

REGULAR MEETING UNION PARISH POLICE JURY

**Farmerville, Louisiana
November 3rd, 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. Watley offered the invocation and Mr. Nyegaard 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.

Mrs. Abercrombie, District 8 Police Juror, addressed the public regarding the Sterlington Consolidated Sewer System. Mrs. Abercrombie found out that the West Sterlington Sewer System (including land and money) was transferred to the Town of Sterlington over a year ago. The Town of Sterlington is in the process of going up on the sewer rates. The current rate is \$25. The Town of Sterlington wanted to increase the rates to \$68.50. Mrs. Abercrombie went to the Town of Sterlington Town Council meeting and voiced her concerns regarding the drastic increase. The town council decided to increase the rate from \$25.00 to \$43.00. The rate increase should go into effect in December.

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

Motion Mr. Watley, seconded by Mr. Moses to adopt the minutes of the October 6th, 2020 regular meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

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

The CARES money has been received and deposited back into the funds from which the expenses originated. The Detention Center Fund received \$587,520.82, the Landfill Fund received \$104,948.72 and the General Fund received \$22,218.70. An additional application totaling approximately \$350,000 has also been filed.

The Green Oaks invoice to house juveniles was \$18,800. This was down \$5,800 from last month. The work release program at the Detention Center generated \$147,541.13 in income for the month of October. The Detention Center received \$190,642.51 for state inmates. As of today, there are 96 inmates participating in the work release program and a total of 366 inmates being housed at the Detention Center. Of those 366 inmates, 102 are parish/pretrial inmates.

The sales tax revenue for the month of October was \$224,056.39 and the tipping fees brought in \$128,799.52. The sales tax and tipping fee revenue are slightly above yearly projections. The Litter Court collected \$1,005 in fines and that total amount was distributed amongst the JP/Constables.

The 2021 proposed budget and the 2020 amended proposed budget will be presented to the Finance Committee on November 19th, 2020. There will be a public hearing on December 17th, 2020 @ 10:00 AM to discuss the budget and after the public hearing a meeting will be held to adopt the budget. The budget will be available for public inspection beginning November 20th, 2020.

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

Motion Mr. Bridges, seconded by Mr. Watley to open a public hearing regarding the proposed abandonment of Francis Creek Road in its entirety. Motion carried unanimously. President Buckley declared the public hearing open and asked the public if they had any comments relating to the road closure.

Mrs. Abercrombie addressed the public regarding the proposed Francis Creek Road closure. Mrs. Abercrombie stated that when the road closure was initially discussed she was under the impression that it was in Mr. Bridge's area. They share some areas in the Point region. Mrs. Abercrombie stated that she will not vote for this road closure because it has the potential to landlock the current owners. Mr. Bridges addressed the public and said that he is the one who approached the jury about the closure at the request of a Point land owner. Jerry Smith and Beverly Hearn addressed the jury in opposition to the closure of Francis Creek Road. Motion Mrs. Abercrombie, seconded by Mr. Bridges to close the public hearing. Motion carried unanimously. President Buckley declared the public hearing closed.

Motion Mrs. Abercrombie, seconded by Mr. Ramsey not to abandon Francis Creek Road from the Union Parish Police Jury Road Program. Francis Creek Road will remain in the Union Parish Police Jury Road Program. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion Mr. Nolan, seconded by Mr. Bridges to open a public hearing regarding the proposed abandonment of a portion of Tucker Road. Motion carried unanimously. President Buckley declared the public hearing open and asked the public if they had any comments relating to the road closure. Phillip Flurry and David Nutt spoke in opposition to the road closure. Motion Mr. Nolan, seconded by Mr. Ramsey to close the public hearing. Motion carried unanimously. President Buckley declared the public hearing closed.

Motion Mr. Watley, seconded by Mr. Nyegaard not to abandon a portion of Tucker Road from the Union Parish Police Jury Road Program. Tucker Road will remain in the Union Parish Police Jury Road Program. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion Mrs. Abercrombie, seconded by Mr. Nolan to reappoint Jill A. Hodge to the Rocky Branch Waterworks District Board for a five-year term beginning 1/1/2021 and ending 12/31/2025. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion Mr. Bridges, seconded by Mr. Ramsey to approve the Louisiana Compliance Questionnaire for the 2020 audit and authorize the President and Secretary/Treasurer to execute all necessary documents. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion Mr. Bridges, seconded by Mr. Watley to authorize the President to sign the 2020 audit engagement agreements (Union Parish Police Jury, Union Parish Detention Center and Union Parish Landfill) with the CPA firm of Bosch & Statham, LLC. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion Mr. Nyegaard, seconded by Mr. Nolan to authorize the President to sign the 2020 audit engagement agreement with the firm of Kenneth D. Folden and Co. CPA's to oversee the preparation of the Jury's financial statement and notes for the year ending December 31, 2020. Motion carried unanimously.

Insurance Committee Recommendations:

The Insurance Committee met in October and again in December. The committee was presented with three Blue Cross options. Vantage and United Health declined to provide a quote. The Police Jury Association's quote was higher than Blue Cross. **Motion Mrs. Abercrombie, seconded by Mr. Nolan to renew the current Blue Cross Blue Shield insurance plan in the amount of \$767.36 per employee and authorize the President and/or Secretary/Treasurer to execute any necessary documents. Motion carried unanimously.**

Landfill Committee Recommendations:

Motion Mr. Pilgreen, seconded by Mr. Bridges to charge tipping fees in the amount of \$19.35 a ton to The Trash Guys and reevaluate the amount in four weeks. Motion carried unanimously.

Recommendations from the Road Committee:

The Road Committee met on November 2 and discussed (1) future road programs; (2) hiring of Riley Company for the 2021 Road Program and (3) a minor issue with the Rocky Branch Road Bridge and repairs that could be forthcoming on it. **Motion Mr. Bridges, seconded by Mrs. Abercrombie to hire Riley Company for the 2021 Road Program and authorize the president to execute any necessary documents.**

Recommendations from the Personnel Committee:

Motion Mr. Ramsey, seconded by Mrs. Abercrombie to promote Danielle Smith to the Assistant Secretary/Treasurer position at a rate of \$15.00 per hour effective November 9th, 2020. Motion carried unanimously.

In accordance with Ordinance 549, time for public comment was given. There were no public comments.

There being no further business to come before the Jury, the President declared the meeting adjourned upon motion by Mr. Ramsey, seconded by Mr. Moses on this the 3rd day of November, 2020.

Paula Strickland

Paula Strickland, Secretary/Treasurer
Union Parish Police Jury

Johnny Buckley

Johnny Buckley, President
Union Parish Police Jury