

## REGULAR MEETING UNION PARISH POLICE JURY

Farmerville, Louisiana

May 7, 2019

**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: Charles Sawyer, Lanny Parker, Jerry W. Taylor, Glenn Hutto, Derek S. Kennedy, Nathan Futch, Stan Smith, and John Watley. Absent: Mike Jones. Also present was Tracy Houck, Assistant District Attorney. The President called the session to order and welcomed all guests. Mr. Adrian Nelson, Pastor from Woodlawn Baptist Church offered the invocation and Mr. Smith led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.**

President Taylor 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.

Mr. Taylor would like to recognize Jeremy Thad "Shorty" Matthews. Mr. Matthews recently passed away and was a long time employee of the landfill. Shorty worked for the police jury for several years. He was a dedicated and loyal employee to the jury and the people of Union Parish. Please keep his wife Kam and his parents Jerry and Mary Matthews in your prayers. Shorty was a big man, but he was a mama's boy. The Matthews have lost two sons and parents are not supposed to bury their children.

**After the opportunity for public comment was given, a unanimous roll call vote of the jury approved the agenda with the following addition:**

**#14A – Discuss and take action, if necessary, regarding a salary increase for Brian Nyegaard for inspecting bridges.**

**Motion Mr. Sawyer, seconded by Mr. Watley to adopt the minutes of the April 2, 2019 regular meeting and the April 26, 2019 special meeting. Motion carried unanimously.**

The Secretary/Treasurer presented the Budget to Actual Revenue and Expense report for April 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 reported that there were two major expenditures in road maintenance. Both of those expenditures were for heavy equipment. A mini excavator was purchased through grant funds, but the jury had to pay for the excavator up front. The grant reimbursement has been submitted and payment should be remitted soon. A backhoe was also purchased out of this fund. **Motion Mr. Kennedy, seconded by Mr. Parker to adopt the Revenues and Expenditures Report for the month of April 2019. Motion carried unanimously.**

Kristin Delahoussaye with Capital Area Finance Authority presented the jury with a presentation regarding a down payment assistance program. It is a fantastic program for borrowers who qualify for a loan, but who cannot afford the down payment. The programs are not just for low income borrowers or first-time homebuyers. Any homeowner can qualify as long as they have the minimum FICO score and fit under the maximum DTI. President Taylor addressed the jurors and said he had contacted Guy Cormier, Police Jury Association President, and Mr. Cormier said it is a very good program especially for those in our parish that might struggle with coming up with a down payment. **Motion Mr. Sawyer, seconded by Mr. Kennedy to enter into a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement with Capital Area Finance Authority, subject to the police jury counsel reviewing/approving the agreement, and authorizing the president to execute any necessary documents.**

The secretary/treasurer reported that the Gulley Street project has hit a major road block. The title issue for the parcel included multiple federal, state and local tax liens on the property, as well as the inability to contact the titled owner. Based on the number of liens, it was determined that it is not possible to remedy all liens without paying much more than the estimated land value and taking an unknown amount of time to cancel the liens. The project is financed with Federal CDBG funds and the parish cannot construct public improvements on property with encumbrances such as these. Due to these issues the project cannot proceed and must be closed out accordingly. **Motion Mr. Hutto, seconded by Mr. Parker to cancel the Gustav/Ike CDBG-DR Gulley Street Project (56PARA3401 and 56DRLG7001) due to title issues that cannot be resolved for the parcel of land required for the construction of the project and authorize the president to execute any necessary documents.**

The secretary/treasurer reported that the Gulley Street project 56PARA3401 is the original \$150,000 allocation that the Parish received for Gustav/Ike recovery. There is approximately \$100,000 remaining in the project that the Parish can request be used on Dean Road. Dean Road has a current FEMA HMGP application, and the remaining Gustav/Ike CDBG funds could be used as part of the Parish's 25% match. Once the funds are transferred out of the Gulley Street project the Parish will have to hold a public hearing in order to submit an application to the state for Dean Road. Also, all funds received by the Parish for the Gulley Street project were eligible project expenses and should not have to be repaid. **Motion Mr. Sawyer, seconded by Mr. Smith to transfer any remaining funds for Union Parish Gustav/Ike CDBG-DR Gulley Street Project (56PARA3401) and to un-allocate said funds in anticipation of using said funds on the Dean Road construction project and authorize the president to execute any necessary documents.**

The secretary/treasurer reported that the Gulley Street project 56DRLG7001 is the second \$150,000 funding allocation the Parish received for Gulley Street. During the design it was clear there wasn't enough funding in the original allocation and the Parish requested these additional funds in order to complete the project. These funds were tied to "economic revitalization" and must be used in that manner. After considering Dean Road as the best fit for the CDBG funds it was determined that Dean Road cannot be tied to

economic revitalization. Without showing the economic improvement these funds must be de-obligated back to the state. The Parish did not receive any of these funds and will not have to repay anything. **Motion Mr. Smith, seconded by Mr. Hutto to de-obligate the Gustav/Ike CDBG-DR Gulley Street Project (56DRLG7001) due to the cancellation of the project and the inability to utilize these funds on the Dean Road project and authorize the president to execute any necessary documents.**

The following resolution was offered by **MR. PARKER** and seconded by **MR. SMITH**:

### 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, October 12, 2019, to authorize the levy of a special tax 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 April 8, 2019, calling a special election in the District on Saturday, October 12, 2019, 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 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, October 12, 2019, at which election there will be submitted the following proposition, to-wit:

### MILLAGE RENEWAL PROPOSITION

Shall Sadie-Tiger Bend Fire Protection District of the Parish of Union, State of Louisiana (the "District"), levy a ten (10) mills tax on all the property subject to taxation in the District (an estimated \$23,360 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 2020 and ending with the year 2029, for the purpose of acquiring, constructing, improving, maintaining and operating fire protection facilities and equipment, including fire trucks, in the District and including the cost of obtaining water for fire protection purposes?

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:
Charles Sawyer	X			
Lanny Parker	X			
Jerry W. Taylor	X			
Glenn Hutto	X			
Derek S. Kennedy	X			
Nathan Futch	X			
Stan Smith	X			
Michael Jones			X	
John W. Watley	X			

And the resolution was declared adopted on this, the 7<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2019.

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/s/ Paula Strickland  
Secretary-Treasurer

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/s/ Jerry W. Taylor  
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 May 7, 2019, approving the holding of an election in Sadie-Tiger Bend Fire Protection District 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 7<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2019.

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Secretary-Treasurer

**Motion Mr. Hutto, seconded by Mr. Sawyer, to authorize travel expenses for Pat Bankston to attend the Elections Academy workshop to be held in Baton Rouge on May 22, 2019. Motion carried unanimously.**

Personnel Committee Recommendations

**Motion Mr. Kennedy, seconded by Mr. Parker to authorize the secretary/treasurer to advertise for an Assistant Landfill Superintendent who has a valid Louisiana solid waste operator license Level A. Motion carried unanimously.**

**Motion Mr. Kennedy, seconded by Mr. Parker to eliminate the maintenance position at the Detention Center. Motion carried unanimously.**

**Motion Mr. Kennedy, seconded by Mr. Sawyer to increase the wage of Brian Nyegaard by .50 an hour (\$19 to \$19.50) for bridge inspections. Motion carried unanimously.**

Landfill Committee Recommendations

**Motion Mr. Sawyer, seconded by Mr. Kennedy to authorize the secretary/treasurer to advertise for bids for a new garbage truck. Motion carried unanimously.**

**Motion Mr. Sawyer, seconded by Mr. Hutto to authorize Dumas and Associates to prepare plans and specifications in order to advertise for bids for leachate cleaning and maintenance. Motion carried unanimously.**

Airport Committee Recommendations

**Motion Mr. Smith, seconded by Mr. Sawyer to authorize the secretary/treasurer to advertise for request for proposals for the yearly mowing/bush hogging at the Union Parish Airport. Motion carried unanimously.**

**Motion Mr. Smith, seconded by Mr. Futch to transfer the balance from the airport grant fund (\$36,056.17) to the routine airport operating account. Motion carried unanimously.**

Road Committee Recommendations

**Motion Mr. Hutto, seconded by Mr. Parker to authorize Riley Company to bid the 2019 Union Parish Road Program and open bids on Wednesday, May 29, 2019 @ 2:00 PM. Motion carried unanimously.**

The following ordinance was introduced by Mr. Watley and seconded by Mr. Sawyer.

**ORDINANCE #888**

**AN ORDINANCE SETTING THE SPEED LIMIT OF 35 MILES PER HOUR ON PRICE 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 **Price Road** in its entirety, shall not exceed **35** 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. Watley, who moved its adoption and duly seconded by Mr. Sawyer and was then adopted by the following YEA and NAY vote:

YEAS: Sawyer, Parker, Taylor, Hutto, Kennedy, Futch, Smith and Watley  
NAYS:  
ABSENT: Jones

WHEREUPON, the Ordinance was declared duly adopted this 7<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2019.

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**PAULA STRICKLAND**  
**SECRETARY-TREASURER**  
**UNION PARISH POLICE JURY**

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**JERRY W. TAYLOR**  
**PRESIDENT**  
**UNION PARISH POLICE JURY**

In accordance with Ordinance 549, time for public comment was given. Johnny Creed, 2354 Highway 550, addressed the jury concerning the closure of one end of Jackson Slough Road. Mr. Creed states that the road serves no public purpose.

Judy Auger, 844 Alton Auger Road, addressed the jury concerning the Asphalt Zipper and its lack of use.

Loye Albritton, 1378 Highway 828, Farmerville, addressed the jury concerning an update regarding Weyerhaeuser property.

Frederick Fields, 507 Bernice Avenue, Farmerville, addressed the jury concerning using the courthouse as a shelter in the event of bad weather.


Derek Kennedy addressed the jury and members of the audience. Mr. Kennedy states that it has been a pleasure serving the people of Union Parish. He has had the opportunity to serve with some of the greatest guys. Mr. Kennedy did not personally know most of the men on the jury before taking office, but he feels like they have become very close over the last 3 ½ years. Mr. Kennedy states that before he became a police juror the Detention Center work release program generated approximately \$150,000 a year in revenue. When the Detention Center was built there was no tax to fund it. The Detention Center Commission has hired an outside company to help supply the detention center with DOC work release prisoners. In 3 ½ years the work release program has gone from \$150,000 a year to over a million dollars a year. Every year money is taken out of the general fund to help fund the detention center. The more financially secure the Detention Center is the more things the police jury is able to do for the parish. For example, 17.3 miles of road are being repaired in the parish this year. We met with the engineer earlier and in a three-year span we could possibly work on 50 miles of road. The detention center situation can only get better. There is a project in place now to build an additional facility by the detention center that will hold more work release inmates. Foster Farms has told us they will take as many as 300 work release inmates – right now we are averaging 108. The goal is for the detention center to pay for itself. When the outside company was hired to help bring inmates to the detention center the police jury caught a little flak because we brought in an outsider. Mr. Kennedy states that sometimes you have to go to the experts to handle these things. They have supplied the inmates and continue to supply the inmates and it works. Mr. Kennedy urges the public to continue to support their police jury and the detention center commission.


On March 16, 2019 Union Parish had a devastating flood. The road budget was gone in 90 days and again an outside company was brought in to deal directly with FEMA. That cost the jury \$100,000. The police jury caught flak for again bringing in another outsider. That outside group brought this parish 1.8 million dollars that we would have never gotten.

Mr. Kennedy states that a smaller situation recently occurred but was equally important. Glenn Hutto, Road Committee Chairman faced a situation where a culvert replacement was needed. Mr. Hutto brought in an engineer to have an expert opinion. By having that expert advice, the police jury did not put in a smaller culvert. If the smaller culvert had been installed and then washed out during a big rain the jury would have been liable. When Mr. Hutto brought in the engineer he deflected the liability the jury would have had. Those things are important. Union Parish is headed in a great direction. You will always have people who will complain with no solution. Please continue to support this police jury in the manner that you have. The work that is being done behind the scenes is incredible. There are always committee meetings going on. Mr. Kennedy states that before he ran for police juror he came to the meetings for at least one year. Continue to support this police jury – they have done the job. May 31<sup>st</sup> will be my last day. Ben Bridges is in the audience and he is my recommendation to step in and fill my slot for the

remainder of the year. I hope the people will consider him for police juror. He is an absolute pillar of the community, highly intelligent and highly educated.

**There being no further business to come before the Jury, the President declared the meeting adjourned upon motion by Mr. Kennedy, seconded by Mr. Hutto on this the 7<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2019.**

  
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**PAULA STRICKLAND**  
Secretary/Treasurer  
Union Parish Police Jury

  
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**JERRY W. TAYLOR**  
President  
Union Parish Police Jury