

REGULAR MEETING UNION PARISH POLICE JURY

**Farmerville, Louisiana
September 5th, 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: Nathan Pilgreen, DeWayne Ramsey, Johnny Buckley, Ben Bridges, Ceis Nyegaard, L.W. Nolan, Brenda Abercrombie and A.J. Ford, Jr. Absent: Curtis Moses. Also present was James Buckley, Assistant District Attorney. The President called the session to order and welcomed all guests. Mr. Pilgreen offered the invocation and Mr. Nolan 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.

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

#22 – Discuss and take action, if necessary, regarding Scotts Hideaway Road

Motion Mr. Ford, seconded by Mr. Buckley and declared open by unanimous roll call vote of the Jury to open a public hearing concerning proposed projects for the FY 2023/2024 LCDBG Program. President Abercrombie declared a public hearing in session to discuss the proposed projects and necessary requirements for the LCDBG Program. Laura Hartt addressed the Jury regarding criteria and the amount of funding. No other comments were made. Motion Mr. Ford, seconded by Mr. Ramsey and declared adopted by unanimous roll call vote of the Jury to close the public hearing.

Motion Mr. Nolan, seconded by Mr. Ford to adopt the minutes of the August 1st, 2023 regular meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Ramsey stated that the Secretary/Treasurer presented the Budget to Actual Revenue and Expense report for the month of August during the Finance Committee meeting, which was held earlier. **Motion Mr. Ramsey, seconded by Mr. Buckley to adopt the Revenue and Expenditures Report for the month of August. Motion carried unanimously.**

The following resolution was offered by Mr. Pilgreen and duly seconded by Mr. Nolan:

RESOLUTION 2023-07

A resolution approving the holding of an election in Northeast Union Fire District, Union Parish, Louisiana, on Saturday, November 18, 2023, to authorize the levy of a special tax therein.

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners of Northeast Union Fire District, Union Parish, Louisiana (the "Governing Authority"), acting as the governing authority of Northeast Union Fire District, Union Parish, Louisiana (the "District"), plans to adopt a resolution on September 11, 2023, calling a special election in the District on Saturday, November 18, 2023, to authorize the levy of a special tax therein; and

WHEREAS, the governing authority of the District has requested that this Police Jury, acting as the governing authority of the Parish of Union, State of Louisiana, give its consent and authority for the District to hold the aforesaid election, and in the event that the election carries to levy and collect the special tax provided for therein; and

WHEREAS, as required by Article VI, Section 15 of the Constitution of the State of Louisiana of 1974, it is now the desire of this Police Jury to approve the holding of said election and in the event that the election carries, to levy and collect the special tax provided for therein;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Police Jury of the Parish of Union, State of Louisiana, acting as the governing authority of said Parish, that:

SECTION 1. In compliance with the provisions of Article VI, Section 15 of the constitution of the State of Louisiana of 1974, and in accordance with the request of the Board of Commissioners of Northeast Union Fire District, Union Parish, Louisiana, this Police Jury hereby approves the holding of an election in the District, on Saturday, November 18, 2023, at which election there will be submitted the following proposition, to-wit:

**PROPOSITION
(MILLAGE)**

Shall Northeast Union Fire District, Union Parish, Louisiana (the "District"), levy a special tax of 10 mills on all the property subject to taxation in the District (an estimated \$97,000 reasonably expected at this time to be collected from the levy of the tax for an entire year), for a period of 10 years, beginning with the year 2024 and ending with the year 2033, for the purpose of acquiring, constructing, improving, maintaining and/or operating fire protection facilities and equipment in and for the District and paying the cost of obtaining water for fire protection purposes?

SECTION 2. In the event the election carries, this Police Jury does hereby further consent to and authorize the District to levy and collect the special tax provided for therein.

This resolution having been submitted to a vote; the vote thereon was as follows:

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			
Andrew Ford, Jr.	x			

And the resolution was declared adopted on this, the 5th day of September, 2023.

s/ Paula H. Strickland
Secretary/Treasurer
Union Parish Police Jury

s/ Brenda Abercrombie
President
Union Parish Police Jury

STATE OF LOUISIANA
PARISH OF UNION

I, the undersigned Secretary-Treasurer of the Police Jury of the Parish of Union, State of Louisiana, do hereby certify that the foregoing pages constitute a true and correct copy of a resolution adopted by said Police Jury on September 5, 2023, approving the holding of an election in Northeast Union Fire District, Union Parish, Louisiana, to authorize the levy of a special tax therein.

IN FAITH WHEREOF, witness my official signature at Farmerville, Louisiana, on this, the ____ day of September, 2023.

s/ Paula H. Strickland
Paula H. Strickland
Secretary/Treasurer
Union Parish Police Jury

The Secretary/Treasurer addressed the jury with the request from Village of Junction City. The Village of Junction City is requesting assistance with mowing at the following locations:

- Pecan/Peach Street
- Sewer Pond/4th Street
- Front half of Railroad Street
- East 3rd @ dumpsters
- Corner S Oak and 7th Street
- New Water Well
- Rock Island Street

The Public Works Director reminded the jury that they previously rejected the Town of Bernice’s request for bush hogging.

Motion Mr. Ford, seconded by Mr. Buckley to perform the work requested as time allows. Motion failed with the following 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			
Andrew Ford, Jr.	x			

The vote was 4 YEAS, 4 NAYS and 1 ABSENT. Motion failed due to a tie vote.

Motion Mr. Pilgreen, seconded by Mr. Nyegaard to approve the Town of Marion’s request to purchase one load of cold mix. Motion carried unanimously.

The following Ordinance was offered by Mr. Pilgreen and duly seconded by Mr. Nolan:

ORDINANCE # 953

AN ORDINANCE SETTING THE SPEED LIMIT OF 35 MILES PER HOUR ON HAILE BAPTIST CHURCH ROAD IN ITS ENTIRETY AND SETTING PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS.

SECTION I: BE IT ORDAINED by the Police Jury of Union Parish that a maximum speed limit for any truck, car, motorcycle or any other equipment traveling on **Haile Baptist Church Road**, shall not exceed **35** miles per hour.

SECTION II: BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED by the Police Jury of Union Parish, State of Louisiana, that any person, firm or corporation violating any provisions of this ordinance, upon conviction, shall not exceed the maximum fine for speeding upon a state highway plus court cost.

SECTION III: BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that if any section, sentence, clause or words of this ordinance shall be held invalid by any court of final jurisdiction, the same shall not affect the validity of any other section.

SECTION IV: BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that ordinance or parts of ordinance in conflict herewith be and the same are hereby repealed.

The foregoing ordinance was introduced by **Mr. Pilgreen**, who moved its adoption and duly seconded by **Mr. Nolan** and was then adopted by the following YEA and NAY 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			
Andrew Ford, Jr.	x			

WHEREUPON, the Ordinance was declared duly adopted this 5th day of September, 2023.

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

s/ Brenda Abercrombie
BRENDA ABERCROMBIE
PRESIDENT
UNION PARISH POLICE JURY

Motion Mr. Pilgreen, seconded by Mr. Ramsey to approve travel for the HUD Director to attend the Louisiana Housing Council Conference on September 18th through September 22nd in Shreveport, Louisiana. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion Mr. Nolan, seconded by Mr. Bridges to approve travel for the JP's, Constables and Deputy Constables to attend the JPC Training on December 5th and December 6th in Marksville, Louisiana. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion Mr. Ford, seconded by Mr. Ramsey to approve travel for the Public Works Director to attend the Louisiana Parish Engineers and Supervisors Association (LPSEA) Fall Conference on September 27th and September 28th in Alexandria, Louisiana. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion Mr. Ford, seconded by Mr. Buckley to approve travel for the Registrar of Voter and Chief Deputy to attend the Gubernatorial Election Procedures/Tabulation Training on September 19th in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Motion carried unanimously.

Recommendations from the Road Committee.

Ceis Nyegaard, Road Committee Chairman, reported that the Road Committee met on August 31st and have three motions for the jury to consider.

Paul Riley with Riley and Company has assessed Burma Road and has concluded that the current state of Burma Road is an unforeseen road condition, resulting from mischance, which poses an imminent risk of injury to life and damage to property which requires immediate attention. The state of emergency will allow the formal advertisement for bids to be waived. **Motion Mr. Nyegaard, seconded by Mr. Bridges to declare Burma Road an emergency situation. Motion carried unanimously.**

Motion Mr. Nyegaard, seconded by Mr. Ramsey to require permits for commercial and non-residential traffic on parish roads. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion Mr. Nyegaard, seconded by Mr. Ramsey to approve payment to Mac's Tree Service in the amount of \$33,150 for labor and equipment to sidearm/bushhog Charles Road, McGee Road, Ervin Road, Lem Road and Oakland Bridge Road. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Nyegaard also reported that the Road Committee discussed the Road Maintenance Priority List which was adopted on April 5th, 2022. The Committee did not take any action on that list, but it will remain as voted on in April of 2022.

Recommendations from the Executive Committee.

The Secretary/Treasurer reported that the 2022 Union Parish Police Jury Financial Audit was presented to the Executive Committee. **Motion Mr. Nolan, seconded by Mr. Bridges to accept the 2022 Union Parish Police Jury Financial Audit. Motion carried unanimously.**

Recommendations from the ARPA Committee.

The Secretary/Treasurer reported that the ARPA Committee met earlier and has one recommendation.

Motion Mr. Buckley, seconded by Mr. Ford to approve payment for two (2) John Deere 5060E Tractors and two (2) John Deere 520M Loaders in the amount of \$93,489.82. Motion carried unanimously.

Recommendations from the Finance Committee.

DeWayne Ramsey, Finance Committee Chairman, reported that the Finance Committee met earlier and has three recommendations. **Motion Mr. Ramsey, seconded by Mr. Pilgreen to approve a \$1,500 expenditure to Keep Union Beautiful to assist in the clean up day to be held on September 16th, 2023. Motion carried unanimously.**

Motion Mr. Ramsey, seconded by Mr. Nolan, to authorize payment for the Bruckner's invoice in the amount of \$11,178.00 for repairs to the 2000 Mack CH613. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion Mr. Ramsey, seconded by Mr. Buckley to approve the purchase of rock in an amount up to \$100,000. The rock will be used for the UPPJ Road Maintenance Program. Motion carried unanimously.

Recommendations from the Landfill Committee.

Ben Bridges, Landfill Committee Chairman, reported that the Landfill Committee met earlier. Mr. Bridges reported that the jury is now transitioning to front load dumpsters which has created a surplus of the rear load dumpsters. The Public Works Director has been tasked with compiling a list of the surplus dumpsters and the condition. Eventually the jury will surplus the containers.

Motion Mr. Bridges, seconded by Mr. Pilgreen to implement a policy for non-payment on container rentals. Containers will be picked up after ninety (90) days of non-payment. The container will be returned once payment has been made plus a \$100 container return fee. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Johnny Buckley addressed the jury regarding Scotts Hideaway Road. Mr. Buckley has conferred with the Public Works Director to see what it would take to repair the bad spots. The Public Works Director stated that the rock could be put down and packed with a roller. The jury could invoice Dreher. The Public Works Director said the materials could cost as little as \$2,000. **Motion Mr. Buckley, seconded by Mr. Pilgreen to authorize the repairs to Scotts Hideaway Road and invoice Dreher Contracting for the materials used. Motion carried unanimously.**

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

Lennie Smith, 694 Clellan Bryan Road, addressed the Jury regarding Sweet Union Church Road and Clellan Bryan Road. Ms. Smith stated that both roads are horrible.

Michelle Bryan, 308 Wildwood Drive, Farmerville, addressed the Jury regarding Keep Union Beautiful and the waterways cleanup which will be held on September 16th, 2023.

Steve Alexander, 109 Green Bay Road, Farmerville, addressed the Jury regarding the Scotts Hideaway Road Hazard Mitigation Project.

Joe Watson, 966 Clellan Bryan Road, addressed the Jury regarding Clellan Bryan Road.

Jon McKinnie, Union Parish Chamber of Commerce, addressed the Jury regarding the Candidates Breakfast to be held on September 28th @ 7AM. The breakfast will be held at the Farmerville Church of Christ.

Judy Auger, 844 Alton Auger Road, Marion, asked the Jury if they had a response to the incident that was in the audit regarding a private driveway being repaired.

George Cothran, 1001 Cherry Ridge Road, addressed the Jury regarding bush hogging in District 3.

Johnny Creed, 7354 Highway 550, Spearsville, addressed the Jury regarding the Union Parish Detention Center (food, farming and staffing).

There being no further business to come before the Jury, the President declared the meeting adjourned upon motion by Mr. Nolan, seconded by Mr. Nyegaard on this the 5th day of September, 2023.

s/ Paula H. Strickland

**PAULA H. STRICKLAND
SECRETARY-TREASURER
UNION PARISH POLICE JURY**

s/ Brenda Abercrombie

**BRENDA ABERCROMBIE
PRESIDENT
UNION PARISH POLICE JURY**