSU AgCenter provides programs dealing with Agriculture and Natural Resources, 4-H Youth Development, Family and Consumer Sciences and Community Economic Development. The police jury provides yearly funding in the amount of \$13,000 through a cooperative endeavor agreement. The jury also provides office space, utilities and office furnishings. Payments are made on a quarterly basis. **Motion Mr. Nolan, seconded by Mrs. Abercrombie to recommend to the full jury to continue the Cooperative Endeavor Agreement (\$13,000 per year) with the LSU Extension Office and authorize the President to execute any necessary documents. Motion carried unanimously.**

A lengthy discussion was held regarding a proposed .50 pay increase for police jury employees. Mrs. Abercrombie is proposing a .50 pay increase for police jury employees that are employed at the Road Department, Landfill Department, Health Unit, Custodian staff and the Police Jury administrative staff. The proposed pay increase would cost approximately \$70,000.

Paula Strickland, Secretary/Treasurer, said the raises would be good for morale, but she also mentioned that revenues across the board are down due to the pandemic. The Road Department is the only department that might struggle with the additional expense because of having to do the prep work for the 2020 Union Parish Road Program. There have been several higher salary employees that have resigned from the Detention Center and those employees will not be replaced. This means that there should not be the need for such a large transfer at the end of the year to the detention center which would be an offset for the additional payroll expense. The Secretary/Treasurer also reminded the committee that the Health Unit is no longer supported by a tax and once the monies have been depleted in their fund then the general fund will be supporting the Health Unit.

Motion Mrs. Abercrombie, seconded by Mr. Nolan to recommend to the full jury to implement a .50 per hour raise be granted to all Union Parish Police Jury employees that are employed at the Road Department, Landfill Department, Health Unit, Custodian staff and the Police Jury administrative staff. Motion carried unanimously.

A brief discussion was held concerning the purchase of crushed concrete and what it could be used for. The crushed concrete is used for building dumpster sites. **Motion Mrs. Abercrombie, seconded by Mr. Nolan to recommend to the full jury to purchase crushed concrete in an amount up to \$25,100. Motion carried unanimously.**

There being no more business to come before the committee, Mr. Pilgreen declared the meeting adjourned upon motion by Mr. Nolan and duly seconded by Mrs. Abercrombie on this the 7th day of July, 2020.

Nathan Pilgreen, Vice-Chairman
Paula Strickland, Secretary/Treasurer