

## REGULAR MEETING UNION PARISH POLICE JURY

Farmerville, Louisiana

March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022

**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 and Brenda Abercrombie. Absent: John Watley. Also present was Judith Hampton, Assistant District Attorney. The President called the session to order and welcomed all guests. Mr. Ramsey offered the invocation and Mr. Nolan led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.**

President Abercrombie 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. Nolan recognized Anna Claire Bridges. Anna Claire is the daughter of Ben and Ashley Bridges. Anna Claire is a senior at D'Arbonne Woods Charter School and was recently chosen as the Distinguished Young Woman of Louisiana and will compete at the national level this summer.

Mr. Buckley would like to recognize the passing of John Watley. Mr. Watley died peacefully at approximately 2:30 AM on March 1<sup>st</sup>. Mr. Watley was a good Christian man and a good family man. Mr. Watley was very active in his church.

**Motion Mr. Nolan, seconded by Mr. Ramsey and declared adopted by unanimous vote of the Jury to approve the agenda as written.**

**Motion Mr. Buckley, seconded by Mr. Bridges to adopt the minutes of the February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022 regular meeting with the following clarification:**

***Motion Mr. Bridges, seconded by Mr. Ramsey to change the Trash Guys in-parish dumping fees from \$0.00 to \$19.35 a ton; out-of-parish tipping fees will be reduced to \$27.03 effective March 1, 2022. Motion carried unanimously.***

**Motion carried unanimously.**

The Secretary/Treasurer presented the Budget to Actual Revenue and Expense report for the month of February 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 highlighted the Sales Tax Collection, Detention Center Fund and Litter Court Fund.

**Motion Mr. Nolan seconded by Mr. Bridges to adopt the Revenue and Expenditures Report for the month of February. Motion carried unanimously.**

Lynn Fontana, President of Union Humane Society, presented a presentation on behalf of the Humane Society. The Union Parish Humane Society was formed in 2008. Mrs. Fontana stated that the Union Parish Humane Society is the only private group in Union Parish that might be

able to construct and operate an animal shelter. Previously, a tax was proposed and it failed by just a few votes. Mrs. Fontana said the Humane Society receives money from donations and bingo. Mrs. Fontana requested that the jury reimburse \$100 per dog/cat that is rescued. The \$100 would go for the care and housing of stray, abandoned or abused animals. The Union Humane Society rescued 736 dogs/cats in 2020. Mrs. Hampton, Legal Counsel for the Jury, addressed Mrs. Fontana and suggested the Police Jury, Law Enforcement and any other entity who is contributing money to the Humane Society sit down and discuss what is needed. **No action taken.**

A brief discussion was held regarding Request for Proposals for an Ambulance Service in Union Parish. There has been a lot of discussion regarding the ambulance service in Union Parish. There have been several complaints regarding response time, lack of training with staff and not enough ambulances in our area. The Ambulance Committee (Abercrombie, Bridges and Moses) would like to send out a Request for Proposals. The Request for Proposals will be advertised in the official journal. Mr. Pilgreen questioned why this was being done. Mr. Pilgreen questioned that if another ambulance service wants to come into the parish then why aren't they here. Mr. Pilgreen stated that he has had the same complaints from an individual in Ouachita Parish that has Acadian Ambulance service. Mr. Pilgreen feels that nothing will be different in Union Parish. President Abercrombie said that there have been multiple issues raised about the quality of the service the parish is receiving. **Motion Mr. Bridges, seconded by Mr. Moses to authorize the Secretary/Treasurer to solicit Request for Proposals for an Ambulance Service in Union Parish. Motion carried with the following vote:**

| <b>MEMBERS:</b>           | <b>YEAS:</b> | <b>NAYS:</b> | <b>ABSENT:</b> | <b>ABSTAINING:</b> |
|---------------------------|--------------|--------------|----------------|--------------------|
| <b>Curtis Moses</b>       | <b>x</b>     |              |                |                    |
| <b>Nathan Pilgreen</b>    |              | <b>x</b>     |                |                    |
| <b>Dewayne Ramsey</b>     | <b>x</b>     |              |                |                    |
| <b>Johnny Buckley</b>     | <b>x</b>     |              |                |                    |
| <b>Ben Bridges</b>        | <b>x</b>     |              |                |                    |
| <b>Ceis Nyegaard</b>      | <b>x</b>     |              |                |                    |
| <b>L.W. Nolan</b>         | <b>x</b>     |              |                |                    |
| <b>Brenda Abercrombie</b> | <b>x</b>     |              |                |                    |
| <b>John W. Watley</b>     |              |              | <b>x</b>       |                    |
| <b>Motion carried.</b>    |              |              |                |                    |

The Secretary/Treasurer presented the contract for the Union Parish Courthouse Elevator Modernization Proposal by Schindler Elevator Company. The contract has been reviewed and approved by legal counsel. **Motion Mr. Nolan, seconded by Mr. Buckley to authorize the President to execute the contract with Schindler Elevator Company. Motion carried unanimously.**

The Secretary/Treasurer presented a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement between the Union Parish Police Jury and Sardis Water System. The CEA spells out the responsibilities of the parish and the water system for the LCDBG funds. The parish is responsible for the administration, implementation and making sure the payments are remitted. The jury shall retain ownership of the project, but not to exceed the amount of the grant funds. Sardis will operate and maintain the project. The water system will pay for all engineering and admin costs. The CEA has been

reviewed and approved by legal counsel. **Motion Mr. Buckley seconded by Mr. Bridges to authorize the president to execute the Cooperative Endeavor Agreement between the Union Parish Police Jury and Sardis Water System. Motion carried unanimously.**

**Recommendations from the Personnel Committee:**

Mr. Pilgreen, Personnel Committee Chairman, reported that the Personnel Committee met on February 15, February 22 and March 1<sup>st</sup>. **Motion Mr. Pilgreen, seconded by Mr. Ramsey to adopt the Road/Landfill pay scale with changes being made to the CDL Drivers, Mechanic/Welder, Foreman and Superintendent effective March 7<sup>th</sup>, 2022.**

**Motion Mr. Pilgreen, seconded by Mr. Bridges to authorize a three percent (3%) raise for Police Jury Employees effective March 7<sup>th</sup>, 2022 excluding CDL Drivers, Mechanics/Welders, Road Foremen, Public Works Director, Cook (Landfill), Jonkheer (Landfill), Maples (Landfill), Branton (Landfill), Bentz (Landfill) and Dixson (HUD). The excluded employees have recently received a raise or were hired at a higher rate of pay. Motion carried unanimously.**

**Motion Mr. Pilgreen, seconded by Mr. Moses to add the following language to the Vehicle Usage Policy: “Vehicles are for work use only.” Motion carried unanimously.**

**Recommendations from the Landfill Committee:**

Mr. Bridges, Landfill Committee Chairman, reported that the Landfill Committee met earlier today and have the following recommendations:

Mr. Bridges reported that bids were opened on February 22, 2022 @ 10:00AM for a Tarp Deployment System with tarps. One bid was received in the amount of \$46,522.28 from Southwestern Sales Co. **Motion Mr. Bridges, seconded by Mr. Nolan to accept the bid from Southwestern Sales Co. in the amount of \$46,522.28 and authorize the Secretary/Treasurer to finalize the purchase. Motion carried unanimously.**

Mr. Bridges reported that bids were opened on February 22, 2022 @ 10:00 AM for a used Excavator. Two bids were received. Doggett submitted a bid in the amount of \$190,000. Scott Equipment submitted a bid in the amount of \$138,600. **Motion Mr. Bridges, seconded by Mr. Nolan to accept the lowest bid from Scott Equipment in the amount of \$138,600 and authorize the Secretary/Treasurer to finalize the purchase. Motion carried unanimously.**

Mr. Bridges also reported that there was a discussion regarding manhole cleaning, but no action was taken on that item. The manhole cleaning will be discussed during the April Landfill meeting.

**Recommendations from the Road Committee:**

Mr. Ramsey, Road Committee Chairman, reported that the Road Committee met earlier and have the following recommendations.

**Motion Mr. Ramsey, seconded by Mr. Buckley to approve the Three-Year Road Program Capital Improvement Plan for years 2022, 2023 and 2024.**

**Year 1 – 2022**

|                              |                  |
|------------------------------|------------------|
| <b>Littleleton Loop Road</b> | <b>1.3 miles</b> |
| <b>Wes Wilhite Road</b>      | <b>1.8 miles</b> |
| <b>Hudson Road</b>           | <b>2.1 miles</b> |
| <b>Scotts Hideaway Road</b>  | <b>3.1 miles</b> |

**Year 2 – 2023**

**To Be Determined by Next Priority List**

**Year 3 – 2024**

**To Be Determined by Next Priority List**

**Motion carried unanimously.**

**Motion Mr. Ramsey, seconded by Mr. Bridges to hire Riley and Company for the 2022 Union Parish Road Program. Motion carried unanimously.**

**Motion Mr. Ramsey, seconded by Mr. Buckley to adopt the following Annual Road Capital Improvement Policy for years 2023, 2024 and 2025.**

**UNION PARISH POLICE JURY  
ANNUAL ROAD CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS POLICY  
ADOPTED  
March 1, 2022  
FOR YEARS 2023, 2024, 2025**

1. Every three years the Parish will, using the priority rating scheme approved by the Police Jury, assign a priority rating number to each parish road or section of road.
2. Two groups of priority rating lists will be compiled every third year. One group will apply to capital improvements for existing gravel roads (non-paved roads). The other group will apply to capital improvements for existing asphalt or concrete roads (hard surfaced roads). The existing gravel group has one list. Existing Hard Surfaced roads are split up into two categories: Primary Blacktop list and Secondary Blacktop list. Primary Blacktop Roads consist of roads with an ADT greater than or equal to 150 vehicles per day and/or is over one mile long. If the road is over one mile long, it is automatically on the Primary list. If the road has under 150 vehicles a day and is under one mile long, then it will be on the Secondary list.
3. The Police Jury will, each year, based upon available funding and need, designate the division and amount of funds to be used for existing gravel roads and for existing hard surfaced roads. The Police Jury will, each year, determine the amount of funds to be used for each of the three lists. The Jury will create a three-year plan but will re-evaluate the plan after each year and revise the three-year plan each year as needed.
4. In order to equally distribute capital improvements projects throughout the Parish due to limited funds, no more than four miles of new hard surface will be constructed in any one year on any existing gravel road, and no more than four miles will be constructed on any one road in any one year on any existing hard surface road. The mileage limitation can

be increased by the Police Jury if required to reach a desired stopping point, upon Engineer's or Road Superintendent recommendation.

5. This policy applies only to self-generated parish funds and to the State Road Fund funds. Any special project for which State, Federal, or outside funding is earmarked will not be a part of this procedure, and any such road can be skipped on the priority list pending construction by such designated funding. Such road with out of parish funds can skip roads above it in the priority list.

**Year 1 – 2022**

|                             |                  |
|-----------------------------|------------------|
| <b>Littleton Loop Road</b>  | <b>1.3 miles</b> |
| <b>Wes Wilhite Road</b>     | <b>1.8 miles</b> |
| <b>Hudson Road</b>          | <b>2.1 miles</b> |
| <b>Scotts Hideaway Road</b> | <b>3.1 miles</b> |

**Year 2 – 2023**

**To Be Determined by Next Priority List**

**Year 3 – 2024**

**To Be Determined by Next Priority List**

**WHEREUPON**, the motion was declared duly adopted by unanimous vote of the Jury this the 1<sup>st</sup> day of March, 2022.

ATTEST:

s/ Paula Strickland  
Paula Strickland, Secretary-Treasurer  
Union Parish Police Jury

s/ Brenda Abercrombie  
Brenda Abercrombie, President  
Union Parish Police Jury

**CERTIFICATE**

**STATE OF LOUISIANA  
PARISH OF UNION**

I, **Paula 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 March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022 at which meeting a quorum was present. Given under my Official Signature and Seal of Office on this the \_\_\_\_ day of March 2022.

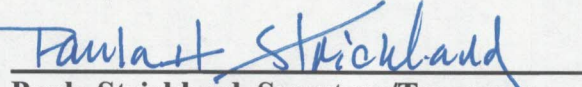
s/ Paula Strickland  
Paula Strickland  
Secretary/Treasurer  
Police Jury of Union Parish, Louisiana

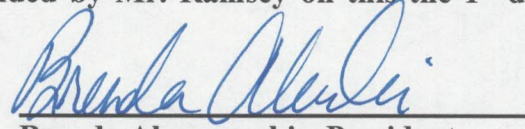
**Motion Mr. Ramsey, seconded by Mr. Bridges to lease two (2) 2023 Mack P164T Trucks from Bruckner Truck Sales, Inc. and authorize the President to execute any necessary documents. Motion carried unanimously.**

**Motion Mr. Ramsey, seconded by Mr. Pilgreen to authorize Riley and Company to pursue an application for the Federal Lands Access Program (FLAP) and authorize the President to execute any necessary documents.**

In accordance with Ordinance 549, time for public comment was given. No one registered for public comments.

**There being no further business to come before the Jury, the President declared the meeting adjourned upon motion by Mr. Buckley, seconded by Mr. Ramsey on this the 1<sup>st</sup> day of March, 2022.**

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

  
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**Brenda Abercrombie, President  
Union Parish Police Jury**