

## **REGULAR MEETING UNION PARISH POLICE JURY**

**Farmerville, Louisiana**

**January 5<sup>th</sup>, 2021**

**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. Watley offered the invocation and Mr. Pilgreen led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.**

**Mr. Houck conducted the election for the 2021 President of the Union Parish Police Jury. Johnny Buckley was nominated by Mr. Ramsey, seconded by Mr. Bridges. Mr. Bridges moved to close the nominations for President and accept Mr. Buckley as President of the Union Parish Police Jury, seconded by Mr. Watley. Mr. Houck declared Mr. Buckley as President by acclamation.**

**President Buckley conducted the election for the 2021 Vice-President of the Union Parish Police Jury. Brenda Abercrombie was nominated by Mr. Bridges, seconded by Mr. Watley. Mr. Pilgreen moved to close the nominations for Vice-President and accept Mrs. Abercrombie as Vice-President of the Union Parish Police Jury, seconded by Mr. Bridges. President Buckley declared Mrs. Brenda Abercrombie as Vice-President by acclamation.**

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.

Mr. Bridges recognized the new Homeland Security Director, Shannon Futch. Mr. Ramsey would like to remember the family of Daphne "Chunk" McDougle who recently passed away.

**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 December 1<sup>st</sup> regular meeting and December 17<sup>th</sup>, 2020 special meeting. Motion carried unanimously.**

The Secretary/Treasurer presented the Budget to Actual Revenue and Expense report for the months of November/December 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 she had missed the December meeting due to illness and her report reflects November and December. The jurors were previously given a copy of the November report, but a formal report had not been done.

The Green Oaks invoice for November was \$12,106.93 and the December invoice was \$13,400. For the year 2020 the jury spent \$136,796.93 to house juveniles. Originally \$144,000 had been budgeted so we did come under budget.

The Secretary/Treasurer reminded the jurors and the public that several legislative mandates come out of the General Fund. Those mandates include support for the District Attorney's office, Clerk of Court, Registrar of Voters, Judges office/court reporter, Coroner, Veteran's Affairs, Sheriff's Department and JP/Constables. In addition to those mandates, the jury also provides support to North Delta Regional Planning and Development, Sparta Commission, Trailblazers, Council on Aging, D'Arbonne Lake Commission and the Ruston Mental Health Center.

The Road Maintenance fund experienced a big hit in November and December. Approximately \$66,000 was spent on equipment repairs. Approximately \$33,600 was spent on road materials/supplies such as hot mix, cold mix, culverts, rock/sand and signs. During the year 2020, the Road Maintenance fund did receive a \$275,000 transfer from the General Fund.

The Detention Center Fund received \$284,423.22 in November for CARES reimbursement. Overall, the Detention Center received \$871,944 in CARES reimbursements. The Transitional Work Release Program generated \$131,450 in November. In December the Transitional Work Release Program generated \$105,400. The TWP income was down slightly due to one dorm of work release inmates being quarantined for two weeks.

The Landfill sales tax generated approximately \$257,000 in November. That amount was up approximately \$47,360 from last year. The Landfill sales tax generated approximately \$214,500 in December. That amount was up approximately \$31,700 from last year.

**Motion Mr. Nolan, seconded by Mr. Ramsey to adopt the Revenue and Expenditures Report for the time period of November/December. Motion carried unanimously.**

**Motion Mr. Watley, seconded by Mr. Moses setting the regular monthly meetings of the Union Parish Police Jury to be held at the Courthouse Annex on the first (1<sup>st</sup>) Tuesday of every month at 6:00 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.**

There was no action taken on the bank signature cards. The officers did not change and therefore the signature cards remain the same.

**Motion Mr. Bridges, seconded by Mrs. Abercrombie to authorize travel for the Registrar of Voters and the Chief Deputy to the Louisiana Registrars of Voters' Seminar to be held in Marksville, Louisiana on February 22 and February 23, 2021 and payment for annual dues. Motion carried unanimously.**

**The following resolution was offered by Mrs. Abercrombie and seconded by Mr. Bridges:**

**RESOLUTION 2020-09**

**WHEREAS**, the Union Parish Police Jury strives to enhance the quality of life of its residents, both personally and economically, and

**WHEREAS**, high-speed internet service has become a necessary component to participating in the modern economy, healthcare and education, but this service is unavailable or of an inadequate quality for many residents, and

**WHEREAS** residents of Union Parish deserve the same educational, medical and economic opportunities as citizens in parishes served by high speed internet,

**WHEREAS**, neighboring states of our region have invested in the development of broadband infrastructure at varying levels, while Louisiana has made no financial investment thus far,

**WHEREAS**, legislation has been passed over the past year to allow opportunities for installation by private providers using the infrastructure of the Rural Electric Cooperative and the Cooperatives themselves have been given permission to expand into broadband from the Public Service Commission recently,

**WHEREAS**, legislation has been passed this year to establish a Louisiana Office of Broadband that will allow a designated state office to seek funds and distribute in order to promote broadband installation in Louisiana,

**WHEREAS**, various departments of the Federal Government have made funds available for expansion of broadband targeted to rural areas. These funds provide an initial step toward bridging the digital divide,

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Union Parish Police Jury urges the Louisiana Legislature to pass legislation which will invest in the installation of high-speed internet for rural Louisiana.

The motion to approve the foregoing resolution was made Mrs. Abercrombie and seconded by Mr. Bridges with the following Roll Call Vote:

Roll Call Vote:

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

WHEREUPON, the motion was declared duly adopted by the Jury this the 5<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2021.

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

s/ Johnny Buckley  
JOHNNY BUCKLEY  
PRESIDENT  
UNION PARISH POLICE JURY

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STATE OF LOUISIANA

PARISH OF UNION

I, **Paula H. Strickland**, Secretary/Treasurer of the Police Jury of Union Parish, Louisiana, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of one (1) motion adopted by the Union Parish Police Jury in regular session on January 5<sup>th</sup>, 2021 at which meeting a quorum was present. Given under my official Signature and Seal of Office on this the \_\_\_\_ day of January, 2021.

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

**Motion Mrs. Abercrombie, seconded by Mr. Nolan to appoint Alice Bailey, Mike Finkbeiner and Beth Green as directors to the Board of Commissioners for the Rocky Branch/Crossroads Fire Protection District for a two-year term beginning 1/1/21 and expiring 12/31/2022. Motion carried unanimously.**

**Motion Mr. Watley, seconded by Mr. Moses to reappoint JR Horton to the Bernice Fire Protection District for a three-year term beginning 1/1/21 and expiring 12/31/2023. Motion carried unanimously.**

Mr. Pilgreen was appointed to the Trailblazer Resource Conservation and Development Board in 2020. Mr. Pilgreen is unable to remain on the board and would like someone to be appointed in his place. **Motion Mr. Bridges, seconded by Mr. Pilgreen to appoint L.W. Nolan as the Union Parish Police Juror on the Trailblazer Resource Conservation and Development Board. Motion carried unanimously.**

**ORDINANCE #913**

**AN ORDINANCE RELATIVE TO THE UNION PARISH ROAD SYSTEM PROVIDING FOR THE DELETION OF APPROXIMATELY 193.85 FEET OF THE SE END OF WILLIAMS LOOP ROAD.**

Pursuant to Public Notice published in *The Banner*, a weekly newspaper published in Farmerville, Union Parish, Louisiana and the Official Journal of the Union Parish Police Jury on September 10, September 17 and September 24, Public Hearing was being held by the Union Parish Police Jury at the Police Jury Meeting Room, Courthouse Annex, 303 East Water Street, Farmerville, Louisiana for the purpose of considering whether or not certain road listed in said Public Notice should be deleted from the Union Parish Road System.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED**, by the Police Jury of Union Parish, Louisiana, convened in Regular Session this 5<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2021 that the following Ordinance be and the same is hereby adopted:

**SECTION 1**

Approximately 193.85 feet of the SE end of Williams Loop Road is found to be no longer needed for public purposes and is hereby deleted and removed from the Union Parish Road System.

**SECTION 2**

This Ordinance shall take effect immediately upon its passage by the Union Parish Police Jury.

**SECTION 3**

If any section, paragraph, sentence, clause and/or phrase of this Ordinance or the application thereof is declared unconstitutional, unenforceable or invalid by the valid judgment of any court of competent jurisdiction such unconstitutionality, unenforceability or invalidity shall not affect any of the remaining sections, paragraphs, sentences, clauses and/or phrases of this Ordinance, since the same would have been enacted by the Union Parish Police Jury without the incorporation in this Ordinance of any such unconstitutional, unenforceable or invalid section, paragraph, sentence, clause or phrase. To this end, the provisions of this Ordinance are hereby declared severable.

**SECTION 4**

All other ordinances, or any parts thereof, which are in conflict with the provisions of this Ordinance are hereby repealed.

This above and foregoing Ordinance was introduced by **Mr. Bridges** who moved its adoption. The motion was seconded by **Mr. Pilgreen** and after having been considered by sections was adopted by sections and as a whole by the following YEA and NAY vote:

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

WHEREUPON, the Ordinance was declared duly adopted this 5<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2021.

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

s/ Johnny Buckley  
**JOHNNY BUCKLEY**  
**PRESIDENT**  
**UNION PARISH POLICE JURY**

A brief discussion was held regarding the application for the Local Government Assistant Program (LGAP) grant through the State. The maximum allocation available per parish is \$58,800. The jury can apply for those monies, but the monies are not guaranteed. The Jury is applying for monies to be used for the purchase of a Caterpillar 926M (front end loader). **Motion Mrs. Abercrombie, seconded by Mr. Bridges that the jury apply for the Local Government Assistant Program (LGAP) grant through the State and authorize the President and/or Secretary/Treasurer to execute all necessary documents. Any monies received will be used to purchase a Caterpillar 926M (front end loader). Motion carried unanimously.**

**Recommendations from the Personnel Committee:**

Mr. Ramsey reported that the Personnel Committee met earlier and no action was taken during the committee meeting.

**Recommendations from the Landfill Committee:**

The Landfill Committee met earlier and have the following recommendation:

**Motion Mr. Pilgreen, seconded by Mr. Bridges to contract with Delta Land Surveying for a drone survey of the Landfill and authorize the President to execute any necessary documents. Motion carried unanimously.**

In accordance with Ordinance 549, time for public comment was given. Mr. Bridges commented that the new motor graders have been delivered and should be operating this month.

**There being no further business to come before the Jury, the President declared the meeting adjourned upon motion by Mr. Ramsey, seconded by Mr. Nyegaard on this the 5<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2021.**

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

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