

SPECIAL MEETING UNION PARISH POLICE JURY

**Farmerville, Louisiana
September 26th, 2023**

The Union Parish Police Jury met this date in special 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, L.W. Nolan, Brenda Abercrombie and Andrew Ford, Jr. Absent: Ceis Nyegaard. James Buckley, Assistant District Attorney, was absent. The President called the session to order and welcomed all guests. Mr. Ramsey offered the invocation. Mr. Buckley 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.

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

Motion Mr. Nolan, seconded by Mr. Pilgreen to enter into a Public Hearing concerning the Board of Review for the 2023 Tax Roll. Motion carried unanimously. President Abercrombie declared the public hearing opened. Lance Futch, Union Parish Assessor, represented the Union Parish Assessor's Office for this hearing. Mr. Futch stated that his books have been open for the fifteen (15) day inspection period. His office has received no appeals, but the Police Jury received a late appeal. The deadline to file an appeal directly to the Board of Review was September 19th, 2023. There were no comments or questions from the public. Motion Mr. Buckley, seconded by Mr. Nolan to close the Public Hearing. Motion carried unanimously. The President declared the public hearing closed.

Motion Mr. Pilgreen, seconded by Mr. Bridges to deny the tax appeal of Cable One due to the lateness of the appeal. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion Mr. Pilgreen, seconded by Mr. Buckley to accept the 2023 tax roll assessment as presented by the Union Parish Assessor. Motion carried as follows:

YEAS:	Moses, Pilgreen, Ramsey, Buckley, Bridges, Nolan, Abercrombie and Ford
NAYS:	None
ABSTAINED:	None
ABSENT:	Nyegaard

The following ordinance was introduced by Mr. Nolan and seconded by Mr. Ford:

ORDINANCE NO. 954

AN ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE AN ACT OF SALE BY THE PARISH OF UNION TO SELL ADJUDICATED PROPERTY DESCRIBED AS PARCEL NO. 3106021500: BLK 9, LESS 2.35 AC AND ALL OF BLK 4 LYING W OF R.R. GALBRAITH ADDITION AND LOT ADJOINING ABOVE LESS LOT IN ACCORDANCE WITH LA R.S. 47: 2202 T SEQ. AND TO AUTHORIZE THE UNION PARISH POLICE JURY PRESIDENT TO SIGN ALL NECESSARY DOCUMENTS AND TO ADDRESS THER MATTERS RELATIVE THERETO

WHEREAS, the immovable property described below was adjudicated to the Parish of Union on June 28, 2017 for nonpayment of taxes; and

WHEREAS, the three (3) year period for redemption provided by Art. 7, §25 of the Louisiana Constitution has elapsed as well as the five (5) year period for redemption as established by Parish Ordinance No: 908 and the owner of record has failed to redeem the adjudicated property; and

WHEREAS, LA R.S. 47: 2202 *et seq.* provides that the Parish may sell adjudicated property in accordance with law after the expiration of the period for redemption; and

WHEREAS, the Parish of Union has declared the property described below surplus and not needed for a public purpose and to dispose of said property in accordance with LA R.S. 47:2202, *et seq.*; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with L.A. R.S. 47:2202 the Parish of Union has set a minimum purchase price in the amount of \$7,445.82 and

WHEREAS, the Parish of Union has received a written offer to purchase said property from Charles Carter for the consideration of \$7,445.82, at the time of sale and has been accepted by the Union Parish Police Jury; and

WHEREAS, the property described herein below was scheduled for public auction on July 12, 2023 at 10:00 a.m.

NOW BE IT ORDAINED by the Union Parish Police Jury, that any Act of Sale of the below described property shall contain the following conditions and requirements:

This property is described as Parcel# 3106021500, having municipal address of 200 Railroad Street, Farmerville, LA: Located in Union Parish, LA, being more fully described as follows:

Parcel# 3106021500

Municipal Address: 200 Railroad St. Farmerville, LA 71241

Brief Legal: BLK. 9, LESS 2.35 AC. AND ALL OF BLK. 4 LYING W OF R. R. GALBRAITH ADDITION AND 1 LOT ADJOINING ABOVE LESS 1 LOT.

- 1) This property shall be sold in accordance with LS-R.S. 47:2201 *et. seq.*, without any warranty, from either the Parish or Management Company, whatsoever, even as to the return of the purchase price.
- 2) The sale shall be on a form approved by the Parish Attorney and that the sales price is paid by certified funds at the time of the sale.
- 3) The sale shall include a reservation of all mineral rights to the Parish, but shall convey all surface rights.
- 4) The following shall be completed prior to closing of sale:
 - a. E&P Consulting Services, LLC shall certify in writing to the Parish Attorney that they have examined the mortgage records, conveyance records, probate and civil suit records of the Parish of Union and that attached to this certification will be a written list of names and last known addresses of all owners, mortgagees, and any other person who may have a vested or contingent interest in the property, or who has filed a request for notice as provided in the former provisions LS-R.S. 33:4720.17(B), as indicated in those records.
 - b. E&P Consulting Services, LLC will provide notice to those persons identified in accordance with LS-R.S. 47:2201 *et. seq.* Proof of said notice will be filed in the conveyance records of Union Parish immediately after the Act of Sale.
 - c. At the time of closing, E&P Consulting Services, LLC will certify in writing to Parish Attorney and Clerk of Court that the number of days mandated by LS-R.S. 47:2201 *et. seq.* has elapsed since the above required notice was made or attempted and that the property has not been redeemed by the payment of the taxes owed.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, by the Union Parish Policy Jury, that the Police Jury President is hereby authorized to execute a Cash Sale of the above-described adjudicated property to the highest acceptable bidder. The Cash Sale shall contain all of the above conditions and requirements and shall be executed within the timelines specified. The above ordinance having been submitted to a vote, the vote thereon was as follows:

YEAS:	Moses, Pilgreen, Ramsey, Buckley, Bridges, Nolan, Abercrombie, Ford
NAYS:	None
ABSTAINED:	None
ABSENT:	Nyegaard

WHEREUPON, the Ordinance was declared duly adopted this 26th day of September, 2023.

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

s/BrendaAbercrombie
BRENDA ABERCROMBIE
PRESIDENT
UNION PARISH POLICE JURY

A brief discussion was held regarding the request from the Town of Bernice. The Town of Bernice is requesting assistance for side arm cutting of brush overhanging roadways. The roads being requested are Cemetery Street, Gary Street, Louisiana Avenue South, Graves Street, Evans Street, Eighth Street, Seventh Street, Maple Street, Hubbard Street, Railroad Street, Elm Street, Church Street, Third Street, West Fourth Street and Reeves Street. **Motion Mr. Ford, seconded by Mr. Moses to assist the Town of Bernice with side arm cutting of brush overhanging roadways when time permits at the discretion of the Public Works Director. Motion failed with the following Roll Call Vote:**

YEAS: Moses, Ramsey, Buckley and Ford
NAYS: Pilgreen, Bridges, Nolan and Abercrombie
ABSTAINED: None
ABSENT: Nyegaard
Motion failed.

Motion Mr. Bridges, seconded by Mr. Moses to hire Riley Company for the Burma Road Project, approve a contract amendment for Riley Company and authorize the President to execute any necessary documents. Motion carried unanimously.

Recommendations from the Airport Committee.
The Airport Committee met earlier at 3:30 PM and have two recommendations.

Motion Mr. Nolan, seconded by Mr. Bridges to enter into a hangar lease agreement with Chad Pody at the Union Parish Airport for the sum of \$500 per year and authorize the President to execute the lease agreement. Motion carried unanimously.

The following resolution was offered by Mr. Nolan and seconded by Mr. Bridges.

RESOLUTION 2023-08

A resolution authorizing the President to execute an Agreement with the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development (LA DOTD) for improvements at the Union Parish Airport.

WHEREAS, Act 451 of the 1989 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature authorized the financing of certain airport improvements from funds appropriated from the Transportation Trust Fund; and

WHEREAS, the Union Parish Police Jury has requested funding assistance from the LA DOTD to/for Hangar Access Taxilane (Construction); and

WHEREAS, the stated project has been approved by the Louisiana Legislature and the LA DOTD is agreeable to the implementation of this project and desires to cooperate with the Union Parish Police Jury according to the terms and conditions identified in the attached Agreement; and

WHEREAS, the LA DOTD will provide the necessary funding for the Hangar Access Taxilane (Construction) and reimburse the sponsor up to \$62,316.00 of project cost.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Union Parish Police Jury that it does hereby authorize the President to execute an Agreement for the project identified as AIP No. 3-22-0017-023-2023, BIL No. 3-22-0017-024-2023 and SPN H.015700, more fully identified in the Agreement attached hereto, and to execute any subsequent related documents, including, but not limited to, amendments to said agreement.

This resolution shall be in full force and effect from and after its adoption.

The aforesaid resolution, having been submitted to a vote, the vote thereon was as follows:

YEAS:	Moses, Pilgreen, Ramsey, Buckley, Bridges, Nolan, Abercrombie and Ford
NAYS:	None
ABSTAINED:	None
ABSENT:	Nyegaard

WHEREUPON, the resolution was declared adopted on the 26th 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

CERTIFICATE

IT IS HEREBY certified that the above is a true and correct copy of a resolution passed by the Union Parish Police Jury of Union Parish, Louisiana in special session convened on this, the 26th day of September, 2023.

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

Recommendations from the Personnel Committee.

The Personnel Committee met earlier and have two policy changes.

Motion Mr. Buckley, seconded by Mr. Ramsey to make an addendum to the Personnel Policy that states the following: “*Union Parish Police Jury employees are limited to five (5) days sick leave per year without a doctor’s excuse; those days shall be considered “personal days” or unexcused sick. Temporary employees shall not be entitled to personal/unexcused sick day leave. No employee may take a personal/unexcused sick day on the day before or the day after a holiday. If an employee uses sick time on the day before or the day after a holiday, he must present a doctor’s excuse to his supervisor. Personal days cannot be rolled over into the next calendar year.*” Policy change is effective October 2nd, 2023. Please note days are increasing from two (2) to five (5) days. Motion carried with the following vote:

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

NAYS: Bridges

ABSTAINED: None

ABSENT: Nyegaard

Motion passed.

Motion Mr. Buckley, seconded by Mr. Ramsey to implement a vacation buy-back policy. Employee may sell exactly forty (40) hours, no more or no less, of vacation back to the Police Jury during the period of November 15th – December 15th each year. Motion carried unanimously.

Recommendations from the Finance Committee.

The Finance Committee met earlier and have four (4) recommendations.

Motion Mr. Ramsey, seconded by Mr. Nolan to transfer the LAMP funds, with the exception of the library funds, to LNB. The library funds will stay invested with Louisiana Asset Management Pool (LAMP). Officers (President, Vice-President and Secretary/Treasurer) to be on signature cards. Motion carried with the following Roll Call Vote:

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

NAYS: Pilgreen and Bridges

ABSTAINED: None

ABSENT: Nyegaard

Motion passed.

Motion Mr. Ramsey, seconded by Mr. Moses to include a \$65,000 a year mechanic position in the 2024 proposed budget. Motion carried with the following vote:

YEAS: Moses, Pilgreen, Ramsey, Buckley, Nolan, Abercrombie and Ford
NAYS: Bridges
ABSTAINED: None
ABSENT: Nyegaard
Motion passed.

Motion Mr. Ramsey, seconded by Mr. Pilgreen to deny the reimbursement request from Josh Acree, Justice of the Peace, for the June 2022 JP/Constables Conference. Mr. Acree's request, dated 09/01/2023, is denied due to the sixty (60) day reimbursement request period having expired on 8/24/2022. Motion carried with the following vote:

YEAS: Moses, Pilgreen, Ramsey, Buckley, Bridges, Nolan, and Ford
NAYS: Abercrombie
ABSTAINED: None
ABSENT: Nyegaard
Motion passed.

Motion Mr. Ramsey, seconded by Mr. Moses to transfer an amount up to \$685,000 from the Landfill Tipping Fees to the Road Maintenance Fund over the remainder of the fiscal year with regular reporting as it is being transferred. Motion carried unanimously.

In accordance with Ordinance 549, time for public comment was given. Stewart Kelley addressed the jury regarding the money that is being invested and road work.

There being no further business to come before the Jury, the President declared the meeting adjourned upon motion by Mr. Nolan, seconded by Mr. Moses on this the 26th 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