

REGULAR MEETING UNION PARISH POLICE JURY

Farmerville, Louisiana
April 4th, 2023

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 Andrew Ford, Jr. Absent: None. Also present was James Buckley, Assistant District Attorney. The President called the session to order and welcomed all guests. Mr. Nolan offered the invocation and President Abercrombie led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

President Abercrombie welcomed everyone to the meeting. President Abercrombie 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.

The Secretary/Treasurer asked that the jury remember the family of Brenda Butcher. Mrs. Butcher recently passed away and lived in District 6.

The Secretary/Treasurer also asked that the jury remember the family of Barbara Buckley Yarborough. Mrs. Yarborough recently passed away. She was the sister of Police Juror Johnny Buckley.

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

Motion Mr. Buckley, seconded by Mr. Ford to adopt the minutes of the March 7th, 2023 regular meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

The Secretary/Treasurer presented the Budget to Actual Revenue and Expense report for the month of March 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 General Fund, Road Fund, Sales Tax Collection, and Detention Center Fund. The Secretary/Treasurer also reported on interfund transfers and gave a status update on the reimbursement request for the Loch Lomond Pipe Replacement Project.

The Secretary/Treasurer gave a brief report on the payment to the Landfill Assurance Trust Account and how those figures were calculated. The payment to the Landfill Assurance Trust Account is based on the remaining life of the landfill. To calculate remaining life, you divide the remaining airspace by the airspace used per year. The Landfill Assurance Trust Account will be used for closure costs. These funds are restricted funds and can only be used for that purpose. Post closure care of the Landfill Cell will last for thirty (30) years after the date of the closure. Final cover shall be a minimum of twenty-four (24) inches thick and maintained; leachate collection system shall be maintained; sampling shall be maintained and post closure monitoring reports.

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

Motion Mr. Nolan, seconded by Mr. Bridges to open a public hearing regarding the proposed abandonment of Buffalo Landing Road in its entirety from the Union Parish Road System. Motion carried unanimously. President Abercrombie declared the public hearing open and asked the public if they had any comments relating to the road closure.

Tim Hicks spoke in favor of keeping Buffalo Landing Road open. Mr. Hicks presented maintenance records he obtained through the Road Department. Mr. Hicks stated that he went to the Union Parish Assessor, Lance Futch, and obtained a map of the Buffalo Landing Road. On the map there is a disclaimer that states the following: “This map should be used for reference purposes only and should not be considered a legal document.” Mr. Hicks also produced the Union Parish Police Jury Road Priority List. The Priority List has Buffalo Landing Road ending at Bayou DeLoutre. Mr. Hicks has contacted Tulane Law Institute regarding a potential lawsuit if the road is closed.

Freddie Franklin spoke in favor of keeping Buffalo Landing Road open. Mr. Franklin provided a petition signed by 164 Union Parish residents in favor of keeping the Buffalo landing Road open.

Motion Mr. Nolan, seconded by Mr. Ramsey to close the public hearing. Motion carried unanimously. President Abercrombie declared the public hearing closed.

Motion Mr. Ramsey, seconded by Mr. Moses to abandon Buffalo Landing Road in its entirety from the Union Parish Police Jury Road System. Motion failed with the following Roll Call Vote:

MEMBERS:	YES TO CLOSE	NO TO CLOSE
Curtis Moses	x	
Nathan Pilgreen		x
Dewayne Ramsey	x	
Johnny Buckley		x
Ben Bridges		x
Ceis Nyegaard		x
L.W. Nolan		x
Brenda Abercrombie	x	
A.J. Ford	x	

Motion failed.

Minor Patton addressed the jury regarding the ARKLA Bass Tournament. Terry Morris was also present for the discussion. The tournament will be held on October 12, 13 and 14th. Motion Mr. Ramsey, seconded by Mr. Buckley to contribute \$3,750 to the ARKLA Bass Tournament in 2023; the jury will be contributing with the Town of Farmerville, Union Parish Chamber of Commerce and the Union Parish Tourist Commission. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion Mr. Moses, seconded by Mr. Ford to authorize travel to Baton Rouge for 2023 Legislative Day to be held on May 17th, 2023. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion Mr. Pilgreen, seconded by Mr. Bridges to authorize travel for the Secretary/Treasurer and staff to attend the Organization of Parish Administrative Officials Conference in Shreveport on July 26th through July 28th, 2023. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion Mr. Moses, seconded by Mr. Ford to allow the Farmerville Jaycees the use of the Courthouse parking lot on Friday, July 28th and Saturday, July 29th for the 60th Annual Louisiana Watermelon Festival. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion Mr. Moses, seconded by Mr. Ford to allow the use of the Courthouse parking lot on Saturday April 8th for a peaceful protest to remember Ronald Greene. Motion carried with the following vote:

YEAS: Moses, Pilgreen, Ramsey, Buckley, Nyegaard, Nolan, Abercrombie and Ford

NAYS: Bridges

Recommendations from the Road Department

Mr. Nyegaard reported that the Road Committee met earlier at 3:00 PM. The Road Committee has three recommendations.

Motion Mr. Nyegaard, seconded by Mr. Moses to assist the Town of Bernice with the removal of large trees from Second/Elm Street and Elm/Church Street; replace culverts on Vine Street, Eighth Street and Cedar Street with the Town of Bernice paying for the cost of the materials. Work will be performed as time allows. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion Mr. Moses, seconded by Mr. Ford to authorize travel for the Public Works Director and Road employee to attend the Louisiana Parish Engineers & Supervisors Association at the Cypress Bayou Casino Hotel on May 3 and May 4, 2023. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion Mr. Nyegaard, seconded by Mr. Buckley to authorize the Public Works Director to compile a list of Road Equipment needed for Senator Cathey. Motion carried unanimously.

Recommendations from the Landfill Department

Mr. Bridges reported that the Landfill Committee met earlier at 4:00 PM. The Landfill Committee has two recommendations. Mr. Bridges also gave a brief update on various ongoing Landfill projects.

Motion Mr. Bridges, seconded by Mr. Pilgreen to lease software and equipment with GPS capabilities from SiTech pending legal approval. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Bridges provided an update for the following items:

- Compactor bids were received last month. Those bids were taken under advisement pending further research.
- TOF/Leachate – The jury should be able to move forward mid to late summer with the connection from the Landfill to Lift Station Number 10.
- Pole Barn Update – The Pole Barn at the Road Department is complete. The Pole Barn at the Landfill should be completed next week provided there are no weather delays. The Pole Barn at the Landfill will also be the tire changing barn.
- Trash Trucks – The rental front load garbage truck should be here next week.

Motion Mr. Bridges, seconded by Mr. Nolan to authorize the Public Works Director to pursue the best option to repair the dozier in an amount up to \$90,000. Motion carried unanimously.

Recommendations from the Personnel Committee

Mr. Buckley reported that the Personnel Committee met at 5:00 PM. The Personnel Committee has two recommendations.

Motion Mr. Buckley, seconded by Mr. Pilgreen to hire Christopher Brantley for full-time employment at the Road Department with his time being counted back to his original hire date of January 9th, 2023. His full-time status is effective April 10th, 2023 and at that time he is eligible for all police jury benefits including retirement, insurance, vacation, sick leave and holiday pay. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion Mr. Buckley, seconded by Mr. Ramsey to hire James Alan Ates for full-time employment at the Road Department with his time being counted back to his original hire date of December 28th, 2022. His full-time status is effective April 10th, 2023 and at that time he is eligible for all police jury benefits including retirement, insurance, vacation, sick leave and holiday pay. Motion carried unanimously.

In accordance with Ordinance 549, time for public comment was given.

Mary-Louisa McMahan (147 Hummingbird Lane) and Analiese Towns (Marion) addressed the jury regarding the school renewal tax on April 29th, 2023.

Lee Fulton, 2202 Redwood Drive, Monroe, addressed the jury regarding Dan Acree Road and a recent motorcycle accident he was involved in.

Johnny Creed, 7354 Highway 550 Spearsville, addressed the jury regarding recent public records requests.

Steve Randall, 1600 Terral Island Farmerville, addressed the jury concerning speed bumps on Terral Island Road.

Jon McKinnie, Union Parish Chamber of Commerce, addressed the jury about upcoming area local events.

There being no further business to come before the Jury, the President declared the meeting adjourned upon motion by Mr. Ramsey, seconded by Mr. Ford on this the 4th day of April, 2023.

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

s/ Brenda Abercrombie
BRENDA ABERCROMBIE
PRESIDENT
UNION PARISH POLICE JURY