

**FINANCE COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF MEETING
March 7th, 2023
5:00 P.M.**

Present: DeWayne Ramsey, Curtis Moses, Johnny Buckley and L.W. Nolan. Also present: Ben Bridges, Ceis Nyegaard, Nathan Pilgreen, A.J. Ford, Brenda Abercrombie, Tommy Durrett, Johnny Creed, Shannon Futch, Tammy Ramsey and Lynn Ramsey.

Mr. Ramsey called the meeting to order. Mr. Nolan led the group in prayer.

Motion Mr. Nolan, seconded by Mr. Buckley and declared adopted by unanimous Roll Call vote to approve the agenda as written.

Motion Mr. Moses, seconded by Mr. Buckley to approve the minutes of the February 7th, 2023 meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion Mr. Buckley, seconded by Mr. Nolan to recommend to the full jury to purchase two (2) John Deere 5060E Tractors and two (2) John Deere 520M Loaders in the amount of \$46,509.31 each. Both of these items are on state contract. The funds to pay for these tractors and loaders will be paid for out of the ARPA funds pending approval through the ARPA Committee. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion Mr. Nolan, seconded by Mr. Moses to recommend to the full jury to authorize the Secretary/Treasurer to advertise for the purchase of an Oil Tanker Truck. Motion carried unanimously.

A brief discussion was held regarding moving forward with a grant for Homeland Security for an office/warehouse. Shannon has been working with Representative Chris Turner to secure funding for a Homeland Security warehouse/office space. The proposed facility would be located next to the Union Parish Sheriff's Office. The Union Parish Police Jury owns four (4) acres next to the Union Parish Sheriff's Office. Those four acres were purchased with restricted funds. An appraisal would have to be done for an accurate land value and then those restricted funds would have to be paid back. Mr. Bridges stated that it might have a negative impact with the public if they realize that the Health Unit fund was not reimbursed for the full amount even with a current appraised value. Mr. Ramsey stated that the warehouse does not have to be built on that land, but other land could be pursued. **Motion Mr. Moses, seconded by Mr. Buckley to recommend to the full jury to move forward on a grant for a Homeland Security Warehouse/Office and authorize the President to execute any necessary documents. Motion carried unanimously.**

A brief discussion was held concerning the former West Sterlington Sewer District. The West Sterlington Sewer District was turned over to the Town of Sterlington via a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement in January of 2018. Since that time the new mayor has threatened to increase the sewer rates to a \$72.00 minimum. Research had previously been done on the steps needed to move forward with getting the sewer system back. **Motion Mr. Buckley, seconded by Mr. Moses to recommend to the full jury to authorize the Secretary/Treasurer to move forward with the creation of a Sewer District in District 8. Motion carried unanimously.**

There being no more business to come before the committee, Mr. Ramsey declared the meeting adjourned upon motion by Mr. Buckley and duly seconded by Mr. Moses on this the 7th day of March, 2023.

DeWayne Ramsey, Chairman
Paula Strickland, Secretary/Treasurer