

REGULAR MEETING UNION PARISH POLICE JURY

Farmerville, Louisiana
August 1st, 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 A.J. Ford, Jr. Absent: None. Also present was James Buckley, Assistant District Attorney. The President called the session to order and welcomed all guests. Mr. Ford offered the invocation and Mrs. 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 announced that there would be a Special Meeting on Tuesday, September 26th @ 6:00 PM for the Union Parish Assessor's Board of Review.

Johnny Creed, 7354 Highway 550, Spearsville, addressed the jury concerning the Finance Committee Recommendations. Mr. Creed urged the jurors to do what is best for the people of this parish.

Motion Mr. Buckley, seconded by Mr. Ford and declared adopted by unanimous vote of the Jury to approve the agenda with the following addition:

#16 – Discuss and take action, if necessary, on request from Tommy Carr.

Motion Mr. Nolan, seconded by Mr. Ford to adopt the minutes of the July 11th, 2023 regular meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

The Secretary/Treasurer presented the Budget to Actual Revenue and Expense report for the month of July 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 gave a brief update on how many Public Records Requests had been received.

The Secretary/Treasurer reported on the interfund transfers that had been made for the month of July. There was a total of three transfers that were approved during the 2023 budget process.

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

Sam Lemoine with Broadband Services, LLC addressed the jury regarding internet in the rural areas of Union Parish. Mr. Lemoine is a partner in Broadband Services, LLC and the goal is to provide uninterrupted internet to the rural areas of Union Parish. The system his company uses is a CBRS system with a fiber run connected to the tower site then broadcast point-to-point to homes/offices from their equipment. There will be no long-term contract and the customer will be able to cancel at any time. **No action taken on Mr. Lemoine's presentation.**

President Brenda Abercrombie authorized the payment and distribution of the 2022-2023 Two Percent (2%) Fire Protection Rebate checks based on the parish’s population as compiled by the Louisiana State University and Agriculture and Mechanical College Agriculture Center, Department of Agricultural Economics and Agribusiness. For the districts that had a representative attending this meeting, the representative was given the district's check by the juror representing the fire district. The amounts of the checks are shown below:

Fire Protection District	LA 2% Rebate
Junction City Volunteer Fire Department	\$5,634.63
Lillie Volunteer Fire Department	\$1,827.39
Spearsville Volunteer Fire Department	\$9,362.94
Ward 5 Volunteer Fire Department	\$18,133.01
Farmerville Volunteer Fire Department	\$31,433.22
Marion Volunteer Fire Department	\$4,743.78
Bernice Volunteer Fire Department	\$16,118.31
Rocky Branch/Crossroads	\$10,155.51
Spencer-West Sterlington Volunteer Fire Department	\$5,146.25
Northeast Union Fire District	\$16,093.54
North Union Fire District	\$4,991.46
Sadie-Tiger Bend Fire District	\$13,740.62
TOTAL	\$137,380.66

Motion Mr. Ramsey, seconded by Mr. Nolan to grant a Quietus on the 2022 Tax Roll. Motion carried unanimously.

The following resolution was offered by Mr. Buckley and seconded by Mr. Ford:

RESOLUTION 2023-06

ANNUAL CERTIFICATION OF COMPLIANCE WITH STATE OF LOUISIANA OFF SYSTEM BRIDGE REPLACEMENT PROGRAM

WHEREAS, the Code of Federal Regulations as enacted by the United States Congress mandates that all structures defined as bridges located on all public roads shall be inspected, rated for safe load capacity and posted in accordance with the National Bridge Inspection Standards and that an inventory of these bridges be maintained by each state; and

WHEREAS, the responsibility to inspect, rate and load post these bridges under the authority of Union Parish in accordance with those Standards is delegated by Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development to Union Parish,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the governing authority of Union Parish that the Parish in regular meeting assembled does hereby certify to the Louisiana Department of

Transportation and Development (herein referred to as the DOTD) that for a period **October 1, 2022 through September 30, 2023**: The Parish has performed all interim inspections on all Parish owned or maintained bridges in accordance with the National Bridge Inspection Standards.

All bridges owned and maintained by the Parish have been structurally analyzed and rated by the parish as to the safe load capacity in accordance with AASHTO Manual for Maintenance Inspection of Bridges. The load posting information that has been determined by the LA DOTD for all bridges where the maximum legal load under Louisiana State law exceeds the load permitted under the operating rating as determined above has been critically reviewed by the Parish. Load posting information has been updated by the Parish. Load Posting information has been updated by the Parish to reflect all structural changes, any obsolete structural ratings or any missing structural ratings.

All Parish owned or maintained bridges which require load posting or closing are load posted or closed in accordance with the table in the DOTD Engineering Directives and Standard Manual Directive No. 1.1.1.8. All DOTD supplied load posting information concerning a bridge has been critically reviewed by the Parish Engineer prior to load posting.

All bridges owned or maintained by the Parish are shown on the attached list in the format specified by the DOTD. Corrections to data supplied to the Parish by the LA DOTD are noted.

Roll Call Vote:

MEMBERS:	YEAS	NAYS	ABSENT	ABSTAINING
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, JR.	x			

WHEREUPON, the motion was declared duly adopted by unanimous vote of the Jury this the 1st day of August, 2023.

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

s/ Brenda Abercrombie
BRENDA ABERCROMBIE
PRESIDENT
UNION PARISH POLICE JURY

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 August 1st, 2023 at which meeting a quorum was present. Given under my official Signature and Seal of Office on this the 1st day of August, 2023.

s/ Paula H. Strickland

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

Recommendations from the Personnel Committee.

The Personnel Committee met on July 18th to discuss the Section 8 Director position. The Personnel Committee also met earlier today and have several recommendations.

Motion Mr. Buckley, seconded by Mr. Ramsey to make an addendum to the Personnel Policy that states the following: “*The retirement probationary period will be waived if an employee transfers from an entity that participates in the same retirement system.*” Motion carried unanimously.

Motion Mr. Buckley, seconded by Mr. Moses to hire Veronica Evans as the Section 8 Director with a starting date of August 7th, 2023 and an hourly rate of \$16.00. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion Mr. Buckley, seconded by Mr. Moses to hire Felix Elliott for full-time employment at the Road Department with his time being counted back to his original hire date of May 22, 2023. His full-time status is effective August 21st, 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. Moses to hire Richard Scarborough for full-time employment at the Road Department with his time being counted back to his original hire date of May 28th, 2023. His full-time status is effective August 28th, 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. Nolan to make an addendum to the Personnel Policy that states the following: “*Exempt employees shall not be paid overtime. Exempt employees may accumulate a maximum of ten (10) days of compensatory time in lieu of receiving overtime pay. All compensatory time must be approved by employees’ immediate supervisor. Compensatory time cannot be rolled over from one calendar year to another; accumulated time elapses on December 31 of each year.*” Motion carried unanimously.

Recommendations from the Finance Committee.

The Finance Committee met on Monday, July 31st to hear presentations from Louisiana National Bank and Origin Bank.

A lengthy discussion was held regarding the proposals from Louisiana National Bank and Origin Bank. President Abercrombie stated that she had been leaning towards a 5% rate (Louisiana National Bank) which would possibly end in December and then go down to a 2.2% rate. President Abercrombie further stated that after careful consideration she is now considering a 5.13% rate (Origin Bank) that will stay at that rate for a guaranteed 18 months. President Abercrombie then stated that an email from Louisiana National Bank with a 5.25% offer was received today.

Their original proposal was 5% which adjusts with the Federal Fund rate. It would change to a lower rate after December.

Mr. Bridges spoke next and said the sole responsibility for overseeing the interest is on the nine (9) jurors. The responsibility is not with Mrs. Strickland nor with origin bank, but with the nine jurors. Mr. Bridges stated that the nine jurors did not do the due diligence. It was overlooked due to the covid crisis, loan rates, etc. It was strictly overlooked. Mr. Bridges further stated that it is not necessary to punish a bank when they are not at fault. Mr. Bridges said that he does not feel that Origin has caused any ethical, illegal or immoral issue. The jury just missed it. Origin is taking blame when the blame is not necessarily placed on them. The jury takes full responsibility for overlooking this.

Mr. Ramsey spoke next and said he would not expect Louisiana National Bank nor Origin to pick up anything that is lost. Mr. Ramsey stated that the jury needs to pick up and move forward and do what is best for the people of Union Parish.

Motion Mr. Bridges, seconded by Mr. Pilgreen to continue banking with Origin Bank. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion Mr. Ramsey, seconded by Mr. Buckley to table the discussion of the Sales Tax Fund transfer to LAMP. Motion carried unanimously.

Recommendations from the Landfill Committee.

The Landfill Committee met earlier today and have two recommendations.

Mr. Bridges stated that the Union Parish Sanitary Landfill permit was approved last month. The Landfill Engineer would like to make some changes to the operating permit. These changes will be major and minor modifications. The estimate for modifications is approximately \$8,000. **Motion Mr. Bridges, seconded by Mr. Pilgreen to authorize FDAE to move forward with the Union Parish Sanitary Landfill Permit modifications and authorize the President to execute any necessary documents. Motion carried unanimously.**

Motion Mr. Bridges, seconded by Mr. Buckley to accept the bid from Louisiana Cat for a used 2016 Cat 730C2 Off Road Truck in the amount of \$127,500 with an extended warranty in the amount of \$20,016. The total cost for the Off-Road Truck and warranty is \$147,516.00. Motion carried unanimously.

Recommendations from the Road Committee.

The Secretary/Treasurer reported that the Road Committee met earlier and have four recommendations.

The Secretary/Treasurer reported that bids for the 2023 Union Parish Police Jury Road Program were opened on July 20th, 2023. There was only one (1) bid received from Dreher Contracting, LLC. Dreher submitted a bid in the amount of \$830,347.00. The Roads for the 2023 Union Parish Police Jury Road Program will consist of the following:

- **Patrick Church Road** **2.9 miles**
- **Chapman Road** **4.1 miles**
- **Garland Gin Road** **0.4 miles**

Motion Mr. Pilgreen, seconded by Mr. Nyegaard to accept the only bid from Dreher Contracting, LLC in the amount of \$830,347.00 and authorize the President to execute any necessary documents. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion Mr. Pilgreen, seconded by Mr. Nyegaard to authorize the Secretary/Treasurer to advertise for a partial road deletion of Haile Loop Road. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion Mr. Nyegaard, seconded by Mr. Ford to authorize the annexation of the following property to the Town of Farmerville:

- **Portion of Hudson Road, southeast of the VFW property further described as the following: All of the Hudson Road ROW from the intersection of the North ROW of LA Highway 828 and Hudson Road N 62°40'49: E 200 feet, Union Parish, Louisiana.**

Motion carried unanimously.

Motion Mr. Buckley, seconded by Mr. Nolan to purchase a boom and dipper in an amount up to \$20,000 from Bayou Kubota. Motion carried unanimously.

Tommy Carr, Zion Hill Community Outreach Ministries Back to School, has an event scheduled on August 12th, 2023 from 9 AM to 12 PM. Any funds received will go towards the purchase of backpacks for school aged children. **No action taken.**

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

Joe Watson, 966 Clellan Bryan Road, addressed the Jury regarding Clellan Bryan Road, why a mile was zipped up, why gravel has not been put down, why the road was not on the list to be repaired and when would some type of resurface be put back down.

Carroll Cook, 129 Bobby Smith Road, addressed the Jury regarding potholes and the process to get them fixed.

Michelle Bryan, 308 Wildwood, addressed the Jury regarding Keep Union Beautiful and a possible donation of \$1,500 for the water ways cleanup (September 16th, 2023).

Jackie Hill, 3728 Highway 15, Spearsville, addressed the Jury regarding placing silhouettes on the Courthouse lawn for National Domestic Violence Awareness and Prevention Month (October).

Johnny Creed, 7354 Highway 550, Spearsville, addressed the Jury regarding Public Records Request and the Origin Bank decision.

There being no further business to come before the Jury, the President declared the meeting adjourned upon motion by Mr. Buckley, seconded by Mr. Nolan on this the 1st day of August, 2023.

s/ Paula H. Strickland

PAULA H. STRICKLAND
SECRETARY-TREASURER
UNION PARISH POLICE JURY

s/ Brenda Abercrombie

BRENDA ABERCROMBIE
PRESIDENT
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